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Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Feast



Photo by Alessandro Marra Jr.

Story on page 4



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Canarsie Courier

An Independent Newspaper Since 1921

We are not affiliated with any other news organization or publication.

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Serving Canarsie, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Georgetown, Bergen Beach, Kings Plaza, East New York, Flatlands, Flatbush, Gerritsen Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Spring Creek & Brownsville

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Will NYC's New Bus Plan Deliver?

By Jibreel Jalloh

For many residents of Southeast Brooklyn, taking the bus isn't a choice — it's a necessity. Thousands of neighbors rely on buses every day to reach work, school, medical appointments and subway connections. Yet, too often, those trips are slowed by traffic and unreliable service.

The city's newly released Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service plan recognizes that problem and offers a vision to improve bus service across New York City. With more than 2.75 million daily bus riders traveling on a network spanning 1,600 miles of city streets, the need for faster, more reliable buses is undeniable.

The plan aims to increase bus speeds by 20%, reduce wait times, improve bus stops with better accessibility, seating, and shelters where feasible, and strengthen enforcement against vehicles blocking bus lanes. It also identifies several Brooklyn corridors — including Flatbush Avenue, Utica Avenue, Church Avenue, Avenue J, 86th Street and the South Brooklyn Crosstown corridor — for future improvements.

For Southeast Brooklyn, those investments could be transformative. Many of our neighborhoods lack convenient subway access, making buses the backbone of daily transportation. Even shaving a few minutes off a commute can mean more time with family, getting to work on time or making an important doctor's appointment.

Still, the plan deserves thoughtful

scrutiny — not blind praise.

Many Southeast Brooklyn communities are also heavily car-dependent. Families often rely on personal vehicles because of limited transit options, and local businesses depend on customers who drive. Residents have legitimate concerns about potential parking loss, increased congestion on neighboring streets, delivery access and expanded camera enforcement. Those concerns should not be dismissed. The government's challenge is to improve transit without creating unnecessary burdens for the communities these projects are meant to serve.

Success will depend not only on good planning but on meaningful community engagement. Public input should shape where bus lanes are installed, how curb space is managed and how projects are adjusted to meet neighborhood needs. Transportation planning works best when it reflects the realities of the people who use our streets every day.

That's why residents should pay close attention as these projects move forward. Brooklyn Community Board 18, along with neighboring community boards and elected officials, will play an important role in reviewing proposals and gathering public feedback. Community meetings are where residents can raise concerns, suggest improvements and help ensure Southeast Brooklyn's unique transportation needs are reflected in the final designs.

This plan has the potential to improve



daily life for thousands of bus riders. Whether it succeeds will depend on more than ambitious goals — it will depend on whether the government listens to the communities it serves.

Jibreel Jalloh is an award-winning organizer and the Founder and Executive Director of The Flossy Organization, a nonprofit dedicated to closing the advocacy gap through education and activism. Over the past few years, he has helped lead efforts to end gun violence, expand public transit and secure investments in local green spaces. Jibreel is a 2024–2025 Obama Foundation Scholar at Columbia University. Learn more at theflossy.org and follow @theflossyorg.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMMUNITY
EVENTS
CALENDAR -
VOL. 106, NO. 29

THU. JULY 18TH

Angling for Fish I
End of Gerritsen Avenue
3086 Gerritsen Avenue
4 to 6 p.m.

THU. JULY 18TH

The Flossy Organization:
Fitness Thursdays: Yoga
Canarsie Park House
Seaview Avenue & East 88th
Street 6:30 p.m. Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/wk8jufb>

FRI. JULY 17TH

Fishing Frenzy Fridays
Shirley Chisholm State Park -
Penn Pier
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue
Multiple sessions starting at:
2 p.m. Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/gfvv5hnf>

SAT. JULY 18TH

Community Board 18:
Kayaking & Tour of Historical
Hangar B 1 Floyd Bennett
Field 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ym2dmp7b>

SAT. JULY 18TH

Kayaking: Learn to Paddle
Shirley Chisholm State Park -
Penn Water Access Area
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/6m3zmkv2>

SAT. JULY 18TH

Marine Park Alliance: Just for
Kids: Uncle Tony's Reptile
Show
Marine Park Playground
Fillmore Avenue & Madison
Place 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SAT. JULY 18TH

The Flossy Organization:
Smoothies & Strategy
Canarsie Blend Juices
9202 Avenue M
1 to 3 p.m.
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/nhjardj9>

SUN. JULY 19TH

Marine Park Alliance:
Gyotaku Printmaking
Salt Marsh Nature Center
3301 Avenue U 2 to 3 p.m.

MON. JULY 20TH

Councilwoman Mercedes
Narcisse: HPD in Your District
Community Office
5827 Flatlands Avenue
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MON. JULY 20TH

Assemblywoman Jaime
Williams: Yoga in the Park
Side of Carmine Carro
Community Center 3000
Fillmore Avenue 6:30

MON. JULY 20TH

Moth Ball: A Night of Moths &
Moonlight: Floyd Bennett Field
- The Nest 135 Aviation Road
8 to 10 p.m.

TUES. JULY 21ST

Tot Time Tuesdays (weekly,
recommended ages 2 to 5)
Shirley Chisholm State Park -
Hendrix Creek Patio
1750 Granville Payne Avenue
10 to 11:30 a.m.

WED. JULY 22ND

Assemblywoman Jaime
Williams: Summer Concert
Series: Regina Opera
Marine Park Lawn Near
Bocce Court 6:30 p.m.

WED. JULY 22ND

The Flossy Organization:
Canarsie Summer Cleanup
Flatlands & East 103rd
Street
3 to 6 p.m.
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/zkaw4tr3>

\$1,000 OFFERED FOR FIRST COURIER ISSUE

The Canarsie Historical Society is offering a \$1,000 reward for the first issue of the Canarsie Courier dated April 1921. Call the Courier office at 718-257-0600 for more information.

NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS: OPEN RUNS

Saturdays at 9 a.m.:
Canarsie Park - Field House, Seaview Avenue & East 88th Street
Sundays at 9 a.m.: Marine Park - Behind Carmine Carro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue

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Sheepshead Bay**Man Shot Twice at Sheepshead Bay Houses****By Linda Steinmuller**

A 59-year-old male was rushed to South Brooklyn Hospital after he was shot at 2238 Batchelder Street, between Avenues V and W, on Thursday, July 2nd.

Officers from the 61st Precinct/PSA1 arrived at the scene, on the grounds of NYCHA's Sheepshead Bay Houses, around 3:15 p.m. where they found the victim with gunshot wounds to his left leg and left hip, according to police.

The victim, who was conscious and alert, was taken

to the hospital by EMS in stable condition.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting 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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

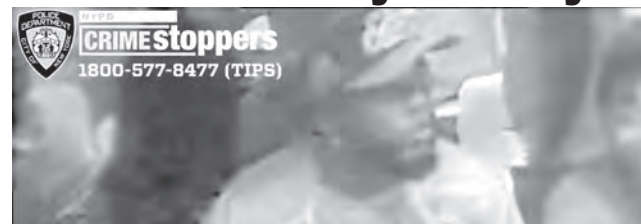
Photo by Baqir Ahmad**Arrest Made in Laundromat Homicide****By Linda Steinmuller**

An arrest was made in connection to the fatal shooting of a 41-year-old man inside a laundromat on Memorial Day.

Adolphus Black, 57, of Brownsville, was arrested and charged with murder and criminal possession of a firearm on Tuesday, July 7th, within the confines of the 63rd Precinct.

Black allegedly shot Kevon Lee, 41, of Flatlands, multiple times throughout his body, inside Xpress Laundromat, at 1809 Utica Avenue, around 8 a.m. on Monday, May 25th (see "Laundromat Shooting Leaves Man Dead and Another Wounded," *Canarsie Courier*, May 28, 2026). Lee was pronounced dead at Kings County Hospital.

A 68-year-old man suffered a graze wound to his foot during the gunfire.

Photo by Lloyd Mitchell**Shooting in Local Lounge on 4th of July Holiday****By Linda Steinmuller**

The NYPD has released several photos of a shooting that took place at Flava II Restaurant & Lounge and is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the person responsible.

Police said the incident took place around 1:45 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th, inside the lounge, located at 8920 Avenue D, within the confines of the 69th Precinct. An unidentified individual discharged a firearm, striking a 27-year-old female in the right leg. The victim was taken to Brookdale Hospital in stable condition, according to police.

The suspect fled the location in an unknown direction. There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting 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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Shots Fired, No One Harmed**By Linda Steinmuller**

The NYPD is looking for an individual that discharged a firearm in Canarsie last month and have released a photo of the suspect.

Around 1:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3rd, the suspect fired a gun two times in the air in front of 1336 East 92nd Street, near Avenue K, according to police. He then fled the location on a bike in an unknown direction. There were no injuries reported as a result of this incident.

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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast 2026

By Linda Steinmuller

For 139 years, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, has been the heart of an Italian-American tradition — the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast, featuring the world famous Dancing of the Giglio.

It's a celebration of faith, culture and family tradition spanning 12 days and nights, from July 8th to July 19th, where the streets are filled with revelers enjoying this centuries-old tradition. There's lots of food, games, rides and nightly entertainment — and it all takes place surrounding the Shrine Church of our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The feast has a rich history — immigrants from Southern Italy brought their cherished celebrations to their new home in America, and it's been celebrated every year since 1887. The feast's centerpiece is the towering Giglio — standing over 70 feet tall and adorned with flowers, saints and angels — carried through the streets by over 100 men.

There's still time to visit the feast, enjoy some Italian food and catch some great nightly entertainment. Visit olmcfest.com for more information.

Photos by Alessandro Marra Jr.



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Youth Drone Demonstrations & Flight Experience	Kids Culinary Experience	Canarsie Family Picture Day	Back-to-School Giveaway (District 18)	\$1,000 Visit Canarsie Scholarship Award

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- Urban Gardening
- Beekeeping Education

REGISTRATION

- ✓ Advance registration is required for workshops and select activities.
- ✓ The Canarsie Family Bus Ride is a paid event. Registration and ticket purchase are required.

EVENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED MONTHLY OR WEEKLY!

Follow us for the latest updates on dates, locations, registration & more!

All proceeds from the Bus Ride and all donations support Visit Canarsie's FREE programs, scholarships & initiatives that empower our youth and build a stronger Canarsie.

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FREE DELIVERY**917-967-5844****Water Main Break Floods Canarsie Street,
Three-Week Repair Finally Complete****By Bristol Hendrix**

Residents along East 105th Street and Avenue N in Canarsie were met with flooded roadways after a water main break erupted on the night of June 21st, sending water rushing across the street and prompting an extensive emergency repair effort.

Neighbors first noticed water quickly pooling in the roadway late that evening and reported the flooding to city officials. Crews responded to the scene and determined the cause was a broken underground water main.

The repair turned into a major infrastructure project that lasted approximately three weeks. According to information from the work site, crews excavated a large section of the road-

way to access the damaged main. The excavation was so extensive that four truckloads of dirt were required to refill the trench once repairs were completed.

To restore the street, workers used approximately seven yards of asphalt to repave the roadway after the underground work was finished.

The break was identified as a city infrastructure issue, with repair crews working to ensure the water main was properly restored before permanently resurfacing the street.

The project has since been completed, and the roadway has reopened to normal traffic, bringing relief to residents who endured flooding, construction activity and temporary traffic disruptions throughout the repair process.



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Tuesday
July 28, 2026
11:00am and 3:00pm
Staten Island

—
Don Roberto's
616 Forest Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

Wednesday
July 29, 2026
11:00am and 3:00pm
Maspeth

—
Connolly's Corner
71-15 Grand Avenue
Maspeth, NY 11378

Thursday
July 30, 2026
11:00am and 3:00pm
Brooklyn

—
Buckley's Restaurant
2926 Avenue S
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Friday
July 31, 2026
11:00am and 3:00pm
Bayside

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More Than an Event: A Vision for Canarsie's Future

On August 1st, Visit Canarsie proudly launches the 2026 Open Streets season — not simply as a series of community events, but as a vision for what Canarsie can become when residents, businesses and organizations work together.

For too long, communities have been told to wait for opportunity. At Visit Canarsie, we believe communities can create opportunity.

Open Streets is our way of transforming a neighborhood street into a place where culture, commerce, education and community come together. It is a place where children can discover new passions, local businesses can reach new customers, families can spend meaningful time together and neighbors can reconnect with one another.

This season's programming reflects that vision. Families will enjoy doubles and hot dog eating contests, hands-on kite building, ice cream-making experiences, family activities and community celebrations. Residents will take part in the season-long Canarsie Treasure Hunt, exploring local landmarks and supporting neighborhood businesses while competing for exciting prizes.

Young people will have opportunities to register for free culinary, drone, urban gardening and beekeeping programs designed to build practical skills, confidence and pathways to future careers.

Our "From Canarsie to the World" postcard initiative will invite residents to share our neighborhood with friends and family around the globe using photographs captured by young people in our drone program. It is a reminder

that Canarsie has a story worth telling — and a community worth celebrating.

Throughout the season, we will also host our annual Family Bus Ride, Family Picture Day, Mas in Canarsie, the District 18 Back-to-School Giveaway, scholarship presentations recognizing outstanding students, and many other activities that will be announced monthly and weekly to keep the community engaged all season long.

Open Streets is also an investment in our local economy. Every event creates opportunities for neighborhood merchants, food vendors, artists, entrepreneurs and community organizations to connect with thousands of residents and visitors. When people shop locally, our businesses grow. When businesses grow, jobs are created. When neighborhoods are active, they become stronger, safer and more vibrant.

This is the vision that drives Visit Canarsie: connecting culture, commerce and community while creating measurable opportunities for residents and small businesses.

We believe Canarsie deserves to be recognized not only for its history, but also for its future.

Beginning August 1st, we invite every resident, every family, every business and every community partner to join us in building that future together.

Because Open Streets is more than an event.

It is a movement.

It is an investment in our children.

It is an investment in our small businesses.

It is an investment in Canarsie.

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AVENUE J LLC. Articles
of Organization filed with
the Secretary of State of
NY (SSNY) on 06/03/2026.
Office location: Kings
County. SSNY designated as
an agent of Limited Liability
Company (LLC) upon whom
process against it may be
served. SSNY should mail
process to Keron South-
Creary: 20 Vandalia Avenue
#20F, Brooklyn NY 11239.
Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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and overall cost. Specifications and bid requirements may be
obtained by contacting: aysel.billing@gmail.com All interested
firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and
provide a primary contact name, telephone number, fax number
(if applicable), and email address. Minority-owned and Women-
owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) are encouraged to submit
bids. Bids will be accepted through July 20, 2026. Work is
scheduled to commence on July 25, 2026, and must be completed
by August 31, 2026.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Rosenthal Mental Health Counseling,
PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State
of NY (SSNY) on 05/12/2026. Office location: Kings County.
SSNY designated as an agent of Professional Limited Liability
Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served.
SSNY should mail process to Sam Rosenthal: 7124 5th Ave, #2L
Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of
Cathys Finest, LLC. Articles
of Organization filed with
the Secretary of State of
NY (SSNY) on 04/10/2026.
Office location: Kings
County. SSNY designated as
an agent of Limited Liability
Company (LLC) upon whom
process against it may be
served. SSNY should mail
process to CATHERINE
MARINELLO: 1745 77th
Street. Purpose: Any lawful
purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation: **Khot
Phet LLC**, Art. Of Org.
filed with Sec. of State of
NY (SSNY) on **05/04/2026**.
Office Location: **Kings
County**. SSNY designated
as agent of LLC upon
whom process against it
may be served. SSNY shall
mail process to: **2068 70th
St, Brooklyn, NY 11204**
Purpose: Any lawful activity.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation: **Spicy
Make Me Cry LLC**, Art.
Of Org. filed with Sec. of
State of NY (SSNY) on
05/05/2026. Office Location:
Kings County. SSNY
designated as agent of LLC
upon whom process against
it may be served. SSNY shall
mail process to: **2068 70th
St, Brooklyn, NY 11204**
Purpose: Any lawful activity.

KINGS COUNTY (BROOKLYN) NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of
Xiang Studio LLC. Articles
of Organization filed with
the Secretary of State of NY
(SSNY) on 6/14/2026. Office
location: Kings County
(Brooklyn). SSNY designated
as an agent of Limited
Liability Company (LLC)
upon whom process against it
may be served. SSNY should
mail process to Yuqi Xie: 343
Gold St Apt 1501. Purpose:
Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY (BROOKLYN) NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of
EXPERTFLOW LLC.
Articles of Organization filed
with the Secretary of State of
NY (SSNY) on 5/11/2026.
Office location: Kings
County (Brooklyn). SSNY
designated as an agent of
Limited Liability Company
(LLC) upon whom process
against it may be served.
SSNY should mail process to
Mariia Shumilina: 6812 13th
Avenue, Apt.1R, Brooklyn,
NY 11219. Purpose: Any
lawful purpose.

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Notice is given that Articles
of Organization for Putnam
1946 Realty, LLC were filed
with the Secretary of State
on January 12, 2026. The
office of the LLC shall be
located in Kings County,,
New York. The Secretary of
State has been designated as
agent of the limited liability
company upon whom process
against it may be served
and the post office address
within this state to which the
Secretary of State shall mail
a copy of any process against
it served upon him or her is:
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Articles of Org. filed NY Sec.
of State (SSNY) 05/18/2026.
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desig. agent of LLC upon
whom process may be served.
SSNY shall mail copy of
process to 401 Hicks St, Apt
B6e, Brooklyn, NY 11201.
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Marine Park

Kool Elements and a Salsa Sensational Evening



Members of Kool Elements, a 10-piece band that performed on July 8th in Marine Park.

By Kari Lleras

The crowd was ready to turn up the heat and salsa on the Marine Park lawn with Kool Elements on Wednesday, July 8th. This was the fourth concert in a series of adored Marine Park summer concerts sponsored by Assemblywoman Jaime Williams.

Kool Elements have played, entertained and inspired dancing for the past four years during the summer concerts, and they did not disappoint this year either. Eddie Martinez, Canarsie resident and 10-piece band founder, made it impossible for concertgoers of all ages and dancing ability to stand still.

The band had such a synergy and groove that one might forget that they weren't one musician. The drums, trumpet, congas, bongos, piano, upright bass, saxophone/flute and timbale were played flawlessly by the instrumentalists.

Marine Park Alliance volunteers handed out egg-shaped maracas that helped the crowd to be part of the backup band, as well as other cool light-up items, but their lollipops are always a fan favorite.

Williams along with sponsors Marine Park Alliance, Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Marine Park Hardware, Nick's Lobster, Sotheby's International Realty and others in partnership with NYC Parks, Millennium Development and the Marine Park Community Association make these favorite summer concerts possible.

The Regina Opera will be playing opera and Broadway tunes on Wednesday, July 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. (with a rain date of Thursday, July 23rd).

All concerts take place on the lawn near the bocce courts, next to the Carmine Carro Community Center, located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue. Bring your friends, family, a chair, blanket and a camera to record the memories! For more information, call 718-252-2124.

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Concertgoers feeling the groove, moving at Salsa Night in Marine Park.



Even the young salsa lovers enjoy Kool Elements.

NACA Ends Year with Updates, Awards and Plans for New Beginnings



Year-end photo of NACA members with awardees.

By Loretta Chin

The Nieuw Amersfort Community Association (NACA) held its last meeting before the summer break on Tuesday, June 23rd, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3913 Avenue J, with a mix of emotions as members celebrated the year-end with an awards ceremony and were saddened to learn that two members would not be returning in their usual roles in September.

NACA Vice President Rev. Audrey Julien and Treasurer Gilbert McLean announced that President Steve Yamin, who had missed several meetings, has not been well and is unlikely to return as president when NACA resumes meetings again in September.

At the same time, McLean, a long-standing board member, announced that he too would be leaving

his role as NACA's treasurer. "September, we will be having a vote for officers," he said. "I will be stepping down; but, by the same token, I will assist anyone who comes in."

McLean's responsibilities were not only as treasurer handling membership dues, but he also arranged for the publication of the annual calendar, payment of insurance for use of the venue through membership dues and setting up the room for monthly meetings, among other things that made him a valued board member for many years.

Members requested information about the bylaws and candidates, which will be addressed in the fall, according to Julien. She added that anyone selected would be carefully chosen to have the best interests of the group in mind and should not be seeking office for personal benefit.

Julien would like to see candidates who are willing to push the club forward with new ideas, such as initiating a chat line and having conference calls or Zoom meetings, especially during the winter months. "We need to be more in communication with each other," she said.

On the matter of old business, Julien mentioned a presentation at last month's meeting by Yvette Mendes, program coordinator at Brooklyn Level Up, Inc., on "The People's Money," a citywide participatory budgeting process where New Yorkers decide how to spend \$4 million of the city's budget to help their communities thrive.

The process began in the fall, and members were not involved in the idea generation stage, the first of four stages, yet were instead asked to vote in the third stage on projects that were placed on the ballot from others who were involved from the beginning.

The same thing happened the year before (see "Nieuw Amersfort Members Vote on The People's Money," *Canarsie Courier*, June 16, 2025). Some members declined to participate in the voting process until they could research the matter further.

It appeared to be a communication problem, and members requested that Mendes be invited to make her presentation to members during the idea generation phase of the process in the next cycle so that NACA could submit projects for eligibility of these funds in the future.

Julien then gave out the end-of-year certificates of appreciation to long-standing NACA members in recognition of personal commitment, dedication and performance to NACA Recording Secretary Christine O'Neil, Venessa Harry, Roxanne Nedd-Ervin, Julian and Geraldine Richards, and Arthur and Loretta Chin, who is also a *Canarsie Courier* reporter.

According to a New York State Senate document in 2011, NACA was formed in 1989 to represent an area from Flatbush to Troy Avenues and Avenue H to Hubbard Place; it was officially incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in the State of New York in 1993.

But according to NACA documentation distributed at the last meeting, "NACA's jurisdictional boundaries include: to the North, Avenue H; to the South, Kings Highway; to the East, Kings Highway; to the West, Flatbush Avenue." Both descriptions are in close proximity to each other. Membership is open to all members who live within its borders, and annual membership dues are \$20 per family.

Except for summer and winter breaks, NACA meetings typically take place every fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (corner of East 40th Street and Avenue J). There are no meetings for July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22nd.

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Sheepshead Bay

Protest Erupts at Holocaust Memorial Park After Controversial Mayoral Appointee Invited to Speak

By Robert Pearl

What was intended to be a solemn ceremony honoring Holocaust victims and survivors instead erupted into a heated protest on June 28th after organizers invited Phylisa Wisdom, executive director of Mayor Zohran Mamdani's Office to Combat Antisemitism, to deliver the keynote address at Holocaust Memorial Park.

The annual commemoration, held at the park overlooking Sheepshead Bay, honors the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and the survivors who rebuilt their lives in the neighboring communities of Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach following World War II. Established by NYC under Mayor Edward Koch in 1986, the memorial has long served as sacred ground for remembrance and education.

Controversy surrounded the event once Wisdom's invitation was announced. The progressive Democrat's appointment to the Mayor's Office has drawn criticism from many within the Jewish community over her views regarding Israel and whether the Mamdani administration has demonstrated sufficient support for Jewish New Yorkers.

The invitation prompted Assemblymen Michael Novakhov and Kalman Yeger, and Councilwoman Inna Vernikov to boycott the ceremony. Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny attended out of respect for the Holocaust survivors, many he has known for years, but opposed Wisdom's invitation and defended the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as essential to combating Jew-hatred.

Holocaust Memorial Committee Co-President Barry Lituchy opened the ceremony by stressing the park exists "strictly to the Holocaust," not political movements, while Rabbi Akiva Eisenstadt urged attendees to put "all politics aside" and focus on remembrance. The atmosphere changed the moment Lituchy introduced Wisdom.

Before she could begin speaking, Leonard Petlakh, CEO of the Kings Bay Y, loudly booed Wisdom and called her a collaborator. As Lituchy repeatedly called for police to remove Petlakh, Stephanie Benshimol, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, stepped in, arguing police could not remove someone from a public park for exercising their First Amendment rights. Her intervention drew applause from some attendees, while others argued the disruption itself was disrespectful to the Holocaust survivors gathered for remembrance.

The exchange quickly escalated into shouting between supporters and opponents of the invitation, requiring NYPD officers to restore order. Wisdom ultimately departed the memorial without delivering her keynote address.

Democratic Assembly candidate Joey Saban, who is challenging Novakhov in November, also criticized the invitation, arguing the annual remembrance should unite rather than divide the community.

The controversy also exposed divisions within the Holocaust Memorial Committee. Several committee members, speaking anonymously, told the *Canarsie Courier* they were never consulted and that no Board of Trustees vote was taken before Wisdom was invited. According to those members, the invitation resulted from a meeting between committee leadership and representatives of the Mayor's Office about a month before the ceremony. Committee co-presidents Vivian Singer and Lituchy have not publicly responded to those allegations.

Once the ceremony resumed, Holocaust survivor Anna Malkina, born in Russia in 1937, was presented

with an award by the committee. Hidden first in a bomb shelter by her father and later by a non-Jewish family, Malkina survived the Holocaust and was recognized for her lifelong dedication to Holocaust education and remembrance.

Following the disruption, Novakhov released a statement condemning Wisdom's invitation, arguing Holocaust Memorial Park exists to honor the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust — not to provide "political cover" for any elected official or administration.

Novakhov has become one of Brooklyn's most outspoken voices against rising antisemitism, responding to pro-Hamas demonstrations in Sheepshead Bay, Midwood, Brighton Beach and Williamsburg. He

also received praise for helping stop the U.S. concert tour of Uzbek singer Yulduz Usmanova after her antisemitic public remarks.

Supporters argued that Wisdom deserved courtesy as the city's Executive Director for Combating Antisemitism. Critics countered that respect is earned through actions, not titles, and that Holocaust memorial ceremonies should never become vehicles for political symbolism or, as Novakhov stated, "political cover."

Whether viewed as a justified protest or an unfortunate disruption, the confrontation ensured this year's Holocaust remembrance will be remembered not only for honoring the past, but also for exposing the deep divisions shaping the present.

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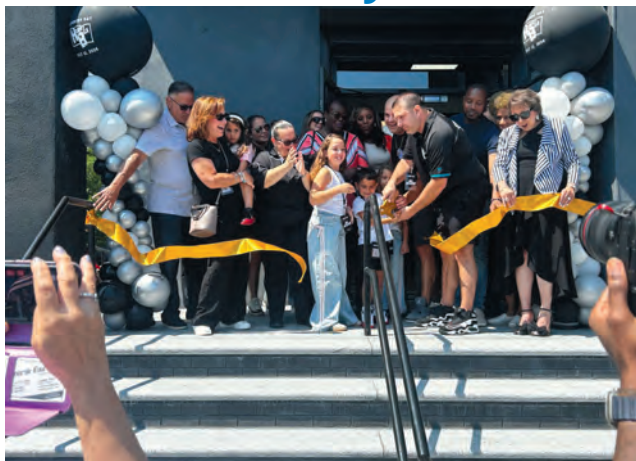
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Hobby Box Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting – a Grand Slam!



The ribbon is cut, welcoming Hobby Box to its new home, at 2600 Flatbush Avenue.



Hobby Box employees stand ready for the inquiries of hobby lovers.

By Kari Lleras

Name a hobby, sport or a collectible, and there were enthusiasts, fanatics and aficionados lined up with anticipation outside Hobby Box, at 2600 Flatbush Avenue, for its Opening Day celebration on Sunday, July 12th.

There were in-person autograph and photo opportunities with former basketball players like Allan Houston and Shawn Kemp, former baseball player Joba Chamberlain and former football player Dwayne Bowe.

A young sports fanatic, Nathan Auidan, with his Allan Houston basketball jersey held close to his chest, and his older sister, Betty, wearing her jersey, waited patiently with their father and little brother in line to meet the basketball legend himself -- a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get photographs and to leave Hobby Box with an autographed jersey.

Hip-hop lovers were waiting patiently for a live performance from The Lox, a well-known group consisting of Jadakiss, Styles P and Sheek Louch. Local celebrities like elected officials and civic members also showed up to show their support.

The grand opening, complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, included fun for everyone of all ages. Brooklyn Beef N' Cheese sold hot dogs and hamburgers to curb those pangs of hunger while fans waited for their favorite in-person meet and greet. Kona Ice cooled fans down with shaved ice as they enjoyed the festivities outside. There was a basketball, soccer and coloring section that children of all ages enjoyed. DJ Wallah from Hot 97 brought the energy and had everyone dancing in the streets.

"Hobby Box started out as two brothers and one dream," Nicole Sarfaty, one of the owner's wives, said. The Sarfaty brothers, Yoni and Sam, embarked on an idea of live streaming and putting collectibles in the hands of the people that looked all over the world for their "have to have" item.

As their business continued to expand, they acquired a storefront at 2913 Quentin Road and a warehouse located on Avenue Z. Their continual growth allowed them to attain another location that could house a warehouse and a storefront – the old Sam Ash building, located across the street from Kings Plaza Shopping Center, a newly remodeled, state-of-the-art facility.

"There are so many places, hobby places, in Brooklyn, growing up, that don't exist anymore," Sam Sarfaty said. "They're meant to create this landmark here," Nicole Sarfaty said.

Hobby Box is open 24 hours a day, six days a week, only closing from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, for buying, selling and trading. Follow Hobby Box @HobbyBoxNY, @HobbyBox-FL or @HobbyBoxBrands.



The crowd gladly came into the air-conditioned building following the ribbon-cutting.

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Scores Attend Final Shabbat Service at Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie

By Brenda Cox

Scores of devoted worshippers gathered to pray, reminisce and say goodbye to each other and Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie, a fixture in the community for over 75 years. The distinguished institution, located at 1880 Rockaway Parkway, closed its doors for good after the last shabbat service was held on Saturday, June 27th.

Some congregants traveled from as far as Delaware and Pennsylvania to attend the final shabbat service. Many had their bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and other special occasions there. Rabbi Mark Getman, who presided over the temple for the past nine years, said numerous prayers throughout the service: for the sick, the children, those lost in the last year, those affected by the recent earthquakes throughout the world and those lost during the Holocaust, as well as physical blessings for the congregation.

Getman also said the Modim Anachnu, expressing thanks for all who attended shabbat, especially the new faces, invited guests and those whom he hadn't seen in a while. The rabbi encouraged the congregants to also say their own prayer of thanks. During the service, the Torah scrolls were removed from the Holy Ark and passed around so the congregants could feel Hashem's goodness and share his blessings with the community when they left.

The service was attended by State Senator Roxanne Persaud who gave brief remarks. "What a bittersweet moment it is. The end of an era," she stated. The senator spoke about her enduring friendship of over 30 years with many at the synagogue, as well as the various events she attended there, especially the Thanksgiving Brotherhood Service. She thanked them for their graciousness over the years and shared a message she kept in the office where she worked previously – "Change is inevitable. The struggle is optional."

Persaud encouraged them to embrace the change but to also hold on to the fond memories they have of the temple.

Also in attendance was Richie Barsamian, director of Community Affairs for Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny. "Our hearts will remain heavy, but we must celebrate because as the doors close to Temple Emanu-El, our hearts will remain open to the words that we've heard," Barsamian, another long-standing friend (of over 20 years), reminded the congregation, before presenting a New York State citation to Getman.

"On behalf of New York State Assemblyman Alec Krasny, I would like to present an official New York State Assembly citation to Rabbi Mark Getman for his nine years of leadership. Thank you for your years of dedicated and compassionate leadership to Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie," Barsamian stated.

A similar honor was conferred on Lenny and Marilyn Strum who also received flowers from the congregation. "Lenny, we will never forget about you and your wonderful wife, Marilyn," Barsamian told them. "On behalf of Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, I also present, with great respect and deep admiration, a New York State citation, thanking Lenny and Marilyn Strum for 35 years of dedicated service to Temple Emanu-El and the people of Canarsie," he announced.

Mr. Strum, who gave closing remarks, expressed his gratitude, love and sadness on the occasion. He thanked an unnamed benefactor who generously paid their bills for five years and Rabbi Joshua Minkin, who led the temple for over 20 years and joined the shabbat virtually from Israel, as well as all those who contributed to building Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie from a storefront to a tent, to what it ultimately became.

Harvey Silber who performed maintenance at the temple since 2005, captured as many memories of the iconic synagogue as he could, with his camera. He told the *Canarsie Courier*, "I'm absolutely heartbroken by the closure," a sentiment echoed by many of the congregants.

The shabbat concluded with the reciting of the Hamotzi prayer followed by Borei Pri Hagafen and a lavish reception.



Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie on the last day of shabbat service – June 27, 2026.



Marilyn and Leonard Strum and family with Rabbi Mark Getman at final shabbat service at Temple Emanu-El of Canarsie.

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