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District 18 Science Fair Winners!



Photo courtesy of District 18

Story on page 10



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1142 East 92nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236
Tel: 1-718-257-0600 • Fax: 1-718-272-0870
e-mail: canarsiec@aol.com
www.canarsiecourier.com

Donna Marra
Publisher

Alessandro Marra Jr.
Business Manager

Linda Steinmuller
Editor In Chief

Shawn Thomas Dunleavy
Production Department

Lynn Gerbino and Eileen Melecio
Classifieds

Loretta Chin, Melissa Clark, Brenda Cox, Bristol Hendrix, Vincent Marra, Brian Moreno, Dara Mormile, Angela Nannetti and Robert Pearl
Writers

Arthur De Gaeta, Darryl C. Madison, Lloyd Mitchell, Ellis Washington and Michael Wright
Photographers

Ramadan Mubarak, Canarsie!

By Jibreel Jalloh

As the crescent moon graces the night sky, Muslims around the world, including many right here in Canarsie, usher in the holy month of Ramadan. You might hear them greet each other with "Ramadan Mubarak!" This warm expression translates to "Blessed Ramadan," conveying well wishes for a spiritually enriching month.

Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar, is a time of deep reflection, prayer and fasting. From dawn to dusk, observant Muslims abstain from food and drink, focusing on their connection with God and strengthening their self-discipline. It's a challenging yet rewarding experience, fostering empathy for the less fortunate and reminding us of the blessings we often take for granted.

Evenings during Ramadan come alive with vibrant energy. As the sun sets, families and friends gather for Iftar, the meal that breaks the fast. It's a joyous occasion filled with delicious food, shared stories and a renewed sense of community. Mosques hold special night prayers called Taraweeh, offering a chance for extended worship and spiritual contemplation.

But Ramadan is more than just

abstaining from food. It's a call to generosity and compassion. Muslims are encouraged to increase charitable giving (Zakat) to help those in need. Acts of kindness and forgiveness are emphasized, fostering a stronger sense of social responsibility. This focus on charity reflects the Islamic belief in helping those less fortunate and building a more just society.

For our Canarsie neighbors who may not be familiar with Ramadan, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and connect. If you see a Muslim colleague or friend fasting, a simple "Ramadan Mubarak" can brighten their day. Ramadan is a great opportunity to learn about Islamic traditions and share in the spirit of community.

Let's also remember that Ramadan is a time of personal growth. Muslims strive to become better versions of themselves by overcoming negative habits and cultivating positive ones. This focus on self-improvement resonates with many cultures and faiths, offering valuable lessons for everyone.

As we witness our Muslim neighbors observe this holy month, let's embrace the spirit of Ramadan. In a world that's too often divided, let's use this opportunity to combat hate and build bridges



of understanding. By learning about its traditions and values, we can strengthen the bonds of our community and celebrate the rich tapestry that makes Canarsie such a vibrant place.

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.

"How it Started, Versus How it's Going" – U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries Reflects on Dem Wins

By Dara Mormile

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08) delivered his 11th Annual State of the District Address virtually on Thursday, February 29th, citing a broad range of long-term accomplishments achieved both in Washington and New York.

The House Minority Leader diligently reflected on how far the economy has recovered since the once-in-a-century pandemic in 2020, noting the American Rescue Plan successfully distributed much-needed vaccines and the current gravitation to a country where masks are no longer needed and people do not have to shelter in place.

The leader touted President Joe Biden and House Democrats for saving New York's subway and bus system, saying, "We are finally fixing our crumbling bridges, roads, tunnels, airports and sewers."

However, Jeffries did not provide specific quality of life infrastructure updates on communities he serves – including the progress of rebuilding the shoreline along Fresh Creek in Canarsie and Jamaica Bay to prevent disasters like Superstorm Sandy from ravaging waterfront neighborhoods in the future.

While bringing a ferry to operate out of Canarsie Pier on federal land

has been quite a buzz over the past few years, there was no feedback during the pre-recorded session – which streamed on Facebook and YouTube – on bringing this service to thousands of Jeffries' constituents.

Also notably missing was any communication on the controversial migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field, which is on federal land and part of his District.

Instead, Jeffries cited general funding accomplishments, saying, "During my first 10 years in the Congress, we were not allowed to individually advocate for community project funding. But recently, House Democrats brought community project funding back to life, and I've worked hard to secure almost \$40 million over the last two years for our community to help local organizations provide food for the hungry, assist veterans, fund overdue improvements to medical centers, expand labs in schools, beautify our neighborhoods, deepen cultural understanding and build affordable housing. I will continue to work hard to bring resources back home to our community."

One of the goals he proudly accomplished on a local level was addressing gun violence.

"For far too long, the American



people have been frustrated by the inability of Congress to do something about the gun violence epidemic that we have felt right here in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, East New York, Canarsie, the west end of Coney Island and other parts of central Brooklyn," he noted. "Because of the leadership of President Biden and House Democrats, we passed gun safety legislation for the first time in 30 years that will save lives."

He added, "We've also made gun trafficking a federal crime for the first time in American history."

The District address, produced in partnership with BRIC Arts Media, also showcased the unique talent of local artists and performers, including Cantor Zachary Konigsberg of Temple Sholom in Mill Basin and Imam Shariful Islam of the Islamic Center of Brighton Beach. Reverend Sharon Codner-Walker of Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church also delivered messages of prayer.



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Community Engagement at Build the Block Meetings Make Neighborhoods Safer and Stronger

By Robert Pearl

The 63rd Precinct held its quarterly Build the Block meeting for Sector A on Thursday, February 29th, at Flatbush Park Jewish Center, 6363 Avenue U. These gatherings connect residents with their local Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs), fostering open dialogue about public safety concerns and offering a platform to pose questions directly to the police officers.

Crime prevention and tips took center stage during the meeting, with NCOs David Belkin and Paul Alba emphasizing the need for community collaboration. Quality of life issues, including an upcoming car tow operation and handling complaints through 911 or direct contact with officers, were discussed comprehensively. Residents were urged to reach out to either officer for ongoing non-emergency issues.

Concerns about an elderly lady feeling threatened underscored the call for increased police presence. Instances of begging migrants bothering residents around key locations like Key Food Plaza on Avenue U and Kings Plaza were addressed, prompting attention to this common complaint.

Specific issues along Flatbush Avenue to Bergen Avenue were highlighted, emphasizing the prohibition of unregistered motorized scooters on public streets. Abandoned cars,

noise disturbances and porch pirates targeting packages were flagged as significant concerns, with a commitment to address noise complaints within one hour.

Communication channels were established for specific complaints, including issues related to the Floyd Bennett Field (FBF) shelter and migrant concerns. The meeting shed light on the role of various police units, including the Counterterrorism Bureau and Transit Bureau.

The importance of truthful 911 calls was stressed, discouraging exaggerations to ensure accurate and efficient response times. Security vulnerabilities, such as the sophisticated crime method of hijacking the RF (radio frequency) signal of your car fob to open up and steal your car, were discussed, along with preventative measures like securing valuables in cars. To prevent car theft, the officers suggested residents order key fob bags to prevent its signal from being used to take your vehicle.

The presence of NCOs Belkin and Alba at the meeting reinforced the NYPD's commitment to community engagement. Notably, young men from the NYPD Explorer Program actively participated, showcasing their commitment to public service by selling baked goods to raise funds for the program – its mission is to develop social and leadership skills, building character in youth and fostering



Officers David Belkin and Paul Alba

an appreciation for, and commitment to, the value of public service.

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In closing, Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow spoke about funding initiatives for legalizing dollar vans and managing grants, highlighting the collaborative efforts between elected officials and the state.

Residents are encouraged to actively participate in making their neighborhoods safer by attending Build the Block meetings. To find your Build the Block meeting, visit: nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/find-your-meeting.page

Clergy Council Gathers Near “L” Train to Pray for Canarsie

By Linda Steinmuller

The 69th Precinct Clergy Council held their first Prayer Vigil of 2024 at the corner of Rockaway Parkway and Glenwood Road, near the “L” train station on Monday, March 4th, where prayers for peace and safety were offered for the Canarsie community. Members of the clergy and NYPD, including auxiliary officers, and community leaders were in attendance.

The 69th Precinct Clergy Council acts as a liaison between clergy, cops and the community. Led by Council President Rev. Cecil Moonsam, the Council is made up of a number of churches that partner with members of the 69th Precinct. Monthly prayer vigils are typically held at busy intersections, where crime is prevalent.

Rev. Moonsam said that God is able to heal, and there is always hope even when you think things are hopeless. “Even if it seems like you are at the end of your rope, God is able to take you through...just pray, God listens.”

Chaplain Faith Williams prayed for our elected officials, citing I Timothy 2:1 – that “intersessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings and all that are in authority.”

Before the next prayer for the unity of Canarsie, Dr. Gale Forde quoted Ephesians 4:3 – “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Bishop Cheryl Barker prayed for unity, “declaring and decreeing that we are a community of peace.”

She said that each of us needs to take an integral part of ensuring that the Canarsie community remains a peaceful and safe community.

Dr. Forde expressed that she is grateful for every officer in the 69th Precinct, referring to them as peacemakers and quoting the Word of the Lord in Matthew 5:59 – “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.”

Rev. Gesner Sagesse prayed for our officers before Dr. Forde called up Sister Lesley Samuel-Young to pray for our Nation. “We know our Nation is blessed. The Bible says blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord,” Forde declared. Samuel-Young prayed, “God, America needs you tonight.”

Jennifer Viechweg-Horsford, constituent liaison for State Senator Roxanne Persaud, gave an update on behalf on the senator. She told residents they could drop off their old TVs at an e-waste event on Friday,

March 15th, from 4 to 5 p.m., at the District Office located at 1222 East 96th Street. To help with constituents that work during the week but still need their issues resolved, their offices are open on select Saturdays, and the next date is March 16th. Last, don't forget Senator Persaud's famous Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd in Canarsie Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community Affairs Officer Samuel Maria thanked Rev. Moonsam and the Clergy Council for their support and prayers for the officers and the community, and Officer Riche said they are always recruiting new members for the auxiliary unit.

Antony Austin (Shammah), a youth leader and rapper, reminded the young people that Jesus loves them and died on the cross for them. “God is just a prayer away.” He then sang an uplifting song, called “Comin' Back.”



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East Flatbush

P.S./I.S. 109 Spectacular Black History Fashion Show

By Brenda Cox

It was an evening of pure fun at the Black History Month celebration hosted by the staff and students of P.S. /I.S. 109, located at 1001 East 45th Street. The fashion show, held on Friday, March 1st, was nothing short of spectacular, highlighting astonishing accomplishments and major contributions of black people throughout the ages.

The show opened with the majestic entrance of Ms. Wright, a teacher at the school, who portrayed Queen Charlotte, England's first black queen. She was dressed in a resplendent gown, handmade by PTA President Leslie-Ann Angus-Torres. Queen Charlotte was married to King George and was most admired for her elaborate gowns.



Other models replicated the styles of black fashion designers such as April Walker of "Walker Wear" and Anne Lowe, the first African American to be labeled a "fashion designer." Lowe is best known for designing Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy's wedding dress when she married John F. Kennedy. All the finery, including Queen Charlotte's gown, was fashioned from recycled materials including potato chip bags – and even old newspapers – and was designed by the school's Hands-on Workshop (H.O.W.) troupe.

There was a lot of dancing by the Step Team and groups of students from other grades. Some highlights included Kuku, a traditional African dance which they performed to the pulsating beat of Djembe drums.

The show also focused on other black notables like Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) a black journalist and activist who used her skills to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights activist; Harriet Tubman, abolitionist; Nina Simone, singer, songwriter, composer and civil rights activist; Shirley Chisholm, first black woman elected to the United States Congress; and Spike Lee, local filmmaker. Rapper "Swooptick" had the kids "going" on stage, with his moves and song, "Keep Going."

Guest speaker NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams told the students, "Black history started long before black folks came to this country. They had a great history in Africa as well, that I hope you learn about." Williams spoke about the lasting impact of slavery and explained that people like him were working to reverse it. He told the students that slavery did not exist only in the South but also in the North and the Caribbean and that slaves were once traded on Wall Street. The public advocate stated, "A couple years ago, we [his office] put a marker on Wall Street because, sadly, the Wall Street area was the first place of an open-air slave market. The first commodity that was sold on Wall Street was human beings."

Williams, also a local activist, had the children chant, "Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud!"

"Don't be afraid to say it," he told them. "Sometimes, just saying your life matters is a threat to a system."

Williams presented Angus-Torres with a citation in recognition of her commitment and dedication to serving the diverse communities of the City of New York on the occasion of the H.O.W. Experience Black History Fashion Show.



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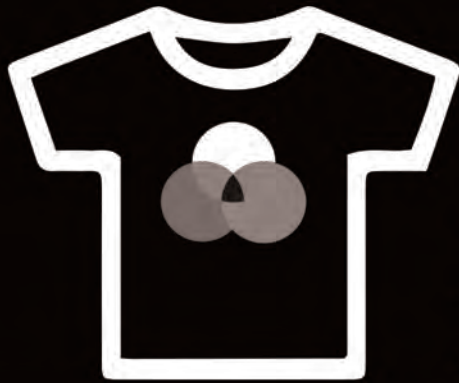
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B K P R I N T L A B . C O M

Battling the “City of Yes” – Flatlands Civic Hashes out Hot Topic

By Dara Mormile

In the midst of protests, petitions and a resounding “NO” to bringing the “City of Yes” to Southeast Brooklyn, local civic leaders and residents continue boasting protection of their community – and they won’t back down without a fight!

Flatlands Civic Club, Inc. (FCC) President Joan Gilbert hosted a meaty Zoom meeting on Monday, February 26th, to share advocacy updates and delve further into the upzoning plan that would allow a seven story, mixed-use building with 174 units to be constructed on the vacant lot at 5602 Flatlands Avenue.

Community leaders and politicians not only want to preserve one- and two-family homes, which is vital to maintaining the neighborhood’s character and infrastructure, but they also want to keep generation-

al wealth alive for longtime homeowners.

“We’ve met with other organizations recently – including members of Mill Island and Mill Basin civics – and we all have common goals to stop this overdevelopment in its tracks,” said Gilbert, who reiterated that 38 members of Community Board 18 unanimously voted against the economic opportunity portion of the project.

In a mid-February press release, Assemblywoman Jaime Williams stated that her office collected over 1,000 signatures against the “poorly conceived proposal.” However, residents are still weary that “City of Yes” initiatives and overdevelopment will proceed without consideration of its long-term impacts.

“This isn’t going to benefit anyone,” said Marine Park Community Association President Robert Maz-zuchin, who addressed the 20-plus attendees. “Hor-

rendous traffic already exists in this area – and where are residents going to park? We’ve seen some of the plans, and there’s no parking provisions.”

Gilbert agreed and recalled a few accidents where-in vehicles crashed into and destroyed corner properties on Flatlands Avenue near the proposed building site. Gilbert also sought to debunk the myth that the development is a “done deal.”

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse’s representative Saye Joseph joined the call to quell similar fears that this project will ultimately get the green light.

“The good thing is that this is not an As-of-Right development,” Joseph said, explaining that As-of-Right properties can be built without bringing plans to community boards/residents and are typically within zoning regulations. “These developers looking at the 5602 Flatlands site have to apply to upzone that land space through a ULURP application process, which can take at least one year. It has to go through land use committees, and land use agreements have to be reviewed.”

According to Joseph, residents questioned how the history of conglomerates like NYCHA (Glenwood Houses) simply went up in the small growing community decades ago without challenging how it would alter the neighborhood’s character.

“There were no community boards over 70 years ago when Glenwood Houses was built – and they were constructed for veterans at the time when no approval process was in effect,” Gilbert interjected.

Despite the fact that New York State has an abundance of housing needs to meet, the “City of Yes for Economic Opportunity” as well as the “Affordable Housing” proposals would increase development, targeting low-density neighborhoods to free up more real estate, deregulate the land use process and allow high-density residential and commercial development everywhere (see “‘City of Yes’ Will be the ‘Death of the City,’” *Canarsie Courier*, December 14, 2023).

Gilbert said the next FCC meeting is scheduled to take place remotely on Thursday, March 28th. Reach out to her at flatlandscivic@gmail.com for Zoom details.

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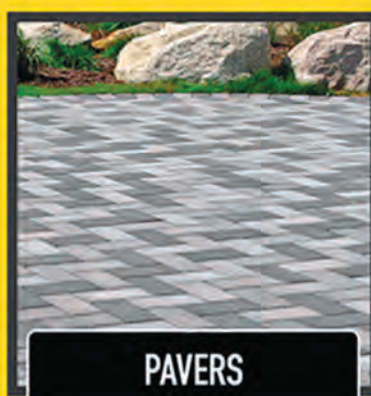
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Crime Prevention and Disaster Preparedness Lessons at Sector C Meeting

By Brenda Cox

The first Build the Block meeting for Sector C this year was held on Thursday, February 29th, at Church at the Rock, 1288 East 92nd Street. Chaplain Faith Williams opened the meeting with a prayer for the safety of NYPD officers -- especially the 69th Precinct and everyone present.

Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) Gunvinder Singh and Carlos Delgado were joined by Crime Prevention Officer Peter Yuen in conducting the meeting.

Officer Singh updated everyone on crime statistics for Sector C, which runs from Paerdegat Avenue North to East 94th Street, and from Glenwood Road to Avenue L. According to his report, the sector was doing quite well overall. He said, year to date, there had been one shooting at a deli

on Flatlands Avenue and East 82nd Street which, thankfully, was not fatal. Grand theft auto continues to be a major problem. Singh urged everyone to ensure their vehicles, especially Kias or Hyundais, 2012-2022 turn-key models, are always secured. He strongly suggested using tracking devices to be able to locate vehicles in the event they are stolen.

Officer Yuen reiterated the need to exercise due diligence when responding to unsolicited calls from unknown individuals. He said scammers continue to "up their game" and warned everyone to be cautious about responding to calls requesting money for any reason. "Don't rush," he advised. "Make a phone call and verify that your loved one has actually been arrested before sending money for his/her release."

The Crime Prevention Officer also offered tips on how to stay safe while riding the bus or train

late at night. "Remember, safety comes first. Stay in groups to minimize the chances of anything bad happening to you." Yuen also shared that between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., if requested, bus drivers are permitted to drop passengers off at a location other than a bus stop, along the route, if they deem it to be safe. He also suggested riding in train cars with the motorman or conductor, even if riding in another car might be more convenient when you reach your stop.

Yuen also suggested moving wallets from back pockets to the front or even taking similar items out of your handbag and securing them elsewhere. He advised being discreet with jewelry. "Turn rings around so the stone doesn't show." He also recommended teaching young children how to dial 911 and that everyone should make it a practice of notating the address where they are located, so that information could be relayed in case of an emergency.

Elba Melendez, Borough Coordinator at CERT, gave a rundown on how to prepare for an emergency. Some tips provided were to pack "go bags" for each member of the family. Include copies of important documents, names of medications, water and snacks. She also suggested packing crayons which could be lit in case there are no candles. For more information, visit NYC.gov/cert.



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New Comfort Station in Canarsie Park Should Open by Summer

By Linda Steinmuller

Visitors to Canarsie Park may have to “hold it” just a little bit longer as construction continues on the new comfort station at the western end of the park, at Seaview Avenue and Paerdegat Avenue North.

At the January meeting of Community Board 18, District Manager Sue Ann Partnow reported that the comfort station should be completed within a few months, stating that Canarsie is one of the only communities to get two comfort stations in one park. “We have parks that can’t even get one!” she said.

Construction of the 750-square foot comfort station began in June 2022, and expected completion was October 2023 (see “*Comfort Station Under Construction in Canarsie Park*,” *Canarsie Courier*, July 14, 2022). The *Canarsie Courier* reached out to NYC

Parks and was informed that the public restroom, complete with four stalls and two urinals, is expected to open in Summer 2024.

To encourage energy efficiency, the project was modified to utilize electric heating rather than gas. That, and modifying the original construction plan to ensure Canarsie park-goers could continue to use the park during construction, delayed the opening date, according to a Parks Department spokesperson.

The comfort station is designed with a flat roof, and a rain garden will be installed behind the building to collect rain water running off the roof.

The project was approved in May 2015 and will cost \$4,385,000, with funding sources from City Council, the Mayor’s and Borough President’s Office, along with private funding.



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District 18 Hosts Inaugural Science Fair at P.S. 272

By Brenda Cox

P.S. 272 Curtis Estabrook, located at 101-24 Seaview Avenue, was the scene of Community School District 18's Inaugural Science Fair, "Exploring Our Global Curiosity." All 22 schools from the District participated in the event, which was held on Thursday, February 29th.

Young students displayed their brilliance with an amazing array of scientific demonstrations and inventions which they showcased to the public. The projects covered topics such as Hydroelectricity, Candy Chromatography, Climate Change, and Earth and Space Science, all presented by students who had won their school's competition. The coveted prize was a District 18 Science Fair Trophy and, of course, bragging rights.

The winners were:

Elementary School:

First place: Adrian Louison (P.S. 235) - "Power of Water: Hydroelectricity"

Second place: Aislynn Murray (P.S. 244) - "Cupcake Wars"

Third place: Aiden Knight and Andrew Singer (P.S. 219) - "Candy Chromatography"

Middle School:

First place: Landon Hayes (P.S./I.S. 66) - "DIY Acid-Base Indicator"

Second place: Nick Paul (M.S. 763) - "The Effects of Sprinting on Your

Pulse"

Third place: Kaden Williams (M.S. 366)

People's Choice Award:

Elementary School: Derrick Jean (P.S. 114) - "Candy Rocks"

Middle School:

Makayla Earle, Camiah Marshall Browne, Goudenie Ermilus, Isis Pierre, Lindsay John and Gianna McIntosh (M.S. 961) - "How Does Climate Change Contribute to Frequent Tornadoes?"

Even though others did not snag a trophy, their projects were still quite awesome. Some 7th-graders created an App called "Survive" which is intended to assist people in the event they experience a natural disaster.

Another budding scientist, Jeremiah, who called his project "Dissolving Ice," carried out an experiment to determine in which liquid - water, Sprite, orange juice, coffee or vinegar - ice would dissolve the fastest. He hypothesized that ice would dissolve fastest in Sprite because of all the bubbles in the liquid. After conducting the experiment, he discovered that ice dissolved fastest in water.

The Science Fair was sponsored by Urban Advantage, M.I.L.K. (Making It Look Kool), GrowNYC, After-School All-Stars and special teacher Ms. Rose Pierre.

Photo courtesy of District 18



State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Chief of Staff Tanequa Strong poses with 7th-graders who invented the Survive app.



Jeremiah proves ice dissolves fastest in water.



Seventh-graders demonstrate how dancing affects one's heart rate.

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District 22 Hosts Town Hall with NYC Schools Chancellor

By Angela G. Nannetti, M.S. Ed.

The Community Education Council (CEC) of District 22 hosted their highly anticipated Town Hall with NYC Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David C. Banks on Monday evening, March 4th, at P.S./I.S.109, located at 1001 East 45th Street, which was also streamed live to the public. Attendees were invited to submit cards with their questions and concerns, to be addressed by the chancellor and his team during the hour-long event, many of which pertained to the budget and fiscal matters.

There was a great deal of interest in how citywide budget cuts, like those proposed to offset the cost of supporting illegal aliens, would affect District 22's students and the impact it might have upon 3K, Pre-K and afterschool/child care program wait-

lists for working class families. Deputy Chancellor of Operations and Financial COO Emma Vadehra, who fielded nearly all the finance queries, advised that no cuts had been made to student budgets this year and that additional funds had actually been added to the budget via Fair Student Funding, to the tune of \$1 million in District 22 alone.

She admitted, however, that it will be a challenge for the DOE to continue to shield students from feeling the pinch, once the Federal COVID-19 relief funding comes to an end at the close of this school year. Nevertheless, CEC 22 Superintendent Julia Bove assured the group that the District will not be losing any 3K or Pre-K seats and is in good standing. She discussed the robust afterschool programs provided by Millennium Development and acknowledged Paul Curiale who was in attendance

and heads the organization.

There was also interest in how the DOE plans to comply with New York State's class size law, under which classes may not exceed 20 students in kindergarten through third grade, 23 students for grades 4-8 and 25 students in high school. Vadehra explained that District 22 is already fully in compliance with the first phase of the mandate, and Banks expressed his hope that the State would provide the extra funding that is needed to hire more teachers and acquire additional facilities to reduce class sizes further. "We don't create our own budget," he explained, clarifying that the DOE only implements the budget provided by City Hall and the City Council. The chancellor emphasized how important it is for the community to reach out to their legislators in order to garner increased support for local schools.

When asked why the DOE does not force charter schools to vacate school buildings in order to make more space for public school students and alleviate overcrowding, the chancellor again pointed to New York State law. He explained that the current law requires the DOE to provide space for charter schools, and if they cannot find the space within their own facilities, they are mandated to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to rent additional spaces in which charters may operate. "Where does that money come from?" he asked.

"The money has to come from somewhere," he went on, explaining that public schools might gain more space but would have to sacrifice beloved elective programs like art and music, among other things, in order to cover the rent for charters. Banks said that while the DOE's \$38 billion budget may sound like a lot of money, and is the most the City has ever spent on education, it still isn't enough for what he described as "the largest school system in the world." In fact, his colleague, First Deputy Chancellor Daniel Weisberg, said District 22 has more students than the entire city of Buffalo, the second largest population in the State, and some 15 buildings are currently overutilized, which Superintendent Bove considered a great testament to how desirable and in demand District 22 schools are.

When in closing, he was asked to put himself in the shoes of a District 22 parent and identify his three most pressing concerns, the chancellor encouraged parents to focus on helping their children read on grade level, emphasized the importance of math proficiency and recognized how Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already begun to transform the way kids are educated. "AI is about to change the world, get ready, read, study, pay attention," he said. He told attendees that while AI is still in the embryonic stages, it is moving at rapid speed and will have tremendous implications upon education. "It will change how we do school. It will make the way we do things obsolete."



CEC 22 President Tracy Jordan (right) reads attendee's question to Chancellor David C. Banks.

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Sheepshead Bay

Origins High School Under Scrutiny Amid Allegations of Antisemitism and Hate Crimes

By Robert Pearl

In the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel, a disturbing trend has emerged within New York City schools, notably at Origins High School, part of the Frank J. Macchiarola Educational Complex, formerly known as Sheepshead Bay High School, located at 3000 Avenue X.

Serious allegations of antisemitism and other hate crimes have surfaced, painting a troubling picture of a toxic and hostile environment within the institution. When these allegations were initially raised, First Deputy Schools Chancellor Dan Weisberg issued a statement on behalf of the Department of Education (DOE): “The cause of combating antisemitism is not served by people exaggerating or putting out false claims.” However, mounting evidence has led to further scrutiny, and the NYPD has launched its own investigation, after a threatening email was sent to Jewish teachers at the high school.

On March 3rd, local leaders, including Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, leading the charge, and former Assemblyman Dov Hikind, gathered outside Origins High School, demanding disciplinary action.

Assemblywoman Jaime Williams (AD-59), taking a strong stance against antisemitic activities in schools, issued an official memo on March 4th condemning the alleged events. She expressed deep concern over the reported incidents, emphasizing that allowing students to threaten teachers and engage in antisemitic behavior with impunity is unacceptable. She called for the DOE to complete its investigation, urging swift action and accountability for the responsible students to ensure a safe and proper learning environment.

Vernikov, who has been a vocal advocate against these anti-Jewish transgressions, shared disturbing details from Origins, describing an environment where students openly expressed antisemitic sentiments, harassed teachers and faced no consequences. She highlighted instances where a teacher was cornered with antisemitic slurs and threatened, swastikas painted on the walls, teachers’ offices, on boards, in classrooms and on student laptops, and a student with a fake Hitler-style mustache paraded around the school, yelling “Heil Hitler.”

The councilwoman criticized the DOE’s response, pointing to gaslighting and denial of evidence. Notwithstanding corroborated allegations and mounting concerns, the DOE’s stance appeared dismissive, said Vernikov, proclaiming that “the school principal even filed retaliatory complaints against two whistleblowers,” further exacerbating the situation.

In addition, she stressed the urgent need for real change and consequences, promising lawsuits on behalf of the



victims, as more evidence is uncovered, with both offices of Vernikov and Williams hinting at exposing serious violations and antisemitic episodes at other schools.

The DOE later released its official statement, underscoring, “While there are no reports or evidence to support these claims, students and staff deserve to be safe and respected in their school and Origins High School is no different.”

The rise in hateful anti-Jewish sentiment in schools mirrors a broader trend, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which reported a staggering 360% increase in acts of antisemitism between October 7, 2023 and January 7, 2024.



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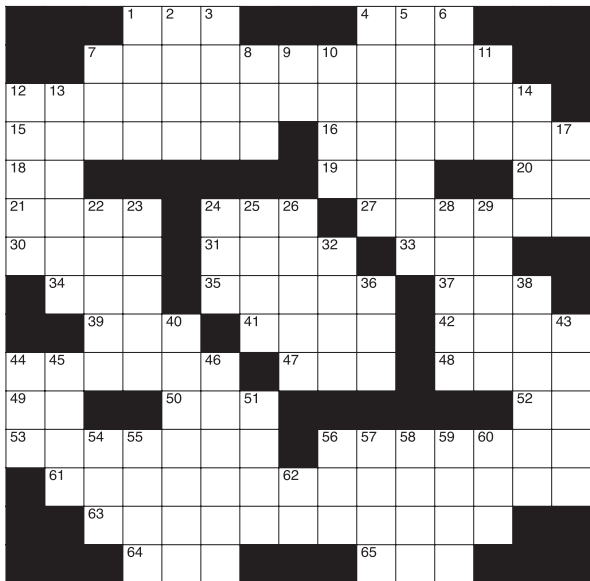
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N R D H S I R I R P J F J H O J P T G J
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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CLOVER
EMERALD
ERIN
FORTUNE
GAELIC
GOLD
HARP
IRELAND
IRISH
ISLAND
JIG
LEGEND
LEPRECHAUN
LUCK
MAGIC
MARCH
MISCHIEF
PARADES
PATRICK
SAINT
SHAMROCK
TRADITION



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Helps little firms
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Allowed
- 12. Olivia Colman played one
- 15. Open
- 16. He had a notable lamp
- 18. Promotional material
- 19. Domesticated animal
- 20. Larry and Curly's buddy
- 21. The best ever
- 24. TV network
- 27. Checked for
- 30. Dry or withered
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Dash
- 34. Fifth note of a major scale
- 35. A secret clique
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 39. ___ school: where to learn healing
- 41. City in ancient Syria
- 42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 44. Established practice
- 47. Thanksgiving side dish
- 48. District in Peru
- 49. It's becoming more prevalent
- 50. State in India
- 52. Measure of illumination
- 53. Raised platform
- 56. Japanese warrior
- 61. R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. Transitory
- 64. Advanced degree
- 65. Fiddler crabs

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to St. Patrick's Day.

LYKCU

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Lucky

SUDOKU

						4	9	1
1		5	8				2	3
				7			5	
9	1		3		2	6		
					1	9	3	7
	4	6			7	2		
	7	9			8	1		
4		2	7		9		6	
8			4			3		

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7	9	5	6	1	4	2	8	3
4	3	2	7	1	9	5	6	8
6	7	8	3	5	6	9	4	2
2	1	4	8	7	2	1	5	3
3	4	6	9	8	7	2	1	5
5	2	1	6	9	8	7	2	1
9	1	7	3	5	6	9	4	2
2	6	9	4	1	7	3	5	6
1	6	5	8	9	4	7	2	3

ANSWER:

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevent from seeing
- 2. Czech city
- 3. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 4. A young pig
- 5. Removed surgically
- 6. Covered with
- 7. Chest muscle (slang)
- 8. Nigerian City
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. A way to shut
- 11. Stop playing
- 12. Marshy places
- 13. Takes apart
- 14. Ten cents
- 17. A gesture of assent
- 22. Scent
- 23. Teletypewriter
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Hillside
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Semitic Sun god
- 29. Town in India
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on the ___
- 38. Type of dance
- 40. Two letters, one sound
- 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
- 44. Golf score
- 45. Mayhem
- 46. Drenched
- 51. River in northeastern Asia
- 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- 55. Part-time employee
- 56. A very large body of water
- 57. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 58. Millisecond
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. Subway dweller
- 62. Royal Mail

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Q	U	E	E	N	O	F	E	N	G	L	A	N
U	N	C	L	O	S	E		A	L	A	D	D
A	D							P	E	T		M
G	O	A	T		A	B	C		T	E	S	T
S	E	R	E		D	R	A	T		D	A	H
	S	O	L		C	A	B	A	L		M	A
		M	E	D		E	B	L	A		A	N
P	R	A	X	I	S		Y	A	M		S	A
A	I			G	O	A					C	P
R	O	S	T	R	U	M		S	A	M	U	R
	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	I	S	L	A
		I	M	P	E	R	M	A	N	E	N	T
		P	H	D					U	C	A	

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in California on March 16, 1988. When I was starting my career, people thought I was related to Lil' Fizz. I rose to fame as a singer with the R&B group B2K and on the back of my poetry collection.

Answer: Jhene Aiko



LEGAL NOTICES



KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Baby Boy, Ezekiel Max Levingarcia, born 10/09/2023 at 3:50 am, in New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist hospital to Chana Levin and Jeremy Garcia

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Baby Boy, Nathan Jay Levin-Mason was born to Tyrone Mason Jr. and Chaya Levin in Maimonides Medical Center, October 9th, 2019, at 9:54 P.M.

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Notice of Formation of R.OLES0311 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Legal Zoom: 101 North Brand Blvd, Glendale CA., 01203. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Notice of Formation of 1896 EAST 4TH STREET, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/15/24. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: 901 Ave. K, Brooklyn, NY 11230. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Philip J. Michaels, c/o Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, 1301 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Simi Leiv Mental Health Counseling. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Deborah Weinstock: 1270 east 18th street Brooklyn NY 11230. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Baby girl, Chana Feiga Levin was born 12/10/1988 at 10:22 am in Maimonides Medical Center to Rosalyn (Tessler) and Sheldon Levin

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Baby Boy, Eli J Levin-Mason was born to Tyrone Mason Jr. and Chaya Levin in Maimonides Medical Center, May 16th, 2022, at 9:54 A.M.

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BFC River North LLC filed w/ SSNY 1/31/24. Off. in Kings Co. Process served to SSNY - design. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave, Ste. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Any lawful purpose

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Baby Girl, Chaya K. Levin was born to Sheldon Levin and Rosalyn (Tessler) Levin in Maimonides Medical Center, May 15th, 1990, at 4:58 A.M.

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of MSR TWIN MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/2024. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to SABAJ LAW, P.C.: 121A NASSAU AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY, 11222, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that a license, NYS Application ID: CL-23-102185-01 for **on-premises liquor** has been applied for by **LPH Two LLC dba Nami Nori** to sell **beer, cider, liquor and wine** at a retail in a **restaurant** under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at **236 N 12th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211** for on premises consumption.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 5819 FIVE STAR BARBER SHOP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/26/2024. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to JOWEL MARTINEZ: 5819 4TH AVE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11220. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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