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Winter Concert At Meyer Levin



Photo by Melissa Clark
Story on page 12



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Canarsie Courier

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Happy New Year, Canarsie!

As we step into 2024, we at the Flossy Organization are filled with gratitude for the incredible support we've received. This past year was a monumental one, marked by achievements in community advocacy. From making strides to bring ferry service to Canarsie to bolstering our fight against gun violence, each step we took was empowered by the unwavering support of our partners.

A heartfelt thank you to the *Canarsie Courier*, our esteemed local paper, for their continuous coverage and support. Our progress was further strengthened by the collaboration with elected officials, faith centers, the Canarsie Merchants Association and many others who share our

vision for a stronger, safer and more connected community.

As we reflect on 2023, we're reminded that our successes are not ours alone but a result of the collective effort of a community united in purpose. We look forward to continuing this journey with you all, building pathways to a brighter and more equitable future for every member of our beloved Canarsie.

Here's to a new year filled with hope, collaboration and transformative change!

Jibreel Jalloh created a Canarsie-based advocacy organization that has fought for a range of investments, including ferry service and anti-gun violence programs. Jibreel graduated from Baruch College (CUNY) and is



currently pursuing a master's degree at New York University. He's worked in the office of multiple elected officials including Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. Jibreel is a member of Community Board 18. Learn more at theflossy.org or send him an email at team@theflossy.org.

Local Author Shares Her Family's Most Loved Puerto Rican Recipes

By Angela G. Nannetti

Though she lives in Mill Basin now, Erisbelia Garriga was born and raised in Puerto Rico and comes from a long line of excellent cooks. The treasured and time-honored recipes inspired by her mother, grandmother and aunts have become the basis for her award-winning cookbooks, of which there are four: *Sabrosuras Boricuas*, *De la Tierra con Sabor*, *Homestyle Puerto Rican Cooking* and *Eris' Green Kitchen*, all available on her website, homestylepuertorican-cook.square.site.

For Eris, food has always been a family affair. "On Sundays, my mother would cook only once for the whole day. She cooked three times a day during the week. Sundays were special: she would cook dishes that took time to prepare: *escabeche*, *fricasé*, *pernil* (roast pig), *arroz con pollo* (rice with chicken), *arroz con gandules* (rice with pigeon peas), *arroz con pescado* (rice with

fresh tuna)," she fondly recalled. "For Christmas, we would have traditional dishes such as *pasteles*, *almojábanas* (rice flour fritters), *tembleque*, *mazamorra* (the last two for desserts). Everything was homemade. As family elders have passed away, you see less and less cooking, with the new generation being more into fast food," she said of changing cultural traditions.

Like many great chefs, Eris learned to cook very early on, around age 10. "When my sister and I were preteens, my mother would have us help her to make *sofrito*, the basic ingredient in any Puerto Rican kitchen," she said, "by grinding garlic with oregano and *adobo* in the *pilon*." She had wanted to write her family recipes for years. "I wrote the cookbooks with the aim to help preserve our traditional recipes," Eris explained, and indeed, all of the recipes in her

cookbooks are broken down step-by-step, making it easy for beginners and seasoned cooks alike, to prepare her dishes with great success.

"Anybody can learn to cook our dishes. My brother Julio, who helped me with writing the recipes on the computer, learned how to cook. Now he gives me suggestions on how to improve a dish based on his versions of some recipes," she assured. "One very easy dish to prepare is *guineos verdes en escabeche* (pickled green bananas). A lot of people think that you can't eat bananas unless they are ripe," she explained, giving her readers a good place to start. "The ingredients are easy to find, especially if you visit La Marqueta on Moore Street in Brooklyn or on Essex Street in Manhattan. You may also find them in some of the neighborhood bodegas," Eris suggested.

Since publishing her family recipes, Eris has received many accolades and awards, and has been invited to give various demonstrations on making *sofrito*, *bacalaítos* (codfish fritters) and other dishes. She enjoys attending cultural festivals, book-fairs, artisan expos and marketplaces to promote her cookbooks. "There are always people who talk about their family's cooking. They tell stories about how their family prepares this or that dish, a wonderful learning for me," she says of the rich cultural exchange she finds in such places. If you are looking to try something new in the kitchen, you will find lots of food for thought among the hundreds of recipes Eris has shared in her cookbooks.

Photos courtesy of Erisbelia Garriga



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East New York**Firefighters Battle Major Four Alarm Fire Displacing 85 Residents on New Year's Eve**

By Lloyd Mitchell

Illegal fireworks could be the cause of a massive fire that erupted at the Boulevard Houses on Schenck Avenue, near Wortman Avenue, on New Year's Eve. Rather than ringing in the New Year, frightened residents ran out of the burning buildings to save their lives.

Firefighters responded to the location around 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 31st, and found heavy fire originating at a construction site near two apartment buildings (891 and 893 Schenck Avenue). The blaze rapidly extended to building scaffolding, also torching a tree in the chaos, and spread to numerous apartments on the upper floors of the high-rise buildings.

Boulevard resident Larry Rogers told the *Canarsie Courier*, "I was walking to the store when I saw a bunch of youths playing with fireworks." He went on to say that

renovations were scheduled to begin in February.

Fire Department personnel encountered fire in as many as 16 apartments. A second and third alarm was ordered by the 39th Battalion as fire was venting through apartment windows.

Over 130 firefighters operated eight hose lines to knock down the intense fire on floors one through six of the buildings.

The blaze left two firefighters and five residents with minor injuries. Paramedics transported them to local hospitals with smoke inhalation.

Units finally brought the fire under control at 9:45 p.m.

Fire marshals found a box of fireworks at the site. An investigation is underway to determine the exact origin and cause of the massive blaze that displaced 85 residents.

**School Burglarized in Canarsie**

By Linda Steinmuller

The NYPD is looking for two men who broke into a Canarsie school last month and stole some cash.

Police said the burglary occurred shortly after midnight on Monday, December 18th. The thieves entered the school at 8101 Avenue K through a window, removed \$250 from the location and then fled in an unknown direction.

Both suspects are described as having medium complexions, according to police. One of the crooks was last seen wearing a light-colored jacket, dark-colored pants and a light-

colored hat. The other male was last seen wearing a dark-colored jacket, dark-colored pants and a dark-colored mask.

The NYPD is asking the public's assistance identifying the whereabouts of both individuals.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

**East Flatbush****Firefighters Battle House Fire on East 92nd Street**

By Lloyd Mitchell

Firefighters quickly snuffed out a house fire on the second floor of 292 East 92nd Street on Friday, December 22nd.

Units arrived at the home, located between Lenox Road and Clarkson Avenue, around 8:25 a.m. where they discovered fire and smoke showing from the second floor of the two-story, brick private dwelling. Firefighters used two hose lines to knock down the main body of fire. After searching the location, there were no trapped residents.

Units stayed on scene to perform extensive overhaul where they pulled down the ceilings and opened up the walls on the second floor.

The fire was placed under control at 9:05 a.m. The cause of the blaze will be determined by the FDNY Fire Marshal's Office.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS go out to Christina Macdonald and Colin Macdonald on the birth of their daughter EVELYN MARIE. The 8 pounds of pure joy arrived just in time to ring in the New Year. She has already filled our hearts with immeasurable love and hope for the future.

EVELYN MARIE MACDONALD, may your life be filled with love, laughter and only the very best that life has to offer.

The Marra and Macdonald families

Praise and Worship at Christmas Eve Concert

By Baqir Ahmad

Love Fellowship NY Church held their annual Christmas Eve concert on Sunday, December 24th.

"To show love to God and love others, and this is what we do every year for God. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," Pastor Hillary told the *Canarsie Courier*.

The concert was free and open to the public, but most people who attended were from the immediate neighborhood, church family or heard about the event by word of mouth.

Love Fellowship NY Church meets inside the P.S. 66 Auditorium, at 845 East 96th Street. For those who want to grow closer to the Lord, you are welcome to visit their church for Sunday services each week at 11 a.m.



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Canarsie Residents Call for an End to Gun Violence and No Budget Cuts

By Baqir Ahmad

Christmas will never be the same for some Canarsie families who have lost their loved ones to senseless gun violence.

Residents, families of gun violence victims, community leaders, elected officials and Cure Violence groups like Man Up! Inc. gathered on December 23rd, a cold and windy Saturday, at Rockaway Parkway and Glenwood Road, near the "L" train station, for a rally to denounce gun violence and recent budget cuts.

Standing in solidarity, protestors demanded that the city provide more funding for social programs in the neighborhood, which give young people something to do and keeps them out of trouble. They oppose the Adams administration's recent cuts to the city budget, including the closure of public libraries on Sundays.

Gun violence impacts lives and tears apart families like Ruth Hippolyte's, sister of Billy Jean Hippolyte who was shot and killed on East 83rd Street and Flatlands Avenue last January. The 40-year-old father of three children was gunned down in broad daylight. Ruth says that the gunman that took her brother's life took a piece of hers too and that Christmas will never be the same for her and her family. "It is a nightmare. I just wish it would not be; I miss my brother."

Jibreel Jalloh, founder of The Flossy Organization, advocated for a fully-funded Cure Violence organization in the district. "Canarsie's safety is non-negotiable. Budget cuts that threaten public safety are unacceptable; our community deserves a robust public safety network including a fully-funded Cure Violence site," he said.

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse was in attendance and called for more initiatives and funding for programs that help fight poverty, deter crime and provide activities for the youth. "To give young people places to go, where they can use their time productively, where they can learn skills to use productively out in the world...it should not be one-size-fits-all; we are supposed to be preparing for the holiday, but how can we celebrate knowing we are living in a place where children can kill each other," she said.



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Flatlands

Lots of Christmas Cheer at Councilwoman's Toy Giveaway

By Baqir Ahmad

Christmas wouldn't be complete without Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse's annual Toy Giveaway! On Friday, December 22nd, hundreds of toys were given out to smiling kids at her district office located at 5827 Flatlands Avenue.

"There is no better time to be charitable and spread cheer than now, during this season of giving, and perhaps no greater feeling than seeing a child's face light up when given a brand new toy. No kid should be without a present for the holidays," Narcisse said.

Families and children were grateful for the toys, and everyone enjoyed a joyous time in celebration of the holiday season.



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P.S. 276 Lifts Spirits With Spectacular Holiday Show

By Brenda Cox

On Tuesday, December 19th, the staff and students of P.S. 276 Louis Marshall School, 1070 East 83rd Street, presented a Holiday Show that, as usual, did not disappoint their audience. The event, a three-in-one presentation – Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting, Award Ceremony and Holiday Showcase – was nothing short of spectacular.

First, the PTA conducted a brief meeting for the benefit of the parents who had packed the school's auditorium. That was followed by a short Award Ceremony. Twenty-five students, one from each class, 3K through grade 5, were named "Student of the Month" and awarded certificates which they proudly showed off with their beaming Principal Jennifer Troman, standing amid them.

What followed seemed to put every-

one in the holiday spirit, judging from the ear-piercing cheers and thunderous applause. The show, titled "Citizens of the World," included skits and dance performances that paid homage to the diverse cultures represented at the school. The Vocal Club sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (The Black National Anthem), "Joy to the World" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," to name a few. And then, the Queen Bee Steppers did their thing! Their dances portrayed Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Arabic traditions.

Troman told the *Canarsie Courier*, "The holiday show 'Citizens of the World' exceeded my expectations. It was the perfect representation of the diverse cultures of our school. I am proud to be the principal of a community that embodies the spirit of acceptance, unity and love."



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East Flatbush

Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts Holds 2nd Annual Winter Concert

By Melissa Clark

Their hard work has paid off, and talented students showcased their dedication to the sound of music and performance in their newly renovated theater on Wednesday, December 20th, when I.S. 285 Meyer Levin School for the Performing Arts, located at 5909 Beverly Road, held their second annual Winter Concert.

Principal Jamie Hendrickson welcomed family members, faculty and community members to celebrate the holiday season with a concert that was filled with productions such as drama scenes, visual art, chorus, dance, steel pan and instrumental band. Grades 6-8 started preparing in September and looked forward to learning new instruments, dance routines and singing techniques.

A 22-year veteran teacher, Edwin Brathwaite, started his career at Meyer Levin as an educator in Science, then inherited and added the role as a dance teacher a year later. The most fundamental aspect of dance through a teacher's eyes and what helps a student grow is learning combinations of dance moves and executing the reproduction of those moves in performance. Brathwaite said, "I also enjoy human input where the students get an opportunity to work in groups or inde-

pendently where they will create movement ideas, and they will share with the classroom."

What makes this school so special is the influence of Principal Hendrickson, who leads by example and promotes giving back to the community. The school has a food pantry and encourages students to deliver food and clothing to surrounding shelters. Incorporating the food/toy drive with the winter concert was important. Hendrickson told the *Canarsie Courier*, "Our school takes up too much space not to be connected to the community. It's so important that we give back because if we don't help others, we will never empty ourselves to fill up more."

This is Hendrickson's fourth year as principal, and she plans on making each year bigger and better. She concluded, "When you know more, you do more."

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Bringing Joy to Canarsie: A Toy Giveaway at Universal Love, Peace and Joy Church

It's the season of giving, and the Universal Love, Peace and Joy Church of God in Canarsie is spreading the holiday cheer in the most heartwarming way possible: by hosting a toy giveaway for families in need.

On Saturday, December 23rd, the church, under the leadership of the inspiring Bishop Dr. Dwayne Castro, opened its doors at 1966 Rockaway Parkway to bring a little extra joy to children while easing the strain of the holiday season for their parents and guardians.

This isn't just about unwrapping gifts; it's about recognizing the true meaning of Christmas. As Bishop Castro reminds us, "Jesus is the reason for the season," and through this generous act, the church aims to live out that message by sharing love and compassion with those around them.

Special thanks go to Councilwoman Mercedes Nar-cisse, whose support has been instrumental in making this event a reality. It exemplifies the positive impact when community leaders and faith organizations come together to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

The toy giveaway provided smiles, laughter and a much-needed dose of holiday magic for families facing challenges. It's a reminder that even in difficult times, the spirit of community and the gift of giving can bring light and hope.

Together, let's make this holiday season one to remember – filled with the warmth of generosity, the sparkle of childhood wonder and the unwavering spirit of love and community.

Courtesy of Charles Fiumano



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The 41st A.D. "Lew Fidler" Democrats Club Brings Joy to Children in Need During the Holiday Season

The 41st Assembly District "Lew Fidler" Democrats Club, under the leadership of District Leaders Jennifer Faucher and Councilman Kalman Yeger, held its 22nd Annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive Finale on Thursday, December 14th, at the club's headquarters, located at 2952 Avenue R.

Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein has supported this charitable event since its start by Lew Fidler, the late City Councilman, State Committeeman and District Leader. The toy drive is a non-partisan, charitable event that is held in partnership with the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program and is known, trusted and embraced throughout our southern Brooklyn community. The goal of the organizers is to put a smile on the face of thousands of children in need each holiday season.

Special guests at the Finale event included Captain Joseph Antonio, Commanding Officer of the 61st Precinct since July 2023, joined by Detective Lauren Au and Police Officer Christopher Alvarado, of the Community Affairs Bureau. With a strong spirit of love for our country, District Leader of the 55th A.D. Anthony Jones opened the event by singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." District Leaders from across Brooklyn attended. Frank Seddio, a former Judge, former Assemblyman and former Kings County Democratic Party Chair, and current District Leader of the 59th A.D., went down memory lane in his remarks, touching on his relationship with Lew Fidler, saying Lew was "probably the smartest man I've ever known in politics."

Assemblywoman and current Kings County Democratic Party Chair Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn and Councilwoman Farah Louis also attended in support of the event. Kings County Civil Court Judges and new Supreme Court Justices, as well as many community organizations, joined in the festivities. The Brooklyn Cyclones' Sandy the Seagull not only entertained the

crowd, but even helped in the counting of toys.

This year, the United States Marine Corps Reserve presented the Commander's Award for outstanding support of the 2023 Marines Toy for Tots Program to Be Proud Inc., the primary partner and supporter of the event; Millennium Development; 41st A.D. "Lew Fidler" Democrats Club; and Jennifer Faucher, District Leader and State Committee Member of the 41st A.D. District.

Club members and supporters continuously brought toys throughout the evening. At the end, nearly 3,000 toys were collected for children in need during this holiday season. "It takes a village!"

Courtesy of Jennifer Faucher



Sandy the Seagull arrived to help count toys delivered by Millennium Development.



Toys for Tots Toy Drive Finale held on December 14th. Back Row: Sgt. Hernandez, Councilman Kalman Yeger, District Leader Jennifer Faucher, Detective Lauren Au, Sgt. Romero, Ariana, Club Member Stuart Teicher, Captain Joseph Antonio and P.O. Christopher Alvarado. Front Row: Rebecca Markh, Kings County Democratic Party County Committee Vice Chair Brad Reid and Brooklyn Cyclones' Sandy the Seagull.



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County, at 2 Johnson Street,
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at 9:30 o'clock in the
forenoon of that day, why a
decree should not be made in
the estate of BEVERLY E.
MARTIN lately domiciled at
30 Lamont Court, Brooklyn,
NY 11225 admitting to
probate a Will dated April
20, 2006 a copy of which is
attached as the will of
BEVERLY E. MARTIN
deceased, relating to real and
personal property, and
directing that Letters
Testamentary issue to
SUZANNE GARCIA and
TOBIE SPERRY. Dated,
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Lisa Mathis Chief Clerk.
Shoshana Brenenson, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner 865
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copy of process to: The LLC,
729A 51st St, Brooklyn, NY
11220. Purpose: any lawful
activity.

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CHINO PRODUCE LLC.
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agent of Limited Liability
Company (LLC) upon whom
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process to CHINO
PRODUCE LLC: 273 EAST
2ND STREET 2FL
BROOKLYN NY 11218.
Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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of Org. filed Secy. of State of
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County. SSNY Designated as
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FURNISHED APT

Avenue I/E39: X- LARGE FULLY FURNISHED basement studio, WIFI included, lots of closets, near B41, B6, B103 buses, #2 & #5 trains, \$1,450, gas & electric included. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

UNFURNISHED APT

Canarsie: Studio, all utilities included, excellent condition, near transportation, \$1,500. LIC RE BROKER (917) 371-7384

E 54/Ave T & U: X-large Studio, mint condition, utilities included, \$1,500. LIC RE BROKER (646) 515-4794

Ocean Hill: New Studio, close to BDWY Junction, train stop and B 12 bus. Twenty minutes to Manhattan. All utilities included only \$1,650 monthly. Please call and ask for Mr. George. (718) 360-6110

Long Island/West Babylon: Luxurious X-large 1 BR, all utilities included, \$2,100. Broker (347) 393-9403

Flatbush/E26: Renovated 1 BR, new appliances, close to transportation, near B41, B8 buses, near #2, #5, Q, B trains, \$1,750. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Canarsie: 2 BRs, very good condition, HWFS, throughout, nice kitchen/bath, \$2,400. LIC RE BROKER (917) 371-7384

Canarsie: Newly renovated 2 BR, near transportation/shopping. Broker (917) 690-0541

OMB/E55/Ave K: 2 BRs, newly renovated, finished basement, separate entrance, \$1,950 all utilities included. Broker (212) 851-6634

E Flatbush: 2 BRs, \$2,400. Yves- Exit All Seasons RE (646) 286-7580

Church Ave: Nice Quiet 2 BRs, near transportation/shopping, \$2,000. Broker (347) 488-9691

Canarsie: Newly renovated 2 BRs, gas & electric included, \$2,500, near transportation. Broker (347) 234-1687

Church Ave/E35: Completely renovated 2 BRs, large living room, new kitchen, hardwood floors, large closets, close to transportation/shopping, near B35, B44, B46 buses, few short blocks from #2 & #5 trains, \$2,200. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Canarsie/Ave A/E95: Large 2 bedroom on the 3rd floor. Huge bedrooms, formal living room, hardwood floors throughout. Close to schools, parks and shopping. (347) 450-8605

Canarsie: 3 BRs, excellent condition, SS Appliances, HWFS throughout, plenty of closets, \$2,800. LIC RE Broker (917) 371-7384

Ave K/ E52: Completely renovated 3 BRs, 2 baths, mint condition, large living room, dining room with chandelier, recessed ceiling lights, central AC, hardwood floors, lots of closets, use of backyard, \$2,700, near buses, B46, B82, B6. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

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UNFURNISHED APT

Coney Island/Surf Ave: Renovated 3 BRs duplex, elevated building, new kitchen, new appliances, 24 hour security, laundry & parking on premises, \$2,300, Programs Accepted. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Marine Park: 3 BRS, living room, dining room, \$2,800. Exit All Seasons RE (646) 286-7580

Canarsie/E95/M: Completely renovated 3 BRs, hardwood floors, 2 baths, new appliances, new kitchen, lots of closets, mint condition, near transportation, \$2,900, FHEPS & SECTION 8 ACCEPTED. CurtisChance Realty (718) 859-7300; (917) 679-3017

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