

# The Red Hook Star-Revue

SOUTH BROOKLYN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## Local politicians keep container terminal viable by staying Federal budget cuts

by Kimberly Gail Price

The Red Hook Container Terminal, (RHCT), processes more than 130,000 containers a year. Almost 4,000 of these containers must be unloaded and inspected by U.S. Customs. This facility provides an economic boost to the Columbia and Red Hook communities as well as insuring the safety of the cargo being brought into the area. Because of strict regulations the terminal and U.S. Customs enforce, shipments are brought in and processed with efficiency and reliable service.

In late December, U.S. Customs made a decision that may be detrimental to the port. In an effort to consolidate several Centralized Examination Stations, (CES), within the area, the Red Hook Container Terminal would no longer be serviced by U.S. Customs, therefore requiring all inspected cargo to pass through either the Staten Island station or the New Jersey terminal. Shippers would be required to unload cargo into the RHCT and then have it trucked over to one of the other locations, at their own cost. Anthony Bucci, Public Affairs Specialist for U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP), states

that this would reduce travel times, allow more inspections at fewer facilities, consolidate resources and manpower, provide faster processing and have fewer delays in cargo release with "improved cost effectiveness for the trade community".

The impact on Red Hook may have more severe consequences, however. "Dirty boxes", boxes that have not passed safety inspections, would be traveling on already overcrowded highways and bridges, specifically, the Gowanus Expressway and the Verrazano Bridge. The dangers of transporting potentially hazardous cargo between boroughs could potentially jeopardize the terminal's existence because of extra costs for carriers and the tremendous delays caused by slower turn-around times. The trucking from one location to the other would

add more traffic to these already congested arteries, especially in Red Hook.

Bucci explains, "Anticipating the December 2011 expiration of a Memoranda of Understanding between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, (CBP), and seven Centralized Examination Station operators within the Port of New York/Newark, a working group began meeting regularly in November 2010 to discuss our efforts regarding the CES renewal, and

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Closing of the containerport's Customs Office would hurt shipping by taking away our port's efficiency, and would mean more trucks on our streets.

## Justice Center to test program to keep teens from serving time

by Matt Graber

Red Hook's Community Justice Center is about to become the site of a state-wide pilot program that will provide more social services and less jail time for youth offenders. The Justice Center, which until this week has only taken cases within the 76th, 78th, and 72nd precincts is opening its doors to young people beyond that immediate catchment area.

The Adolescent Diversion Parts (ADP) pilot program is scheduled to launch on January 17th, at nine different sites throughout the state. Youth offenders accused of low level crimes will be referred to one of the pilot sites, where their cases will be processed in a manner more similar to Family Court as opposed to Criminal Court. Family Court differs from the straightforwardly punitive approach of Criminal Court in that it offers a variety of rehabilitative services such as drug treatment and job training programs, as well as domestic violence and mental health counseling.

The primary goal of the demonstration project will be to help troubled teenagers avoid the legal and collateral consequences associated with criminal conviction, and to divert them, using the variety of tools available, from committing future crimes.

"It is a social service alternative to the traditional processing of cases," says Julian Adler, who serves as Project Director at the Justice Center. "The pilot program is a way to test the effectiveness of Family Court and the shift in the age of criminality from 16 to 18."

New York is one of the only states in the country (North Carolina being its sole companion) that still processes 16 and 17 year-olds accused of low level offenses in Criminal Court where, if convicted, they are sent to adult prisons and jails.

"The distinction between 15 and 16 is rather arbitrary," says Adler, adding that teenagers of both ages have similar challenges and similar needs. "But 16

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# Containerport threatened by budget-cutting

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CBP's cargo examination in general. The working group reached a consensus to move CBP examinations being conducted on the container terminals, including non-intrusive inspection and agricultural examinations, to CES facilities. The group including trade stakeholders agreed this would improve productivity, be cost effective and expedite CBP's delivery of services to the trade."

Thankfully, our local government officials have stepped up and have successfully held up this decision, which was due to take place January 9th. Congressman Jerrold Nadler, who has been very active in pressuring U.S. Customs to resolve the issue by keeping Customs at the RHCT, states, "It is essential for the viability of Red Hook's Container Terminal

wrote a letter to The Honorable David V. Aguilar, Acting Commissioner of U. S. Customs and Border Protection in Washington D.C., requesting "the postponement of a decision made by your Agency that could have significant detrimental effect on the Borough of Brooklyn and New York City". Among their concerns are, "a significant competitive disadvantage for the Red Hook Terminal', an "increase [on] the volume of trucks on our already highly congested roadways, all containing cargo that has yet to be properly inspected by your Agency", and "several of the Red Hook Terminal's top customers are now considering new ports of entry along the Atlantic seaboard for their cargo". They go on to note that, "because three of these facilities are located in New Jersey and one in Staten Island, inspections of cargo sent to the Red Hook Terminal will now involve the shipment of containers from Brooklyn to one of these other locations. This is a problematic development that could lead to a loss of jobs and create

## Skinny's Daughter A Little Piece of a Red Hook Christmas by Mary Ann Massaro



Another Christmas has come and gone. We now face the time for taking down the tree and packing away the ornaments. Christmas has always been a time for traditions. Most people can share a tradition that they carry out each year at Christmas. I have one that I would like to share, as it helps to keep the memories of those Christmases past, as a little girl in Red Hook alive. As I pack away the ornaments, there is one that always goes last. His name is Prince. He is a little soldier boy made of celluloid plastic that stands about five inches tall. Prince originally came from my father's store back in Red Hook in the 1960's. Prince was given to me by my dad when I was ten years old. Prince became to me what the Nutcracker became to Clara in the famous story. He is kind of like my Christmas guardian protecting me from the grinch and scrooges of the world. He has seen so many Christmases with me. He has lived on both the East coast and West coast with me. He has seen my family grow, welcoming my two sons and even a grandson. Though he is somewhat tattered and worn, I could not imagine Christmas without him. I can sit by the tree with the lights on and simply look at Prince. It is almost like time traveling. I go back to being that little girl in Red Hook waiting for Santa, dreaming of the dolls and toys that he was going to bring. Somehow no matter how bad things were back then, Santa always managed to make it to Red Hook for Christmas. Even when there were blizzards that would not allow the milk to be delivered, he somehow found a way to get there. And whether my toys came by sleigh or fell off a truck outside of Skinny's store, it did not matter as long as they got there. And so as I bid goodbye to Prince until next year, I smile and think to myself how lucky I was to have those wonderful Christmases. And just like I cannot imagine Christmas without Prince, I cannot imagine Christmas as a little girl anywhere else but in Red Hook!

## Church News by Billy Gonzalez

**Visitation Church, 98 Richards Street 718-624-1572**  
Tours of this historic church are given by Father Claudio Antecini upon request. Highlights include the ceiling with is a replica of Noah's Ark and twelve marble columns each representing one of the Apostles. Healing masses are held the last Friday of each month. For those unable to attend a call to Sister Rosanna will bring a priest to your home. There will be retreat the weekend of February 3rd. Spiritual guidance will be given on Friday from 7 - 10 pm; Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm. The location of the retreat is 205 14th Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. There is a \$30 fee for this weekend. For singers the Visitation Church Charismatic Group is open to new members. The church also sponsors family portrait weekends where one can get family portraits. A variety of props and poses are available. The next service is on Friday, January 20th, at 2:30 pm and Saturday, January 21st, from 10 am - 4 pm. They will also be open Sunday, January 23rd, from 11:45 am until 5 pm. For more information on this look up [www.mychurchfamilyalbum.com](http://www.mychurchfamilyalbum.com).

## The trucking from one location to the other would add more traffic to these already congested arteries, especially in Red Hook.

that a U.S. Custom's presence remains in Red Hook. Since late December, I have worked aggressively, along with Senator Schumer and Representative King to ensure that Red Hook's shipping business is not interrupted or diminished because of Customs bureaucracy. These efforts are part-and-parcel of my work over 30 years to preserve and strengthen the container port at Red Hook, which must remain an active and viable port until the day we open a larger port at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park."

When asked for a statement concerning the decision to eliminate the Customs operation at the terminal, Nadler quickly replied, "As the operation of Brooklyn's only port facility changes hands, I will continue to work to ensure that there is no break in [the] container shipping business in Red Hook. I am grateful to American Stevedoring for years of service and for keeping Brooklyn's only container port active for these many years. I look forward to working with Phoenix Beverages to expand container shipping in Brooklyn, and to foster the investment necessary to sustain this vital sector of Brooklyn's and New York's economy." Reps for the Congressman say that, "Nadler has been instrumental in solving this Customs problem and ensuring that the port remains active and viable."

**Grimm and King continue political process**  
Republican Congressmen Michael G. Grimm and Peter T. King also

new and serious public security concerns in Brooklyn and other nearby communities."

The Congressmen conclude by requesting the Agency, "postpone the implementation of this decision until its full impact can be determined", and noting that, "the new management at the Red Hook Container Terminal is fully prepared to make changes needed to ensure Customs personnel can continue to fulfill their

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Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez wrote eloquently to the Port Director explaining how a bureaucratic decision would spell disaster for the Red Hook community as well as the future of the longshoreman that still work in Brooklyn

**Welcome to YOUR community newspaper!**

# The Red Hook Star-Revue

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Reporters ..... Elizabeth Graham, Matt Graber, Curtis Skinner  
Photographer ..... Elizabeth Graham  
Cartoons ..... Vince Musacchia, Harold Shapiro  
Historian ..... John Burkard  
Contributors ..... Mary Anne Massaro, Danette Vigilante, Robert Geelan  
..... Reg Flowers, Michael Racioppo, Mary Ann Pietanza, Bill Gonzalez  
Calendar Guy ..... Eric Ruff  
Resident Foodie ..... Erik Penney  
General Manager ..... Kimberly G. Price  
Managing Editor ..... George Fiala

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**RED HOOK STAR-REVUE, 101 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231**  
**718 624-5568 - news tip line 917-652-9128 or emailed to [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com)**

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# Red Hook Justice Center to take part in pilot program designed to keep youthful offenders out of jail

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does seem a little young to draw the line between youth and adult.”

According to a December 2010 report by New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, 46,343 individuals of ages 16 and 17 were arrested in the state in 2009. Almost 75 percent of these arrests were for misdemeanors, most commonly petty larceny and marijuana possession. Studies linking early-life incarceration with recidivism have prompted politicians and advocacy groups to more forcefully oppose the current rules, which have been in place in New York since 1962. The ADP pilot is being launched this week with the expectation that the rules will soon be changed.

In September 2011, the state’s Chief Judge, Jonathan Lippman, gave a speech to the Citizens Crime Commission in which he called for a bill raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 to be drafted and submitted to the State Legislature by the beginning of 2012.

Democrats have historically favored “change the age” legislation, so it is expected that such a reform bill will pass easily in a Democrat-controlled State Legislature. In the absence of immediate reform, Judge Lippman outlined his vision for the ADP pilot, saying that cases involving non-violent offenses “will be steered to specially trained criminal court judges who understand the legal and psychological issues involving troubled adolescents.”

## Any jailtime at all can ruin a young person’s future

The direct result of a criminal conviction is obvious enough: the individual goes to jail. But perhaps the greater punishment, particularly in the case of a young person, is the social stigmatization that occurs post-incarceration. Advocacy groups often emphasize the “collateral consequences” of having a criminal record. Even a low-level misdemeanor conviction creates major barriers to finding a job, receiving student loans, and it can result in eviction from public housing.

In Family Court, by contrast, judges use diversionary measures such as adjustment by probation in the hope of preventing young offenders from committing future crimes. The defendant is given a certain amount of time to complete a set of community services or rehabilitation programs or both. If the adjustment process is successful, the case is closed and, perhaps most importantly, the record is sealed.

Adler points out that adjustment is not part of the ADP pilot, but only because it would require a change in the law. Making adjustment by probation available to 16 and 17 year-olds “is one of the major motivations to raise the age,” he says.

As the “nation’s first multi-jurisdictional community court,” the Justice Center makes sense as a testing ground for jurisdictional changes in New York’s court system. Alex Calabrese, the courts presiding judge, is used to handling a variety of cases that would ordinarily be

divided and doled out to the Civil, Family, and Criminal court systems.

“We have always realized that with juveniles in particular you need to take a holistic approach,” Calabrese says. “Sometimes an arrest is a red flag that there are real problems, and sometimes an arrest is just someone making a bad choice, as teenagers often do, but everything else is fine.”



Julian Adler is the Project Director at the Community Justice Center

The Justice Center was selected by the Office of Court Administration as a site for the ADP pilot because of its status as a multi-jurisdictional court, and because of its range of programs designed

to steer troubled teenagers away from crime and toward positive achievable goals.

The Justice Center will also be adding capacity in order to accommodate a higher intake of cases. “In addition to our current offerings,” Adler says, “we are designing interventions and resources specifically tailored to the needs of 16 and 17 year-olds.”

One of Adler’s greatest hopes for the pi-

“Sometimes an arrest is a red flag that there are real problems, and sometimes an arrest is just someone making a bad choice, as teenagers often do, but everything else is fine.”

lot program is that “young people and their families will have an opportunity to avail themselves of voluntary social services offered through the Justice Center, even if the period of mandated involvement is brief.”

## Services are free

All of the services offered at the Justice Center are free and open to the public. If nothing else, the pilot being launched



The Red Hook Community Justice Center is on Visitation Place between Richards and Van Brunt (photo by Fiala).

this week will result in more people becoming aware of what the Justice Center does, and in more people taking advantage of its services.

What starts off as an arrest and a night spent in central booking can lead to a troubled teen discovering the Justice Center. “The arrest can be conceptualized as a moment of crisis,” Adler says, “but also as a moment of opportunity.”

# Politicians save containerport for now

(continued from previous page)

mission on-site in Brooklyn.”

## Velazquez adds pressure

Congresswoman, Nydia Velazquez, in a letter dated January 9th to Adele Fasano, Port Director for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, cited that this “will put...Brooklyn at a significant competitive disadvantage by drastically increasing annual operations costs”, calling it “a wasteful 16-mile trip to Staten Island. She is concerned with, “the aging elevated highways [that have] been undergoing hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs and the added truck miles will only increase road stress and maintenance costs”, maintaining “services in Brooklyn’s working waterfront”, as well as “significant community impacts and security risks” of adding as many as 3,700 trucks to our overcrowded roads. Congress woman Velazquez also expresses security concerns. “The consolidation of facilities and resources cannot come at the expense of public safety...this is vital to the city’s security, sus-

“The dangers of transporting potentially hazardous cargo between boroughs could potentially jeopardize the terminal’s existence.”

tainability and economic health.” Relaying this to national security citing 9/11, she writes, “we as a nation have pursued numerous channels to prevent a similar attack and ensure Americans are safe...Having worked for many years to plan the future of this area, the prospect [of] eliminating port inspections in the City’s most populous borough is of great concern.”

As of January 6, 2012, U.S. Customs has agreed to keep operations active at the RHCT for the next 90 days. Meetings between Customs and elected officials are being set up for late January to ensure Customs remains in Red Hook and

that shipping here is not affected. Representatives Nadler, Schumer, King, Grimm and Velazquez have all played key roles in pressuring CBP to reverse their decision to consolidate RHCT into Staten Island and New Jersey ports. Velazquez says, “the temporary decision to retain inspections at Red Hook Container Terminal is a positive step. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol needs to recognize how vital this facility is for the security and economy of New York.” As of now, the decision has only been overturned temporarily, but many are “hopeful” that the RHCT will continue to play an active role in our economy and safety concerns.





# News From the Street

written and collected by the Star-Revue writing staff



## Again in Danger

The Court Street Day Care Center, 292 Court Street was threatened with closing in 2010 due to city budget cuts. It is again threatened as its current funding expires on June 30th, and there is currently no funds for it in the current city budget.

## No third story

At the Executive Board meeting of CB6 last Wednesday a motion for the renovation of 14 Tompkins Place was approved but with the stipulation that they may not add a third floor. The Board decided that this was a zoning, not a landmarks issue.

## Traffic lights

A new traffic light was installed on the corner of Summit and Columbia streets, where a fatal accident occurred last year. Another new traffic light is scheduled to be installed at the corner of Van Brunt and Wolcott Street by the end of the month.

## Memorial at Fort Defiance

Carey Monserrate's life will be celebrated at a memorial gathering for him on Tuesday, January 17th at Fort Defiance. The invitation states: "There will be no formal service and little structure to the evening, just an open microphone and a bunch of people that

miss Carey. This is open to the interested public and people who knew Carey are invited to share a story or two about this beautiful, funny and deeply compassionate man."

Fort Defiance will be closed to the public on this night, but the bar will be open for guests; no food will be served. All profits will be donated to one of Carey's favorite charities, to be announced the day of the event.

*Fort Defiance is located at 365 Van Brunt Street, at the corner of Dikeman.*

## CB 6 Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks/Recreation/Cultural Affairs Committee of Community Board 6 will be held on Wednesday evening, January 18th at the Cobble Hill Community Meeting Room, 250 Baltic Street. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

Topics to be discussed include: Presentation and discussion with representatives for the Department of Parks & Recreation on the conceptual design for the DiMattina Dog Run located at Hicks Street between Hamilton Avenue and Rapelye Streets; Presentation and discussion with representatives for the New York Restoration Project on their renovation plans for the Gil Hodges Memorial, (aka Carroll

Street), Community Garden located at the southeast corner of Carroll Street and Denton Place, Gowanus; and Presentation and review of a conceptual proposal to be submitted to the Department of Parks & Recreation's GreenThumb program for development as a Children's Garden at 204 Columbia Street (northwest corner Columbia and Sackett Streets).

## Waterfront Meeting

On Monday, Jan. 30th, CB6's Economics Waterfront Community Development & Housing Committee Meeting will meet at Long Island College Hospital, 339 Hicks Street in Meeting Room A, beginning at 6:30. Two very relevant topics will be discussed: presentation and discussion with representative for the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation on their activities, programs and services administered in the district and any future initiatives being planned and contemplated, presentation and discussion with representatives for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey on recent management changes at the Red Hook Containerport Terminal, update on shore power initiative, and other topics of interest to the district.

## Community Calendar:

**The Red Hook Civic Association**, an eccentric neighborhood group, meets the last Wednesday of each month, which makes the next meeting January 25th at 7 pm in the auditorium of PS 15, 71 Sullivan Street between Richards and Van Brunt. Led by John McGettrick, there is always an agenda plus a chance for residents to sound off on what's on their mind concerning the neighborhood. Representatives from local politicians are usually scattered throughout the audience.

**The Brooklyn Bridge Rotary Club** is a newly chartered chapter of this venerable national organization. Meetings take place every Thursday at 12:15 in the back of the Archives Restaurant at the Brooklyn Marriot Hotel, 333 Adams Street. For more information you may call Vivian Hardison at 917-804-0797. The Rotary Club motto is Service Above Self.

**CB 6 Meetings:** Monday, Jan. 9th, Public Safety/Permits/Licensing committee meets at 6:30 pm at the 78th Precinct, 6th Ave bet. Bergen & Dean.; Wed. Jan 18 Parks / Recreation / Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting, Cobble Hill Community Meeting Room, 250 Baltic Street bet. Court and Clinton Sts; Thursday Jan 19th Transportation Committee, 6:30, Cobble Hill Community Meeting Room, 250 Baltic Street; Jan. 23rd, Transportation Committee meets at Cobble Hill Community Meeting Room, 250 Baltic Street, 6:30;

**76th Precinct Community Council:** these meetings are public and held the 1st Tuesday of each month, meaning the next one is Tuesday, February 7th. Go to the basement of the 76th Precinct at 7 pm. The precinct is on Union Street close to Henry between Henry and Hicks.

**Occupy Red Hook** meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at the Added Value office at 370 Van Brunt Street. For more information call Reg Flowers (646) 403-1004 or (718) 395-3218.

The Star-Revue is happy to publicize your neighborhood meeting free of charge - send info to [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com)



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# Unhappy Teamster drivers do not understand what is going on at Phoenix Beverage

by Matt Graber



Phoenix Beverage, who moved to Red Hook in 2009, recently replaced American Stevedoring and now controls most of Piers 7 through 11.

A handful of Teamsters are furious over alleged breaches of contract by their employer, Phoenix Beverages. The large beer distribution company, which in 2010 relocated from Long Island City to Pier 7 and Pier 11, has been forcing its truck drivers to work extra hours without overtime pay, according to these distressed union members.

“They are breaking the rules of our contract”, said one worker who asked not to be named for the purpose of this article. “They are making us work for ten, sometimes twelve hours per day and we are not getting compensated for it.”

Standing in a huddle in the backyard of a local deli in Red Hook while sharing a six-pack of Heineken, which is distributed exclusively by Phoenix Beverages in New York City and Long Island, four Teamster truck drivers aired out a litany

of grievances.

One complaint was that management has been drawing up delivery routes that cannot possibly be completed within an 8-hour time-frame. This has been going on, they say, since the company moved to Red Hook. “They are not paying us our overtime,” one worker said. “And meanwhile, if we refuse to work more than eight hours, they threaten to suspend us.”

### Shortchanged

Another worker claimed that, rather than being made to work extra hours, he is getting short-changed on the 40-hour work-week that his contract guarantees. “I am only getting 32 hours,” he said. “That’s four days of work per week.”

All four of these Teamsters agreed that the management style has changed in the last few years, especially since Phoenix Beverages relocated. Anxiety about job security and the security of their

pensions was a shared sentiment. “Basically, right now, you cannot get yourself a car loan, get a mortgage, you can’t do anything because on any given day you can get fired,” one Teamster said. “There is no security for us anymore.”

### “A few disgruntled employees”

Greg Brayman, who serves as Vice President of Operations at Phoenix Beverages, has denied any violation of contract with the Teamsters. “We pay everyone according to the contract,” he said in a phone interview. “You are probably just dealing with a few disgruntled employees.”

The Teamsters voicing these complaints make up a mere fraction of the truck drivers at Phoenix Beverages, which they estimate to be in the ballpark of 150 to 200. The majority of drivers, they contend, are similarly mistreated but they are hesitant to speak up for fear

of retribution from their employer. “A lot of these guys are scared,” said one man. “Many are Spanish-speaking immigrants that are easily intimidated by their superiors.”

### Modern-day slaves

“They are the modern-day slaves,” said another.

According to these drivers, three shop stewards, union members that advocate on behalf of their fellow workers, have been fired in the past two-and-a-half years. The pattern seems to them to be that without enough of a body-count backing members up, whoever chooses to voice a complaint has to do it on his own and pays the price with his job.

“Nobody wants to become a shop steward here,” one driver said. “Because they know that once you become a shop steward the rest of the workers are going to push you to the front line and the only one that’s going to lose their job is you.”

Brayman would not confirm that these firings in fact occurred. He noted that if Phoenix Beverages was really violating its contract with the union, then the Teamsters would let him know about it. “There would be picket signs outside his gate,” he said.

“There have obviously been incidents where we have had to let employees go,” he continued. “But within our industry we are probably among the most lenient of employers.”

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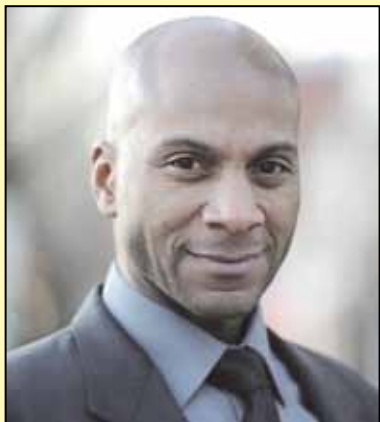
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# Reg Flowers Occupy the Hook

**We are the 99%...and so are you!**



Reg Flowers

Anyone who has been following the Occupy Wall Street movement has heard the slogan, "We are the 99%." That second part may be less familiar. It may also be gilding the lily. There is something so perfect and complete in "We are the 99%." It sets up a clear dichotomy between those who have and those who do not. The 1% has the money and the power; the rest of us do not. Period. Obviously, it was not enough, because some felt it was necessary to tack on more.

I do not like slogans. Transformational ideas deserve consideration. They are not the stuff of bumper stickers. Maybe slogans are for stupid people. The truth should not need to be simplified. Raising awareness about an issue is important, but slogans do not raise awareness. Slogans assume one already knows. To me, a slogan is a sign that someone either does not have faith in the issue or does not have faith in the people. A movement that claims to represent 99% of the population could do without a slogan. It certainly should not require a tag line.

I do not blame the movement. I am down with Occupy and I am certainly for a united 99%. I am simply having trouble with that, "and so are you." If a group represents the 99% and indeed claims that they are the 99%, who is the target of the second part of that message? If the slogan were "We are part of the 99%" then I could understand the "and so are you!" 99% is 99% and when you speak as the 99% there should not be a lot of folks left over.

The 99%, as I have come to understand it, is the portion of the population that shares among them about 60% of the wealth in this country with a median income of, according to 2010 Census, about \$50,000. The claim is that 1% controls the other 40% with an annual income of about \$1.5 million. Understanding that, I imagine it would be a more equitable society if there were not such a disparity between the wealthy and those that identify as not wealthy. So, I suppose the idea is that we, as the 99%, must get the 1% to either share the wealth or stop using it to do bad stuff in the world.

Let's get real. Let's dispel this myth of the down-trodden 99% struggling to get by with our measly \$50,000 a year. Let's acknowledge that within our ranks there is also great disparity. Some counted among the 99% earn as much as \$500,000 a year, while the lowest 15% are earning about \$10,000. With that level of imbalance no wonder we are having trouble focusing on issues that resonate equally with everyone. No wonder we need a slogan to distract from the reality that we may be the 99% but we are a long way from being a united force, especially when the discussion is about who has wealth and who does not.

We may need to stop looking at what the 1% has and wishing we had it, (or that they do not have it and misuse it), and consider what we do have instead. As the 99% we control one of this country's most valuable resources: the population. That is the true wealth in this country and in the world. Without our cooperation, the 1% is virtually powerless. Even organized into a movement that only represents 10% of the 300 million U.S. citizens we become an awesome force. That is what I think of when I imagine the 99%. That is what inspires me. We are that 99%...and so are they!

# Occupy Red Hook; A Unique Breed

by Curtis Skinner

In the basement of a downtown Red Hook office building, a dozen and a half people gathered to discuss an occupation.

The Occupy Red Hook movement, founded by local theatre producer, community activist and Star-Revue columnist, Reg Flowers, coalesced last year on the swell formed by the Occupy Wall Street movement and in response to the specific concerns of the Red Hook neighborhood. It formed not to vie for the limited political power in the area, but to provide a place for residents to figure out how to fix problems with which all in the neighborhood struggle.

"I would love to see unity in this community," said Flowers. "This is a great moment for positive change because the Occupy Wall Street movement exists."

That said, the evening meeting on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> began awkwardly. As anyone who attended early general assemblies of the Occupy Wall Street movement would surely attest, direct democracy in action is an inherently messy process. From electing a scribe and minute keeper to discerning simple announcements from agenda items that the group would deliberate on, the scene could be likened most accurately to a cartoon character engaged in a prolonged episode of slipping on a banana peel.

## Meeting finally picks up steam

But after the group arranged and agreed upon the procedure for the remaining three hours of discussion, the scene of the slippery banana peel morphed into that of a steam locomotive; not only in the group's speed and single-mindedness on whatever issue was at hand, but as well in the harmony between numerous different working parts that propelled the conversation forward.

This was most evident in the group's discussion of general outrage toward abuses of stop and frisk, particularly around the houses. Adding coal to the engine, to extend the metaphor, was the police's seeming unconcern with the subsequent public outrage at recent community events. At times it was a support group with members of Occupy Red Hook sharing their own horror stories. Sadly, speakers could not be quoted at the meeting for the sake of confidentiality. (Though assuredly, some of the stories were quite disturbing). And at



At a recent Occupy Red-Hook meeting.

other times, this was an activist group with concerned residents strategizing a plan of action in response. Occupy Red Hook seemed to be a unique breed of the Occupy movement.

## Red Hook-centric

It is not about righting national wrongs or shifting the ideological paradigm governing our nation's economy; it is about residents trying to turn a geographical district into a community. Members of Occupy Wall Street facilitate the meeting, it is the residents whom have practiced the art of direct democracy for the past few months; it is certainly Red Hook centric.

But perhaps the primary difference between the two Occupy movements is that many already consider Occupy Wall Street a success. Success was gained through the effectiveness of the movement as a symbol for public discontent, but not necessarily through any actual change to city, state or national policy. Where Occupy Red Hook must distinguish itself from its Manhattan counterpart is in affecting tangible changes in either policy or living conditions in the neighborhood before it can be considered a success. This is a feat much more difficult than thinking up a catchy slogan like, 'we are the 99%', or beating makeshift drums in Zuccotti Park, admittedly.

The group will meet at the same time and day once a week at the Added Value office at 370 Van Brunt Street on Wolcott. Other residents are encouraged to join and spread the word. Contact Reg Flowers at (718) 395-3218 for more information.

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# Natasha Campbell's Summit Academy charter school stresses achievement

By Elizabeth Graham

At the end of each week at Summit Academy, jeans and brightly colored shirts are sprinkled amongst the pale yellow and navy blue of the school's uniforms. Students, who are called "scholars" at the charter school, earn the right to dress down if their grades meet the "Show What You Know Masters" weekly requirements.

The program is a constant incentive to achieve, at a school where well-rounded performance is top priority.

Founded three years ago by executive director, Natasha Campbell, Summit Academy now has 240 students in sixth to eighth grades. Each year, the school, which shares a building with the Red Hook Neighborhood School on Huntington Street, will grow by a grade, eventually expanding to include up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Background at PAL Miccio

Her years of experience as the director of the Police Athletic League at the Miccio Center in Red Hook were what drove Campbell's decision to try to offer kids in South Brooklyn a chance at a solid preparation for college. "We found

every child and family had great aspirations", she said, but often did not have the resources.

"I started to question, 'what are we preparing our children for?'" she said, pointing out that only a tiny fraction of the kids who participate in the sports-oriented PAL will ever become professional athletes. She decided to focus on college preparation instead, creating a school that offers, "the rigorous academic curriculum that they deserve."

In addition to academics, students are prepared for life outside the classroom by learning cultural awareness and social responsibility. Community service, Latin studies and participation in arts programs such as drumming, dance and violin are all part of the school year.

"We have a unique community of learners that focuses not just on academics. We focus on cultivating the whole



The Summit Academy is located at 27 Huntington Street (photo by Elizabeth Graham).

child," principal Shahara Jackson said. The curriculum also includes a built-

in belief system. "Each and every adult that works at Summit believes that each and every one of our scholars will go to college and excel," Campbell said.

To help drive that goal home, students get a first-hand look at college life by making several overnight visits to campuses including Harvard, Yale, George Washington, the University of Hartford and Howard University.

"Not every 10 or 11 year-old can speak about the experience of visiting a college campus. That exposure is probably one of the biggest things that makes us unique," Campbell said.

### Half of the students are from Red Hook

Students are admitted to Summit via lottery in the spring, with priority given to children from District 15. More than half of its students live in Red Hook, which Jackson says is a sign that the neighborhood is moving past its once gritty reputation.

"Red Hook is a community that has historically been beleaguered with challenges. Summit is helping to transform that, we are making an investment in the community of Red Hook by cultivating the future of our children," she said.



Founder Natasha Campbell with some of her charges (photo by Graham).

## The Red Hook Star-Revue Salutes Red Hook Youth!

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Left to Right: John K. Avanzino  
Angélique Moreno  
\*CHOSEN TO 2011 SUPER LAWYERS

## In Memorium

Richard Glenn Burkard, son of Star-Revue Historian, JJ Burkard, died of a fatal heart attack Thursday evening, January 6, 2012. Richard was a beloved son, brother, uncle and friend to so many. Funeral services were held over the weekend. The Burkard family requests your prayers for the repose of his soul. They also wish to express their gratitude for the outpouring of sympathy and compassion. The Red Hook Star-Revue offers our own condolences to the Burkard family.

*We honor Richard Glenn Burkard with a poem written by his father:*

*Gone But Not Forgotten  
Are These Noblest Of Men  
They Have Walked The Trodden  
Path Into The Sky.*

*Gone But Not Forgotten  
As We Say Remember When  
Like Us Poor Mortals  
They Could Laugh And Cry.*

*Gone But Not Forgotten  
Are These Men Veterans All  
They Served Their Country  
While They Roamed This Earth.*

*Gone But Not Forgotten  
They Did Heed The Masters Call  
And They Left A Precious  
Memory Of Their Worth*

# Curtis Skinner On Politics

## Failure to stop Success Academy

On December 14th, the New York City Department of Education unanimously approved the co-location of Eva Moskowitz's Success Academy Cobble Hill with three other schools housed in the same building. Despite overwhelming community outrage against the co-location, local politicians could not cohere public outrage into substantive opposition. They were apparently incapable of even setting an alternative proposal in front of the Department of Education before the deadline.

In talking with Joan Millman and Brad Lander's press spokespeople on the phone, no direct actions have been planned in protest of the decision of yet, though it does not seem like any action is likely to stymie the move at this point, short of a full-blown occupation perhaps.

And as if adding injury to the initial insult, parents riding the B61 or various other lines around the city have to endure the ads plastered on bus stops around Red Hook.

## Next bus please? Please?!?

I stood, or rather was packed with my cheek nearly pressed to the front windshield, on a B61 bus recently, despite the MTA promising an increase of busses on the line. This in response to a study produced by Councilman Brad Lander with the support of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez.

A source, known to be reliable by the paper, said that no new buses have been added to the route yet, though the MTA maintains that they are actively remediating the issue. Talks are also underway about extending the B57 bus to IKEA and placing stop signs and speed bumps at dangerous intersections around the city, though a follow up conversation is necessary between the Red Hook Star-Revue and the proper MTA/DoT officials before any statement can be confirmed.

## 2012 election politics?

Recent press releases from Councilman Brad Lander's office have cited outrage about the environmental and health concerns on upstate hydrofracking—the process of extracting oil from the ground through way of shooting highly pressurized chemicals through the Earth's crust. Also, an announcement from the offices of both Councilmen Brad Lander and Stephen Levin came concerning their attitudes toward the Citizen's United Supreme Court decision of 2010 that granted personhood to corporations ensuring their ability to donate unlimited funds to political campaigns.

In speaking with Brad Lander's spokesperson about the latter, he admitted that the councilman's declaration will scarcely affect his city council race or, by extension, his constituency. Which leads one reporter to wonder whether the populist sentiments expressed by the councilmen in the past weeks and months are actions meant to further the welfare of the residents in their respective districts or whether they are plays to gain precious political capital coming into the elections but a few months away.

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# Luquer Street: What is this place? Who are these people?

by Mary Ann Pietanza

“I don’t get it,” said Al Conti, my friend and temporary placement agent from Wall Street, “at a time when my clients are reluctant to interview secretaries from Brooklyn because of their accents and gum chewing, you girls come along not just from Brooklyn, but from some queerly named street, (no pun intended), and turn out to be my greatest success stories. What is this place? Who are you people?”

Al was a no nonsense kind of guy and he was referring to some friends and I who were placed in jobs by him and, yes, we all did manage to work our way up to supervisory or managerial positions from secretaries in just a few short years.

That was back in the mid seventies. To answer his question, “What is this place, who are you people?”, curious as it was, and with a tone perhaps suggesting that there was some reverence in it, was a first for me. It stunned me into silence. If he only knew, I thought, where we actually came from. Yes, it was a queerly named street (Luquer, or rather “Luqueer”, as most people said), and it was, in fact, at that time, in a ghetto of all places. But how would he know that? He was from Westchester. We were from one of the toughest neighborhoods around, one that was eventually named by Life Magazine as the, “crack capital of the world.” Long before that, the shape-up of the longshoremen “sotto ‘loggio”, (under the clock), on Columbia Street was shockingly observed by playwright, Arthur Miller, who was moved to believe that, “America stopped at Columbia Street.” Then there were the bodyguards that could be spotted indiscreetly on rooftops while riding the bus along Columbia Street. We had to have guts, smarts, eyes behind our heads, and a keen sense to spot trouble a mile away, all life surviving skills. But there was more for us to deal with on Luquer Street. We lived on a block that was sort of the misfit block of Red Hook, if you could say we were from Red Hook. We had our doubts at times. Geographically, we were like the portal to Red Hook, outside of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. We really did not fit in with the rest of Red Hook, not really feeling as though we were “The Point,” “The Back,” or “The Hook.” Nor were we much acknowledged by our neighbors just across the highway, Carroll Gardens. While Luquer Street did exist on the other side, from Hamilton Avenue to Smith Street, they were considered the more reputable Luquer Streeters. The Luquer Street there was lined with brick townhouses, all charming and quaint, bearing even some architectural accents that were found on brownstones; even the larger buildings stood tall and pristine. Despite the elevated tracks towering over it on the Smith Street end, it still managed

to keep its charm intact. We, on the other hand, had a mixture of two, three, four and six-family apartment buildings that were mostly shingled and mixed in color and some were faded. Not a single house could claim beauty or character distinction. The one or two brick buildings that stood on our block certainly did not have the merit of being called a “townhouse.”

We were an isolated block, mostly forgotten because we were cut off by the tunnel, Cardinal Tank’s factory on Nelson Street, warehouses off Columbia & Commerce, and Dead Man’s Curve on Hamilton Avenue. We also had to tolerate a busy gas station on the corner and an auto body shop that gapped out the middle of our block with its huge wreckage lot that was once home to a horse stable and whose tow trucks sped out of their garage each night in pursuit of a “chase” to be the first to arrive at the scene of an accident. If that was not alarming enough, we spent years subject to the blasting that went on at Hicks Street under the footbridge where a huge cavity in the ground, temporarily inhabited by the water company, prepared their water main to Staten Island. What a sorry sight we were! One by one, through the years, buildings started to get demolished, leaving empty lots and debris in its place as Cardinal sought more space for its inventory of giant sized tanks. We were pathetic to say the least.

Our only saving grace was Defonte’s, (Nick’s as we knew it). Once they packed up and left by three o’clock, we were on our own. No one, we thought, could have a fate worse than ours as far as being the oddball street in the neighborhood. Okay, maybe Coles Street around the corner from us bore some oddity by housing just one building on its entire, albeit short block, but at least they did not have to bear the humiliation of being called “Luqueer.” Nelson, Columbia, Hamilton and Huntington were all respectable upstanding Ameri-



can street names around us. Where did Luquer come from anyway? Would it not be that our misfit geographic make-up was also a direct reflection of our screwball name? Because it simply was not what we looked like on the surface, it was who lived there who added to our reputation.

We were a diverse bunch, sporting names like Ju-Ju or Gina. Tina and Dina. Baby, Junior, Johnny Boy and “Mar-ee-ooch”. We were a sharply contrasting mixture of families with strict and loose morals, gregarious and autonomous



*The saving grace of Luquer Street at least until 3 o’clock.*

personalities. To top it all off, to add to our block’s ubiquitous appeal were the scare tactics of those who claimed to possess the block’s sentinel position of keeping everyone and everything in order. They were the watchdogs, but they were also the stuff comedians were made of. Tony, for example, was old, in his sixties or seventies maybe. He was bald, disgruntled, slightly heavy around the middle, always in nice pants and a

disabled dock worker. Ju-Ju mainly guarded his end of the block from his classic high-back wooden house chair. His tall, broad frame was topped with a thick head of salt and pepper hair, huge chunky glasses and a mustache. His mother, whose dialect Neapolitan nickname I cannot even begin to figure out how to spell, was renowned for her medieval ritual of removing the evil eye (malocchio) from people. Ju-Ju loved to sit on his corner, cane within his

**“Would it not be that our misfit geographic make-up was also a direct reflection of our screwball name? Because it simply was not what we looked like on the surface, it was who lived there who added to our reputation.”**

collared shirt. He was married to Anne, slim, tall, always dressed in knee length pencil skirts and fitted blouses. Anne walked their toy, pointed-ear Chihuahua each day up and down Luquer Street. From the back she looked svelte and shapely, her rich black hair resting on her shoulders which in no way matched her face which framed a murky complexion, big, deep brown-circled eyes with high eyebrows and an aging face and lipstick. We never could guess her ethnicity because of her enlarged Asian eye shape. We knew little of her. She kept to herself. They were childless, she and Tony, and she seemed unaffected by his crass, imposing personality which we got to experience each time we regrettably bumped into his shiny, bright new car that he guarded in one of the few garages on the block. That is, when he parked it on the sidewalk for air, or maybe, come to think of it, for show. He sat perched on a crate, smoking his cigarette, guarding his treasure that he and his wife primarily took out for Sunday drives to Plum Beach or the race track. In his raspy, heavy voice he barked at us, “Hey, you, get the hell away from my car! Hear me!!?”

Stay away!”

Joining forces with him was Ju-Ju, a

reach, and people watch. He would, if he thought anyone who crossed his path was out of line, attempt to poke them with his cane, much like a cat who swipes her paw at you, but does not have the intention of really scratching you, just enough to let you know where she stands. Along with that may have come a remark or two, so it was best to walk on the opposite side of the street. In earlier times on my end of the block there was a six-family home resembling my own, but smaller. The house was demolished in the mid-sixties and it swarmed with many transient tenants except for the old man who lived on the top floor.

He was nameless, frail and quite old. He always wore an old gray suit with a white shirt and no tie. He was quite ill, no doubt, because his favorite pass time in the evening just before dusk would be to sit at his window attempting to blind everyone with a mirror that reflected the setting sunlight right into our eyes! If we were coming from Hamilton Avenue toward Columbia Street, we got zapped good, and if we were looking out the window on the opposite side of his house, we were painfully blinded, enough so that we started swearing under our breath! We had to watch from behind closed blinds to make sure he

*(please turn the page)*



# Luquer Street

(continued from previous page)

was not there before we went out the window to look for friends or watch our own world go by.

It is sad to say, but included in this list of characters that contributed madness to our block, was my own grandmother who lived on the top floor of our building. When we were young and out playing a full day of games like skellsies, hop scotch and jump rope, we would settle breathlessly on the stoop and maybe have a Manhattan Special, (coffee soda from Nick's), and be quite loud in our eagerness for life as any kid would be. But, my grandmother did not tolerate this on her stoop. If we did not scam at her protested request to get off the stoop quickly enough, she settled the matter by shuffling to the kitchen in her slip-

cally portrayed as "The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight". Both spoke volumes.

Thinking of all this, as I sat pondering Al's question that day, all that came to my mind was, good question. "What is this place, who are you people?" Without getting into everything, I could only answer, "It's complicated."

Years later with the drama, or rather the trauma, of Luquer Street behind me, living in a park-like incorporated little village on Long Island far from Luquer Street, my mother having passed on in 1999, I came full circle one afternoon when I found a note beneath our wall phone message board reading 'Luquer' and a phone number. My eyes gave a double take, my mind immediately registered this as a spiritual sign from my dead mother, and I immediately called out to my family members to solve this. "Who wrote this message? The one that says "Luqueer" on it?"

The answer stems from my daughter who says, "Luqueer"? You mean the



Mary Ann's block of Luquer Street with Defonte's at one end and Hamilton Avenue at the other (photo by Kimberly G. Price)

**"They were well-to-do, an impressionable lot, but one would have to stop and wonder why they simply did not dedicate a street to this lineage of family in Brooklyn Heights."**

pers, filling an aluminum pot with hot water from the faucet and proceed to toss the water out from her third floor window right onto our heads! That certainly got our attention, and our butts off the stoop.

As if all this were not enough for our little psychological minds to bear, we still had to deal with the embarrassment of simply saying what the name of our street was to outsiders. Come on! It was the sixties and seventies, not a warm and fuzzy era of acceptance and tolerance. It was what it was at that time. The name implied a scandal, a forbidden way of life. We were innocent underdogs, victims of circumstance living on a mispronounced street, no doubt, that was named for not so nice images. Imagine, then, being in a Catholic school class of 60 students on the first day of school each year during roll call in a parish of mostly Norwegian Americans living in Sunset Park boasting nothing but numbered street names, like 46th Street, and having to announce that you live on "Luqueer" Street! This was my fate. First, three Catholic schools in Red Hook/Carroll Gardens had "no room" for me as a student in 1960 when I first attended school. Then another school did accept me, which happens to be out of my neighborhood, my parish (and my culture for added measure), where any worded street name was foreign to them. Imagine what a bonus "Luqueer" was for them as a rank. I was the target of many a sneer, giggle, laugh and crude remarks for eight straight years.

It was not just that. It was, at the time, the gangs, the crime, the prostitution, the rampant drug use and the yearly deterioration that we had to dodge and endure. In notoriety, as a neighborhood, our past history and reputation were sketchy enough to be depicted fictitiously in the literary world as "The Horror at Red Hook" (H.P. Lovecraft). And our organized crime was cinemati-

'Lukers'? I did. They want me to baby sit for them next week."

I'm pretty much speechless at this point thinking how this full circle evolved, miles from Red Hook, yet living near Robert Moses Beach, (named for the power broker who had much to do with Red Hook's fate in the fifties and sixties), and now learning that a family in my little, two-thousand-people village, is named Luquer. So began the exchange of calls with them and my sister, whom I just had to share this

information with. I came to learn the most notable of the Luquers, one being Eloise Payne, a renowned botanist, and Thatcher T.P. Luquer, who was not just a United States Colonel, but whose family hailed from among others, the Pierreponts of Brooklyn Heights. He not only ordered the establishment of the short lived Army Day at the start of WWI, but was also an author, engineer and a sponsor of the Luquer Cup that was awarded during the elitist National Guard's pistol competitions in upstate New York after the war. They were well-to-do, an impressionable lot, but one would have to stop and wonder why they simply did not dedicate a street to this lineage of family in Brooklyn Heights. Certainly, this would have made my life easier back then. Today I cannot say the same.

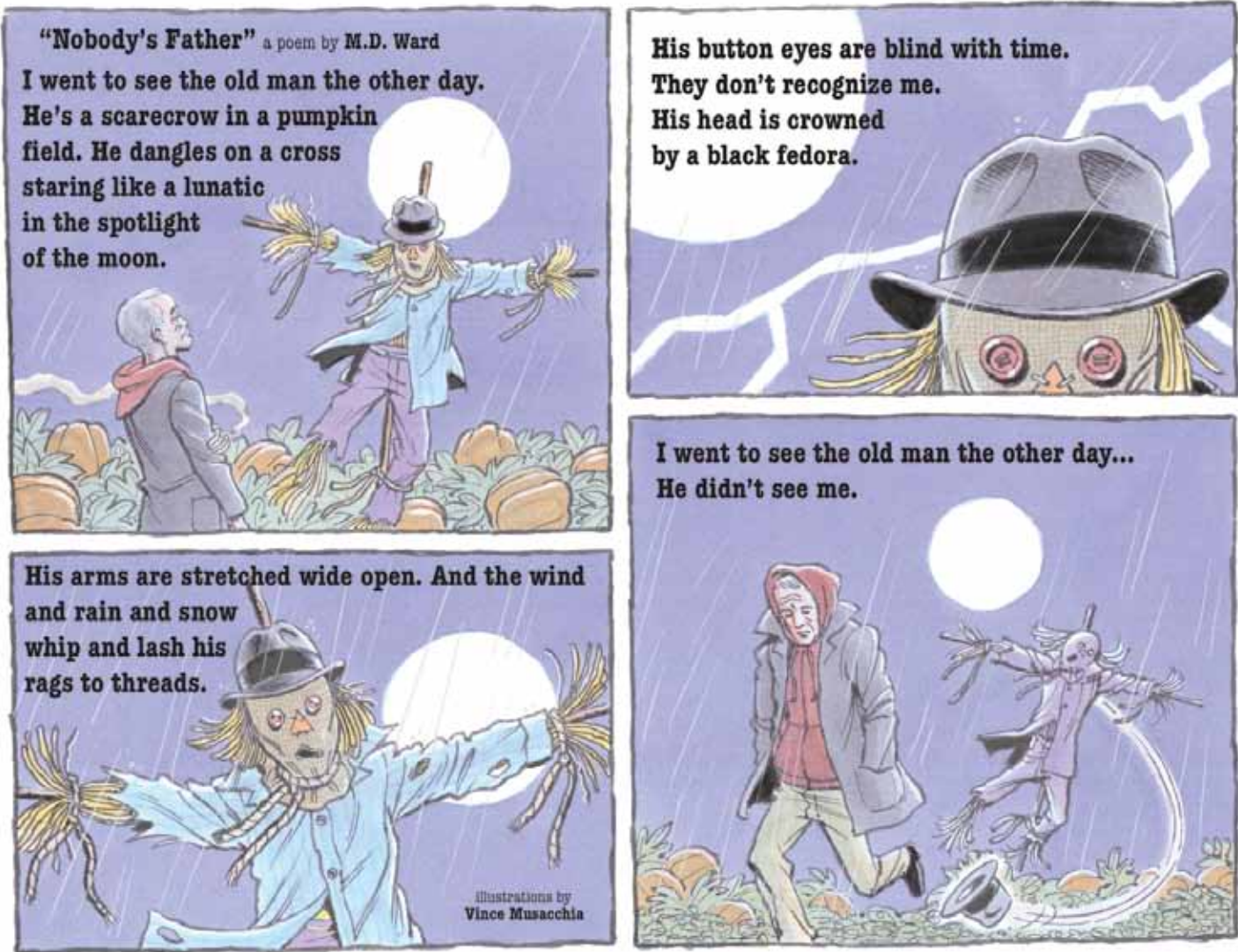
So now looking at Red Hook's Luquer Street, it still struggles with its success, even during gentrification. However it has taken strides since I lived there. I keep rooting for them, though, wishing I had millions to give to finish its cur-

rent make over. Homes have been beautifully renovated on the outside; the insides possess granite counters, marble baths and Jacuzzis I wish I had.

The auto wreckage lot is gone. It sits empty, its shop demolished, waiting, I hope, for more new homes to take its place. The revamping of Dead Man's Curve now has its widened stretch of the BQE on Luquer Street's northeast corner safely in place so that the trucks have stopped swerving and crashing down, spewing their contents all over Hamilton Avenue; lives have been saved.

Defonte's stays the course, reliably producing its signature sandwiches, drawing in celebrities. People of caliber now live there and we now know the name Luquer holds much esteem. At this time of our lives, my sister, friends and I can say we often wondered how we survived Luquer Street and Red Hook, but we know the answer; it is what gave us our strength. If Al Conti were to ask me that same question today, I might answer, "Actually, you would be quite surprised!"

## by Vince Musacchia





# Art:

## Former Fisherman Jim Clark brings Inuit Art to Red Hook

by Elizabeth Graham



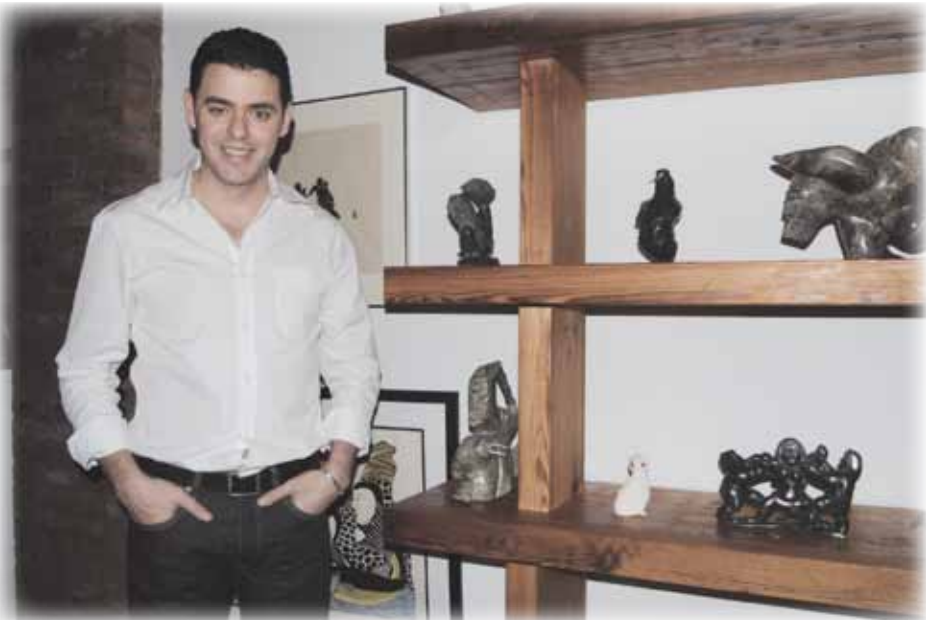
Zaria Forman with one of her gallery pieces.

Sweeping scenes from Greenland’s watery, arctic landscape cling to the walls at Look North Inuit Art Gallery, acting as a mesmerizing glimpse into the icy origins of the smooth stone sculptures lining the shelves and sitting atop pedestals in the space.

Polar Light: Greenland, is a collection of photographs and pastel drawings by photographer Rena Bass Forman and her daughter, Zaria Forman. The women documented the country’s fast-changing landscape during a trip

world, and her daughter’s pastel drawings of serene water and skies, which convey a sense of enormity and peace. “The vastness of big spaces has always really inspired me... There’s something, especially about the water, the vastness and perspective that it gives you. That’s something I hope the viewer can find when they look at the work, and gain some perspective in their own lives,” Zaria Forman said.

The Park Slope artist will return to Greenland in August on a trip honoring her mother, who passed away last



Jim Clark, the owner of Look North Inuit Art Gallery along with items for sale at the gallery (photo by Elizabeth Graham)

**“The vastness of big spaces has always really inspired me... There’s something, especially about the water, the vastness and perspective that it gives you.”**

to some of Greenland’s most remote regions several years ago.

The exhibit at the Red Hook Art Gallery includes Bass Forman’s striking photos of the Jakobshaun Ice Fjord, the fastest melting glacier in the



Forman at work in her studio.

year after a battle with cancer.

The mother-daughter team’s exhibit pairs well with the rest of the gallery, which is dedicated to the work of artists from the Alaskan and Canadian arctic. Sculptures of animals, mythical creatures and faces made of basalt and serpentine stone sit alongside a few pieces crafted from whalebone, ivory, marble and caribou antler.

Crab boat in the arctic

Owner Jim Clark was introduced to Inuit art while working as a commercial fisherman on a king crab boat in the arctic. After spending nearly 20 years in the grueling fishing industry, Clark, 40, moved to Red Hook to open the Conover Street gallery.

“I’ve always loved the themes involved. It’s contemporary work but still based on something old and concrete. There’s something very elegant and beautiful and even stoic about it,” Clark said.



This angry face is an example of Inuit sculpture (photo by Graham).



# Music:

## Binghamton's Woodshed Prophets has us dancing in the aisles at Jalopy

by George Fiala, photos by Matt Graber

The Woodshed Prophets, a Binghamton based band describing themselves as 'power twang', closed out a full plate of music last Saturday night at Jalopy by rocking the often sedate venue into a dancing frenzy.

Jalopy is usually home to rootsy music including traditional blues, old-timey bands with washboards and spoons, and bluegrass groups filled with fiddles and mandolins.

Patrons usually stay seated in the church pews that Jalopy has installed to encourage the love and reverence with which

they esteem these genres. However, Saturday night was unique as the Woodshed Prophets turned this respectful venue into a funky roadhouse. They brought loud guitars and drums into the church-like atmosphere and the audience responded by gyrating and dancing in the aisles, even though there was not a Pentecostal in sight.

Their set started around 11:30 on a sold-out night. The Prophets are a four piece band who compose their own material. The music ranges from country and western to all-out rock and is often in-between. The songwriting is superb, and many of the tunes are group compositions. Words that stuck with me were from a song called *Diana*, which leads off their debut eponymous CD which was available at the show:

*"She smells like a cigarette  
She looks like a runaway  
She feels like a beauty queen  
And she tastes like Georgia to me."*

Lead singer and guitarist, Dan Hardy, plays his role as front man with zest. In between songs he tells stories about fights between brothers in bars and bizarre road signs. Recounting his experiences, often followed by "true story, folks" add to the realness of the music. And his cowboy hat and full beard are just the right touch. Bassist, Ed Gliha, dressed in blue-jean overalls, looks like he might have finished mowing the lower 40 right before the show. Rob Stachyra, the lead guitarist is workmanlike in accenting these songs

with his backup vocals and energetic style. Drummer, Bird Dog, is having the time of his life smashing the skins with just the right touch to keep things sounding frenetic and accomplished at the same time. Most of the time he sports a big goofy grin.

What makes this band worth keeping track of, in addition to their songs and playing, are the sweet harmonies they put together when needed. These guys have been playing the upstate circuit for years and they show it with their tight harmonies and seamless movement between songs, even after a few beers.

The Woodshed Prophets are now back in Binghamton, but more forays into the NY club scene are planned. Their website is easily remembered at Woodshed-prophets.com and they also maintain a Facebook page.



Hardy crooning one of the softer love songs that the Woodshed Pines play.



Leader singer, Dan Hardy, with Bird Dog slamming away in the back.



Dan Hardy wets his lips as bassist, Rob Stachyra, watches.

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South Brooklyn**



# Dining:

## Smith Street restaurant pioneer, Saul Bolton, outdoes himself with The Vanderbilt

by Erik Penney

A very insightful person recently remarked to me, as she was tucking into a plate of some roasted vegetable or another, “Thank God our generation has taken over the cooking.” This comment hit me square in the face. It perfectly described my feelings of how cooking and food have evolved since I was a young child when food at home and in restaurants was under the control of our parents and people their age. Taking nothing away from the food I grew up on per se, but compared to what we have come to expect on our plates and menus today, it was less creative, less fluid in style and geography, and struggled under the considerable weight of less-than-ideal techniques and methods. Meats and vegetables were cooked to limp submission, boiled to death, variously overly or under seasoned and, quite frankly, boring.

Maybe it is the internet. Or the food-blogsphere. Maybe it is all of the Food TV-inspired awareness of what everyone else out there is eating. Or maybe we have finally realized that we need not settle for eating just what we know, that making the culinary leap from diner meatloaf with ketchup gravy to grass-fed Black Angus meatloaf with roasted wild mushrooms and veal demi-glace is not beyond our reach. The results are far superior and interesting. There will always be room for technique and well-placed artifice in cooking, especially in fine dining, but as I go around town eating, I find that the common denominator here is the opposite of artifice. It is a simplicity of purpose and result. Ingredients now tend to be presented as they are, and their freshness and seasonality are highlighted, instead of the intricacy of the process that brought the dish to the table. The Vanderbilt in Prospect Heights is a stunning example of this trend, and its ever-changing American bistro-style menu might be, in my opinion, the best of its kind in Brooklyn.

This is Saul Bolton’s restaurant, of Saul’s on Smith Street in Cobble Hill. Saul’s was one of the original homesteaders on what now passes for a sort of restaurant row in Brooklyn, but when Saul’s opened in 1999, the options in the neighborhood did not extend too far beyond old-school Italian spaghetti parlors or bars with deep-fried pub-grub. Saul’s established a beachhead for the movement in Brooklyn, and the momentum has not stopped since. The Vanderbilt is bit more casual in atmosphere than Saul’s, younger in clientele and simpler in menu style, but it is no less worthy of a visit; in fact it might be more so.

The Vanderbilt has a large bar walking in and a second bar as you penetrate the restaurant further, the second one abutting the open kitchen. I highly recommend sitting in the kitchen-facing seats, at least once, to watch the cooks in action. It is otherwise a rustic but airy space, chalkboards and big windows

along the side, and the clean steel of the kitchen on the opposite flank. Further back, the main dining room has rough-hewn wooden walls and a massive chandelier made from a wagon-wheel. The plaid-shirt-wearing servers move seamlessly amongst the plaid-shirt-wearing customers, and all seem to have smiles on their faces as if they can hardly contain their sincere satisfaction at being in such a great, cool restaurant. The song that I remember hearing when I first walked in was “Helter Skelter” by the Beatles, and the soundtrack to all of my meals there was equally, (and pleasantly), rockin’.

I would not say it is impossible to be a vegetarian at The Vanderbilt, but one is certainly missing out on the very best that the restaurant has to offer. They make sausages in-house and are currently offering them as the centerpiece of a sort of to-go, football tailgating care package that contains eight from a list of three varieties of sausages, (a marvelous house-smoked Keilbasa, weisswurst and Beef Brisket hot dog), a bag of their homemade chincharrones (which are deep-fried pork skins and which will absolutely ruin you for anything that comes in a bag with the words “pork rinds” on the outside), a handful of

**“Maybe we have finally realized that we need not settle for eating just what we know, that making the culinary leap from diner meatloaf with ketchup gravy to grass-fed Black Angus meatloaf with roasted wild mushrooms and veal demi-glace is not beyond our reach.”**

sides and a growler of beer. The sausages are otherwise served in the restaurant. The Keilbasa, for example, with a mustardy potato salad, and all of the sausages come in at \$12 a plate except for a chicken and foie gras hot dog, which is \$2 more. The sausages find their way into a terrific, (and terrifically cheap), choucroute garni on Tuesdays for \$15.

The regular dinner menu is divided into small, medium and large-sized plates, which encourages assembly of a tableful of several things to your taste. The small plates seem to be sized to stand in for small appetizers or as side dishes to the large plates, and the medium plates seem appropriate for traditional appetizers. But really what I encourage is to order whatever strikes a fancy regardless of size or menu placement, and put together a kind of tasting menu, which is what we did.

It seems to be all about roasted Brussels sprouts these days, and not content to simply roast them as nearly everyone else has done to great success, The Vanderbilt’s version has Sriracha, (spicy Thai hot chili sauce), along with honey and sesame seeds. I wanted to believe that this preparation would fail, and fall into the “don’t mess with a good thing”



*The Vanderbilt, 570 Vanderbilt Avenue, offers diners a full view of the kitchen.*

category, but it did not. These are hot, sweet vegetable candy; all the flavors are properly proportioned and coalesce into the final dish, a stunning variation on an otherwise ubiquitous side dish, and one that must not be missed. Other standout small plates include the crispy fried chicken wings, which come spiced with Togarashi, (Japanese chili powder), and the simple bowls of olives or pickles, any of which could make a stop at the bar for a glass of wine an incred-

comes something else entirely. Do not pass this one up.

While it might be more fun to sample more of the smaller plates, the large plates do not disappoint either and deserve attention. Fleisher’s heritage pork meatballs are large, baseball-sized orbs that have been braised in tomato sauce and come dusted with pecorino. They are so tender I would be hard-pressed to correctly identify them as pork rather than veal had I been blindfolded in front of a plate of each. Artisanal pasta of the night was fusilli, tossed with wilted Swiss chard, toasted garlic and walnuts, the nuttiness of which was heightened by more Pecorino. This is a delicious pasta dish. The Vanderbilt’s burger makes for a great sit-at-the-bar meal as well, and the hanger steak is a worthy interpretation of a classic, paired with roasted fingerling potatoes and sautéed kale.

Chef Bolton has something good going here. I cannot think of a bad bite of anything I have ever eaten at The Vanderbilt. Execution is near-flawless, flavor and ingredient combinations are thoughtfully made, and our curious instincts are teased equally with our more visceral, familiar ones. The case for culinary superiority is made just as well with more unusual, even ethnic dishes and preparations as with the familiar ones. So challenge yourself or stick with what you know, but either way you can be sure that you will walk away from The Vanderbilt having had the best of modern, stripped-down American seasonal cooking. You might never go back to yesterday’s way of eating again!

**The Vanderbilt,**  
(718) 623-0570  
570 Vanderbilt Avenue,  
(corner of Bergen Street)  
[www.thevanderbiltnyc.com](http://www.thevanderbiltnyc.com)

*Recommended dishes: house-made sausages, roasted Brussels sprouts with Sriracha and honey, Bouchot mussels, crispy pork belly, hamburger....oh hell, everything’s good.*



# Star-Revue Restaurant Guide

## Red Hook

**BAKED** 359 Van Brunt St., (718)222-0345.

**THE BROOKLYN ICE HOUSE** 318 Van Brunt St., (718) 222-1865.

**BOTANICA** 220 Conover St (at Coffey St), (347) 225-0147.

**DEFONTE'S SANDWICH SHOP** 379 Columbia St., (718) 855-6982.

**DIEGO'S RESTAURANT** 116 Sullivan St., (718) 625-1616.

**F&M BAGELS** 383 Van Brunt St., (718) 855-2623.

**FORT DEFIANCE** 365 Van Brunt St., (347) 453-6672.

**THE GOOD FORK** 391 Van Brunt St., (718) 643-6636.

**HOME/MADE** 293 Van Brunt St., (347) 223-4135.

**HOPE & ANCHOR** 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276.

**IKEA** One Beard St., (718) 246-4532.

**JOHN & FRANKS**, 367 Columbia Street, (718) 797-4467

**KEVIN'S** 277 Van Brunt St., (718) 596-8335.

**MARK'S PIZZA** 326 Van Brunt St., (718) 624-0690.

**NEW LIN'S GARDEN RESTAURANT** 590 Clinton Street, (718) 399-1166

**RED HOOK LOBSTER POUND** 284 Van Brunt St., (646) 326-7650.

**ROCKY SULLIVAN'S** 34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050.

**STEVE'S AUTHENTIC KEY LIME PIE**, 204 Van Dyke St, (718) 852-6018

**SUNNY'S BAR IN RED HOOK**, 253 Conover Street, (718) 625-8211

## Columbia Waterfront District

**ALMA** 187 Columbia St., (718) 643-5400.

**BAGEL BOY CAFE** 75 Hamilton Ave - next to Chase, (718) 855-0500.

**CALEXICO CARNE ASADA** 122 Union St., (718) 488-8226.

**CASA DI CAMPAGNA** 117 Columbia Street (718) 237-4300.

**CASELNOVA** 214 Columbia St., (718) 522-7500.

**FERNANDO'S FOCACCERIA RESTAURANT** 151 Union St., (718)855-1545.

**HOUSE OF PIZZA & CALZONES** 132 Union St., (718) 624-9107.

**JAKE'S BAR-B-QUE RESTAURANT** 189 Columbia St., (718) 522-4531.

**KOTOBUKI BISTRO** 192 Columbia St., (718) 246-7980.

**LILLA CAFE** 126 Union St., (718) 855-5700.

**MAZZAT** 208 Columbia St., (718) 852-1652.

**PETITE CREVETTE** 144 Union St., (718) 855-2632.

**SUGAR LOUNGE**, 147 Columbia Street, 718 643-2880

**TEEDA THAI CUISINE** 218 Columbia St., (718) 643-2737.

## Carroll Gardens/Cobble Hill

**ABILENE**, 442 Court Street, 718-522-6900,

**ANGRY WADES**, 222 Smith Street, (718) 488-7253

**BAR BRUNO**, 520 Henry St., 347-763-0850,

**BAGELS BY THE PARK**, 323 Smith Street, (718) 246-1321

**BAR GREAT HARRY**, 280 Smith Street (718) 222-1103

**BOMBAY DREAM**, 257 Smith Street (718) 237-6490

**BROOKLYN BREAD CAFE**, 436 Court Street (718) 403-0234

**BUDDY'S BURRITO & TACO BAR**, 260 Court Street, 718-488-8695,

**BUTTERMILK CHANNEL**, 524 Court Street (718) 852-8490

**CASA ROSA**, 384 Court Street, 718-797-1907

**CHESTNUT**, 271 Smith St., (718) 243-0049

**COBBLE GRILL**, 212 Degraw Street, (718) 422-0099

**COBBLE HILL COFFEE SHOP**, 314 Court Street, (718) 852-1162

**CODY'S ALE HOUSE GRILL**, 154 Court Street, 718-852,6115

**CRAVE**, 570 Henry Street, (718) 643-0361

**CUBANA CAFE**, 272 Smith Street (718) 718-858-398

**DOWNTOWN BAR & GRILL**, 160 Court street, 718-625-2835

**EM THAI KITCHEN**, 278 Smith Street, (718) 834-0511

**ENOTICA ON COURT**, 347 Court Street, (718) 243-1000

**F LINE BAGELS**, 476 Smith Street (718) 422-0001

**FALL CAFE**, 307 Smith Street, (718) 403-0230

**FIVE GUYS**, 266 Court St., 347-799-2902

**FRAGOLE**, 394 Court Street, (718) 622-7133

**FRANCESCO'S RESTAURANT**, 531 Henry Street, (718) 834-0863

**FRANK'S LUNCHEONETTE**, 365 Smith Street, (718) 875-5449

**GHANG**, 229 Court Street, 718-875-1369

**GOWANUS YACHT CLUB**, 323 Smith Street, (718) 246-132,Closed til spring

**HANA CAFE**, 235 Smith Street, (718) 643-1963

**LE PETITE CAFE**, 502 Court street, 718-596-7060

**LING LING YOUNG**, 508 Henry Street, 260-9095

**MARCO POLO RISTORANTE**, 345 Court Street, 718 852-5015

**MAMA MARIA'S RESTAURANT**, 307 Court Street, (718) 246-2601

**MEZCAL'S** Restaurant, 522 Court Street, 718-783-3276

**NATURES GRILL**, 138 Court street, 718-852,5100,

**NINE-D**, 462 Court Street, 718-488-8998,

**OAXACA TACOS**, 251 Smith Street (718) 222-1122

**OSACA RESTAURANT**, 272 Court Street (718) 643-0055

**P J HANLEYS**, 520 Court Street, 718-834-8223

**PALO CORTADO**, 449 Court Street, 718-407-0047

**PRIME MEATS**, 465 Court Street, 718-254-0327 or 0345,

**PALMYRA**, 316 Court street, 718-797-1110

**RED ROSE RESTAURANT**, 315 Smith Street, (718) 625-0963

**SALS PIZZA**, 305 Court Street, (718) 852-6890

**SAVOIA**, 277 Smith Street, 718-797-2727

**SEERSUCKER RESTAURANT**, 329 Smith Street, (718) 422-0444

**SMITH & VINE**, 268 Smith Street (718) 243-2864

**SOUTH BROOKLYN PIZZA**, 451 Court Street, 718 852-6018

**STINKY BROOKLYN**, 261 Smith Street, 718 522-7425

**SWEET MELISSA**, 276 Court Street, (718) 855-3410

**VINNY'S OF CARROLL GARDENS**, 295 Smith Street, 718 875-5600

**VINNY'S PIZZERIA**, 455 Court Street, 718 596-9342

**VINO Y TAPAS**, 520 Court Street, 718-407-0047

**VINZEE'S**, 412 Court Street, 718 855 1401

**ZAYTOONS**, 283 Smith Street, 718 875-1880

## Gowanus

**MICHAEL AND PINGS**, 437 Third Avenue, (718) 788-0017

We, at the Red Hook Star-Revue are working very hard to keep our restaurant guide up-to-date. If your restaurant is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact us at [Kimberly@Redhookstar.com](mailto:Kimberly@Redhookstar.com)





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\*All items are 1/2 trays \*\* All items are full trays All orders must be placed 24 hours in advance of delivery. Package 1 will feed 8-10; 2 will feed 15-20; 3 will feed 30-35

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**Facility Manager Wanted** Boiler, Plumbing, Carpentry, Electric, ceramic, plastering, painting desirable. Must be able to supervise a staff of 5. Fax Resume Attn: Lisa Baptiste to 718-243-2253 or email to lisa.baptiste@shindamgmtcorp.com

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Glass Art of Brooklyn www.ernestporcelli.com 718-596-4353 Glass Fusing Workshop every Wednesday Evening 7-9 Beginners to Advanced Students welcome. Maximum 6 students per class. Classes are ongoing. Monthly fee \$175, includes most materials, and firings.

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## INTRODUCING NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING IN RED HOOK

The Red Hook Star-Revue, the local paper found in all the supermarkets and many fine establishments in Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Gowanus, is now running service ads in its classified section. The paper is published twice a month and 7,000 copies are distributed of each issue.

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Ad Copy: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THINGS TO DO JAN 16 - 31

If you have an event you would like listed in the Red Hook Star-Revue calendar, please email [redhookstarcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:redhookstarcalendar@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN

**Kentler International Drawing Space**, 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, [kentlergallery.org](http://kentlergallery.org).

## CHURCH

**Visitation of Our Blessed Virgin Mary R.C.C.** 98 Richards @Verona (718) 624-1572 Every Thurs. 6 pm Choir Practice w/ Emiliana

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**Brooklyn General**, 128 Union St. (718) 237-7753 [brooklyngeneral.com](http://brooklyngeneral.com). Classes and Workshops for all things Sewing.

**Cora Dance** 201 Richards St. (Coffey St./Van Dyke St.) #15 (718) 858-2520 [coradance.org](http://coradance.org) A Little Something From Cora Dance: A Sampler. 1/28 10:30-11:30 am Family Zumba 12:30-1:30 pm Free Zumba @RHI (767 Hicks St.) 1-2 pm Stories & Sweets 7 pm Cora Dance Choreographers Showcase, and after showcase 9:30 The 5th St. Band @ Rocky Sullivan's, 1/29 1-2:15 pm Fitness Workshop 2:30-3:45 pm Nutrition Workshop w/Pamela Nathenson 5-6:15 pm Yoga w/Jolene Festa. All programs and events free - suggested Donation \$15 or what-ever-you-can-afford.

**Jalopy School of Music** 315 Columbia St. (Hamilton Ave/Woodhull St.) (718) 395-3214 [jalopy.biz](http://jalopy.biz) Feb - Mar. class schedules Mon. 2/6-3/26 7 pm Country Harmony Singing I, 8 pm Country Harmony II 7 pm Banjo III Fingerpicking. Tues 2/7-3/27 7 pm Mandolin I 7 pm, Banjo I 8 pm Banjo II 7 pm Ensemble 1 Class 8 pm Ensemble 1 Class Wed 2/8-3/28 Exploring Your Voice 7 pm Fiddle III 7 pm Banjo I 8 pm Banjo III - Clawhammer 8 pm Guitar III, 8 pm Clogging Class Thurs 2/9-3/29 7 pm Mandolin II 7 pm Fiddle I 8 pm Fiddle II 8 pm Nuts & Bolts Music Theory Fri 2/10-3/30 7 pm Ukelele I 8 pm Ukelele II Sat 2/11-3/31 1 pm Guitar I 2 pm Guitar II 3 pm Finger Style Guitar I 4 pm Guitar Finger Style II 5 pm Guitar Finger Style III. \$225 for 8 weeks. \$275 w/instrument rental. Register for 2 classes for \$50 discount. Call to confirm

**Prema Yoga** 236 Carroll St. #1F Brooklyn 11231 [premayoganyc.com](http://premayoganyc.com)Check Website for full schedule and special programs

**Yoga Classes** 201 Richards St. #15 [www.tessamwright.com/yoga](http://www.tessamwright.com/yoga). Join Tessa with morning yoga for every one! Hatha style style for all levels. Mondays starting 1/09 @10am. Suggested donation - \$10.

## COMEDY

**Littlefield**, 622 Degraw St., [littlefieldnyc.com](http://littlefieldnyc.com). Every Mon 7:30 pm Hot Tub w/Kurt & Kristen \$5-8 Please check website for weekly listings.

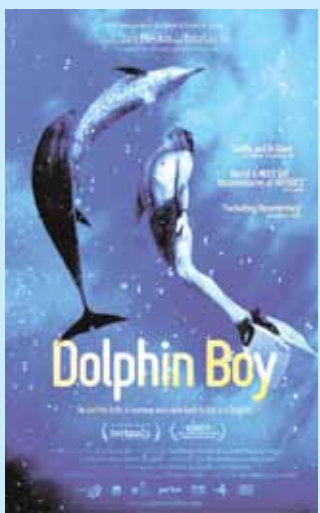
## EXHIBITIONS

**Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition** 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506 [bwac.org](http://bwac.org) Spring of '12 "Wide Open 3" TBA

**Gallery Small New York**, 416 Van Brunt, [smallnewyork.com](http://smallnewyork.com). Will be closed for Jan. and will re-open in Feb. with "Small's: Fine 19th Century European and American Oils and Drawings". Invisible Dog, 51 Bergen Street, [theinvisibledog.org](http://theinvisibledog.org). (347) 560-3641 Gallery hrs Thurs - Sat 1-7 pm Sun 1-5 pm 1/8 The Dumpster Project "A physical Taxonomy of one man's existence 1/13 - 29 Fri. & Sats. 7.30 pm, Sun. 3 pm Tiny Lights: "Worlds are wrought inside the space of mind." FREE suggested Donation \$15. 1/17 7.30 pm Bennington Roadshow: Phillip Lopate and 9 grads of Bennington's MFA Creative Writing Program read their works. 1/21-22 11am-5 pm Brooklyn Inventgenuity ..For kids 7-16 FREE \$5 material fee. Advance registration required. 2/1 7 pm Why I make Live Art. Multimedia artist make prepared statements and manifestoes followed by discussion moderated by Jess Barbagallo.

**Kentler International Drawing Space**, 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, [kentlergallery.org](http://kentlergallery.org). Closed Jan. 2/3 - 3/25: The Influential Female, drawings inspired by Women in History 2/3 6 - 8 pm Opening 2/19 4 pm TIF Curator's Talk

**Look North Inuit Art Gallery**, 275 Conover Street, Suite 4E, (347) 721-



*An Israeli Arab teen is traumatized by a violent attack by his peers. As a last resort before hospitalization in a mental institution, he is taken by his devoted father to be treated with dolphin therapy in Eilat. This documentary about the devastating havoc that human violence can wreak upon the human soul and about the healing powers of nature and of love, was filmed over the course of four years.*

Filmmaker Dani Menkin will appear at a Q & A with the film's producer Judith Manassen-Ramon, the film's co-producer. Dani spoke previously at the Brooklyn Israel Film Festival about his documentary "39 Pounds of Love." Judith has developed a method which uses film as a tool to aid self-expression and problem-solving for adolescents. Winner of Jury Mention Award at the 2011 Jerusalem Film Festival. *Dolphin Boy*, "is part of the Kane Street Synagogue's Israel Film Festival and will air on Sunday, January 29th, 7:00 PM at the Kane Street Synagogue, 236 Kane Street.

3995, [looknorthny.com](http://looknorthny.com). Polar Light: Greenland. The Greenland photography of Rena Bass Forman and the Greenland drawings of Zaria Forman. A climate change awareness exhibition held in conjunction with Al Gore's 'The Climate Project'.

**Gallery Small New York**, 416 Van Brunt, [smallnewyork.com](http://smallnewyork.com). Will be closed for Jan. and will re-open in Feb. with "Small's: Fine 19th Century European and American Oils and Drawings".

## FILM FESTIVAL

**8th Annual Brooklyn Israel Film Fest @ Kane St. Synagogue** 236 Kane St. (Court St./Clinton St.) (718) 875-1550) [kanestreet.org](http://kanestreet.org) 1/26 8 pm "The Debt" Mossad agents hunt for an "infamous Nazi" 1/28 8 pm "Restoration" One man's struggle to save his workshop, his world, and his way of life. 1/29 7 pm "Dolphin Boy" A documentary about the devastation can wreak upon a human soul and the healing powers of nature and love. Tickets \$13 ind. performance, \$32 for series. Cna pre-purchase at website.

## FLEA MARKET

**Park Slope Flea Market**, Between 1st & 2nd street on 7th avenue, Brooklyn. "An urban adventure exploring diverse people's crafts and collectibles, fabrics and fashions, notes and notables, all at bargain prices" Every Saturday and Sunday. All through the winter.

## FOOD/DRINK

**Botta di Vino**, 357 Van Brunt St., (347) 689-3664. Friday night candle light blind tasting. "Discuss what you smell, taste and feel with your own palate. a group

forum for wanna be wine geeks" Admission requires one purchase.

**Botanica**, 220 Conover St (at Coffey St), 347-225-0147. Fine cocktails, specialty liquors & Cacao Prieto Chocolate. Tue: Film screenings, Wed: Board game night, Thu: Poker night, Sat-Sun: Afternoon cocktails.

Dry Dock Wine + Spirits, 424 Van Brunt St., (718) 852-3625, [drydockny.com](http://drydockny.com). compass box whiskey,

**MikNik Lounge** 200 Columbia St. (917) 770-1984 'Rebel! Rebel!' (Gay Night) every First & Third Thurs. 9 pm - 2am Cheap Beer, \$6 well drinks, friendly crowd.

## Libraries

**Carroll Gardens Library** - Carroll Gardens 396 Clinton St. @ Union St. (718) 596-6972 [brooklynpubliclibrary.org/locations/carroll-gardens](http://brooklynpubliclibrary.org/locations/carroll-gardens)Knitting Club (all ages) Every Tues 4 pm mezzanine Memoir Writing (adult) Every Wed. 6 pm Chess Club (all ages) Play and improve your game. Bring your own clock. Every Wed 6:15 pm

## MUSEUMS

**Micro Museum**, 123 Smith Street, [micro-museum.com](http://micro-museum.com). Above and Beyond, a three-year retrospective of the art of William and Kathleen Laziza, every Saturday from 12-7 pm, refreshments from 5-7 pm, \$2 per person. Meet Kathleen and William Laziza on October 29 from 12 - 7 pm. Admission by Donation. See their original interactive, media and visual art works. Say you like "Red-Hook Star Revue" and get a free gift bag.

**The Waterfront Museum** Lehigh Valley Barge No.79, 290 Conover Street. (718) 624-4719 ext. 11 [www.waterfrontmuseum.org](http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org). Free boat tours & open hours all through the year. Thursdays 4 - 8 pm and Saturdays 1 - 5 pm in Red Hook.

## MUSIC

**Bait & Tackle** 320 Van Brunt Street (718) 451-4665 [redhookbaitandtackle.com](http://redhookbaitandtackle.com) 1/22 4 pm Matt Parker & Max Johnson Afternoon Jazz 1/27 9 pm Bliss Blood 1/29 9 pm

**Bargemusic Fulton Ferry Landing**, 2 Old Fulton St., (718) 624-2083, [bargemusic.org](http://bargemusic.org). 1/20 Masterworks Series 1/21 8 pm, 1/22 3 pm Masterworks Series 1/27 8 pm, 1/28 8 pm Masterworks Series 1/29 3 pm Masterworks Series

**The Bell House** 149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, [thebellhouseny.com](http://thebellhouseny.com). The Bell House has a full calendar of music, comedy and film events. Please check website.

**Hope & Anchor** 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276. Karaoke, Thursdays through

Saturdays from 9 pm-1 am

**Issue Project Room @ Old American Can Factory** 232 3rd St 3rd fl. (718) 330-0313 [issueprojectroom.org](http://issueprojectroom.org) 1/20 Jonathan Kane's February Closing & Record Release Party w/Talibam, MV Carbon & Paul Conrad. "Blissed out blues, guitars and drums" Good night of loud music. \$15 \$10 for members

**Jalopy Theatre and School of Music** 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, [jalopy.biz](http://jalopy.biz). Every Wed. 9 pm Roots & Ruckus FREE JTSM has an extensive calendar of live, eclectic roots music. Please go to website or call for more info. Also check CLASSES/WORKSHOP in this calendar.

**Montero's** 73 Atlantic Ave @Hicks St. (347) 534-6399 Montero's Bar@facebook.com Every Fri & Sat 10 pm Karaoke

**Rocky Sullivan's**, 34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Every Mon, Tues, Wed 8 pm Live Irish Music Every Last Wed 8 pm Readings By Authors. Every Thurs. 9 pm Rocky's World Famous Pub Quiz, Every Sat Live Rock 'n Roll

**The Rock Shop**, 249 Fourth Ave. (President St./Carroll St.) (718) 230-5740 [therockshopny.com](http://therockshopny.com) 1/15 7:30 pm Golden Fest Afterparty w/Electric Balkan Garage \$10 1/16 8 pm Liam Finn \$8 1/18 \$10 The Manifestation of Bennchourmy \$10 1/19 7:30 pm Buried Beds, The Building, Those Lavender Whales \$7 1/20 7.30 pm BellsIV, 6 Acre Lake, Klenex Girl Wonder, Argos 1/21 8 pm Jonathon Wilson, Grow Up To Be Cowboys \$15, 10.30 pm Herman Dune, Sean Bones \$12 1/23 8 pm Liam Finn \$8 1/26 8 pm Hot Holy Mess, Sky White Tiger, Railbird \$8 1/27 8 pm Elisa Lovelle, Victor Gurbo, Rebel Stepchild \$8 1/28 8 pm CD Release Party for Wild Deer. w/ Firenza \$10 1/30 8 pm Liam Finn \$8

**The Star Theater Acoustic Jam** 101 Union St. btwn Columbia and Van Brunt (718) 624-5568 Every Monday Night 9 pm. C&W to Jazz (with a healthy dose of Blues in the middle). Refreshments served and Donations Graciously Accepted. Full back line. Bring your Axe!

**The Star Theater Electric Jam** 101 Union St. btwn Columbia & Van Brunt (718) 624-5568 Every Thursday Night 9 pm. Rock, Blues & Jazz Madness. Refreshments served and Donations Graciously Accepted. Full back line. Bring your Axe!.

**Union Hall**, 702 Union Street @5th Ave (718) 638-4400 [unionhallny.com](http://unionhallny.com) Union Hall has music, film, and comedy 7 nights a week. Please check website.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Brooklyn Greenway Initiative** 151 Columbia St. (Kane St./DeGraw St.) (718) 522-0193 [brooklyngreenway.org](http://brooklyngreenway.org) 1/18 6.30-8.30 pm Columbia Waterfront Park Report Back Meeting at the offices of the Red Hook Star-Revue, 101 Union Street

**City of New York Community Board Six** [www.brooklyn6.org](http://www.brooklyn6.org) 1/18 Transportation Committee Meeting "Next Bus Please: Improving the B61 Bus" 6.30 pm Cobble Hill; Community Meeting Room 250 Baltic St. (Court/Clinton Sts.) 1/23 Public Safety/Environmental Protection/Permits/Licenses 6.30 pm 78th Police Precinct 65 6th Ave. (Bergen/Dean Sts.) 1/26 Landmarks/Land Use Committee Meeting, 1/30 Prospect Park Residence (1 Prospect Pk. W.) 6 pm. Economics Waterfront Community Development & Housing Committee Meeting L.I.C.H. 339 Hicks St. Rm. A,

**EPA's Gowanus Canal Group** Natalie Loney, Community Involvement Coordinator (212) 637-3639 [loney.natalie@epa.gov](mailto:loney.natalie@epa.gov) 1/24 7 pm The Carroll School PS 58 330 Smith St. PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND SITE Environmental impact, evaluation, and feasibility of contaminated sediment cleanup. Any questions: Natalie Loney.

**YWCA Brooklyn** 30 3rd Ave (Atlantic Ave/State St.) 1/19 6-8 pm Home Energy Conservation Forum w/Sen V. Montgomery & Assemblywoman Joan Millman "Make your home more efficient and reduce your bills." more info: (718) 643-6140

## READING & LITERARY EVENTS

**The Gowanus Studio Space** 166 7th Street (347) 948-5753 [www.gowanusstudio.org](http://www.gowanusstudio.org)

## SCHOOLS

**PS 15** 71 Sullivan St. (Columbia/Van Brunt Sts.) (718) 330-9280 [schools/nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/15/K0151/20](http://schools/nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/15/K0151/20) (& every Fri.) 11am - noon Toddler Time Programs: 1 hr of playtime & storytelling. Open to everyone. 2/1 Open House 9.30 - 10.30 am

## THEATER

**The Heights Players** 26 Willow Place, [heightsplayers.org](http://heightsplayers.org) (718) 237-2752 1/06 - 1/22 Fri. & Sat. 8 pm Sun. 2 pm Enchanted April by Matthew Barber, directed by Susan Montez.

**The Clockworks Puppet Theater** 196 Columbia St (212) 614-0001 [cosmicbicycle.com](http://cosmicbicycle.com) 1/27-28 9 pm - 10 pm Das WunderKammer Puppet Kabarett 1/28 2 pm & 4 pm KIDz Matinee 1/29 2 pm & 4 pm KIDz Matinee

## Rottentoof Records inaugurates LAST FRIDAYS at Rocky Sullivan's. Appearing January 27th will be Luck and Senses, Slow Rapids and the JR



*Slow Rapids is a Brooklyn based, three part indie/alternative rock band with an experimental edge. Members are: Stefanie Wray (vocals, guitar), Pierre Ratzki (lead guitar), and Jared Klett (drums, vocals). they are one of the bands on ROTTENTOOF SMASH HIT VOL.1 their song "SECRET" is an outstanding track... "One of the best new bands I've heard....commercial in a non-commercial way...if that makes any sense....!" claims PRODUCER TONY KROGER. They will be appearing on Friday, January 27th at Rocky Sullivan's, 34 Van Dyke Street, across from IKEA. Show begins at 9 pm.*