

BAY RIDGE

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HOME REPORTER

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50¢

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Freshman hopes to help school win softball title

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Photo courtesy of Tim Giardina

Step into spring at St. Pat's march

SEE PAGE 3

BE

Brooklyn Eagle Local

Zigun writes book of 'weird' plays

By Jaime DeJesus

The unofficial mayor of Coney Island is coming out with a new "wild" book.

Dick Zigun, who co-founded non-profit organization Coney Island USA in 1980 and served as the nonprofit's artistic director, will be releasing a book about America's Playground called "Coney Island Crackpots! Six Weird American Plays."

"'Coney Island Crackpots' is the first step in my new artistic life after 42 years running Coney Island USA," he told this paper. "Playwriting is not really a new career for me, rather a refocus on the writing I've done but never shared most of my career. This first collection of six weird Coney Island plays had to come first. I know my Coney Carny history, and I've seen how people behave here and heard how they talk."

The book features six plays written by Zigun and a collection of color photographs from original productions at Coney Island USA.

"This provocative collection examines distinctly American obsessions through the vibrant history and unique culture of Coney Island," stated the book's publishing company Outside Talker Press. "These aren't polite theater — they're Al Capone getting his scar, Bettie Page on Coney's beach, blood-soaked ride inspectors, and Maxim Gorky losing his mind in Dreamland."

One of the plays featured in the book is "The Education of Al Capone as if Told by Jimmy Durante."

"This production represents Zigun's most explicit use of the 'Coney Island Mythology,'" wrote Zigun's publisher Jim Moore. "The play is based on the historical reality that Al Capone, Clara Bow, and Jimmy Durante all frequented or worked in Coney Island during the early 20th century. Zigun took these facts and constructed a 'what if' scenario set at the Harvard Inn, a real-life saloon and gangster hangout."

Another play, "Bloody Brains in a Jukebox," is described as the most ambitious stage production ever mounted by Coney Island USA.

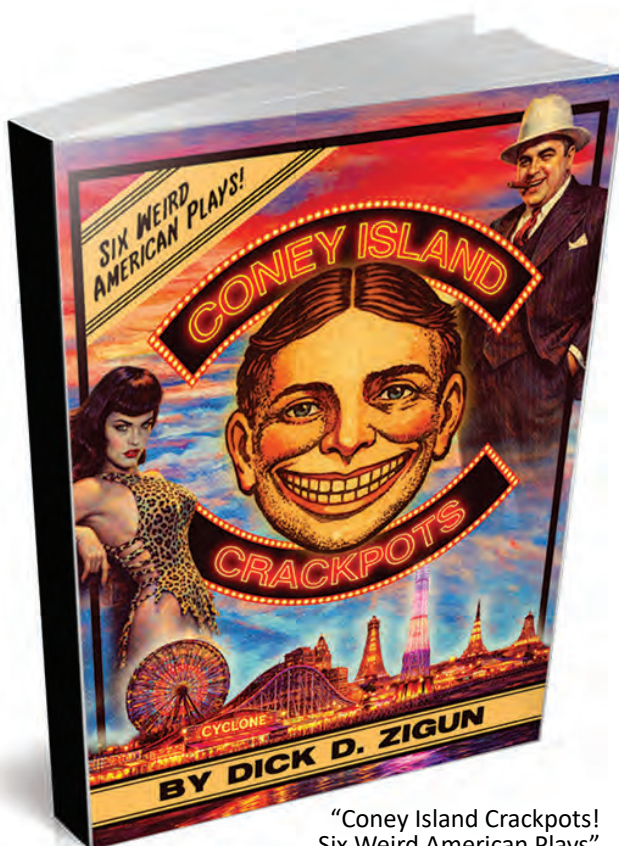
"The plot involves a quartet of doctors who resemble mid-century icons Sidney Poitier, Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Coogan, and Jayne Mansfield," wrote Moore. "These characters interact with a 'talking, flying, brain-eating Wurlitzer Model 1100 jukebox. The production was designed to make 'abstract ideas like cosmology accessible via music and parody.'"

The book will be released on May 15. Preorders began March 1.



Dick Zigun.

Photos courtesy of Dick Zigun



"Coney Island Crackpots! Six Weird American Plays" comes out in May.



DSNY supervisor Robert Caridi dies

By Jaime DeJesus

Robert Caridi, a supervisor with the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) died Feb 27. He was 40.

He is survived by parents, Norman and Kathleen, his sons Connor and Sean, brother Daniel Caridi and his nieces and nephews, Daniel, Vincent, and Adrianna.

According to his obituary on the Marine Park Funeral Home website, Caridi was a paramedic before working at DSNY. He graduated from Xavier High School in 2004 and played on the U-19 USA Rugby Team in South Africa.

"Above all else, Robert's greatest and most cherished role was being a father," the obituary read. "He was the devoted and loving father of Connor and Sean, who were the center of his world. Whether at the beach, fishing by the water, or filling their days with endless activities and laughter, Robert treasured every moment spent with his boys. His love for them was steady, joyful, and unconditional."

A fundraiser has been set up on website Fund the First to help support Caridi's children.

"As a proud DSNY sanitation worker and former paramedic, Robert dedicated his life to serving others and his city, but nothing meant more to him than his kids," the statement read. "He always showed up with a big, proud smile. His sudden passing has left an unimaginable void in their young lives. At 9 and 7 years old, they have lost not only their father, but their biggest fan, protector and constant source of love."

As of March 5, \$79,828 has been raised.

"My office is deeply saddened to hear of DSNY BK13 Supervisor Robert Caridi's passing," said Councilmember Kayla Santosuosso, who shared the link to the fundraiser on Facebook. "Robert was a dedicated public servant who was beloved by his coworkers. He was also a father of two. May his memory be a blessing."

Calling hours were held March 4 at Marine Park Funeral Home, Inc., 3024 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY. The following day, a Mass of Christian burial was held at Holy Name R.C. Church, 245 Prospect Park West.



Robert Caridi.

Photo courtesy of Fund the First

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St. Patrick's Parade officials are ready to go



This year's Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade honorees.

Eagle Urban Media/Photos by Arthur De Gaeta

By Jaime DeJesus

The annual Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade dinner dance was held at El Caribe Feb. 28.

Honorees for the 31st annual parade were recognized.

This year's parade will take place March 22 and Rev. Kevin Abels of St. Anselm Church will be the grand marshal.

"One of the bigger rewards among many the committee members receive is the happy task of installing the grand marshal and deputy marshals each year," said Richie O'Mara, the parade president. "It was especially fulfilling this year as we recently sashed an outstanding class of the best Bay Ridge has to offer in front of 550 loving family and friends at the El Caribe. The honorees' Irish and community pride were clearly evident, and it was exciting to witness how they bonded as a group in mutual admiration of their countless accomplishments and lives."

Deputy marshals include Maureen O'Malley-Byrnes, Kathleen Conlon, Elaine Brown Delaney, Linda McDonagh, Kathleen Riordan, Jamie Farley, John Kane, Kevin Kelly, Joseph Riley, and Mike Tuohy.

"It is an honor being named grand marshal for this year's Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade," Abels said. "The parade means so much for our Irish Catholics and all living in our beloved Bay Ridge. While it's an honor being the grand marshal, it's more of an honor to serve the great people at Our Lady of Angels, St. Andrew the Apostle, and St. Anselm. I wish to congratulate the deputy grand marshals, and I look forward to sharing in this great community tradition with them."

The Irish Family of the Year is the Gallaghers, and the Honorary Irishman of the Year is Chris Puckhaber.

O'Mara said that a source of pride for the parade is its support of local Catholic Education institutions through its education fund.

"Thank you to our Major Matching Fund Sponsors and to anyone who has bought a raffle throughout our many fundraising events over the years," he said. "Each parade we provide a graduating girl and boy from each local Catholic grammar school a scholarship grant for high school. Thanks to their support, we've distributed nearly \$80,000 in scholarships to date."

Deputy marshals were happy to be honored during the annual event.

"Having been raised in a large Irish Catholic family, the parade, and some of the traditions were important growing up," said Riley, who is the CEO and executive director for the Guild of Exceptional Children (GEC). "I'm sure my dad would have been proud. As an adult it resounds



Grand Marshal Rev. Kevin Abels.

in a different, meaningful way. Receiving the honor of being deputy marshal is a referendum on GEC and the people we support. Appreciation and acceptance of a population that was too easy to overlook not too long ago. Bay Ridge is a great community that supports its own."

"I was truly humble to be honored for my heritage and for giving back to our community," said Delaney, parent coordinator for P.S. 186. "Giving back to the community was something I was taught by my mother as a child. I carried that tradition to my sons, scouts and the students at the school I work at. It was amazing to be honored with such an elite group of advocates who help create a better community."

The parade starts at 1 p.m. on Third and Marine avenues.

"Thanks to the Bay Ridge community, who never fail to support the Parade's fundraisers," said O'Mara. "And most fittingly, thanks to our talented and tireless Parade Committee who volunteer their time and skills year-round to ensure each year's Parade is a little better than the last. Their love of Bay Ridge and their Irish heritage, and dedication to the success of this Parade is unmatched."



Deputy Marshal Maureen O'Malley-Byrnes.

Freshman hopes to help school win softball title

By Jaime DeJesus

This season, the Bay Ridge Prep Varsity Girls Softball team has high hopes to win a state championship, and one reason is thanks to a rising star.

Freshman Claire Giardina, who has played with the high school team since she was in seventh grade, is expected to have a bigger impact on the club that already had success last season. The club won the Independent School Athletic championship.

Last year, Sports Illustrated highlighted the pitcher/outfielder as one of the top high school softball players in New York.

According to Prep Softball, last year across 19 total games and 49 plate appearances, Giardina posted a .850 batting average. She had 34 hits, scored 28 runs, and collected 31 RBIs, while hitting seven doubles, three triples, and six home runs over her two middle school seasons.

On the pitching side, she had an excellent season, with a record 8-0 with a 0.44 ERA across 11 appearances.

"With strong command and control, she keeps hitters guessing and limits hard contact," the outlet said. "A true two-way threat, Giardina is undoubtedly one of the top prospects to watch in the state."

Her dad Tim said that Giardina has been playing with the high school team since she was in seventh grade. She is expected to have an even bigger role with the team as a freshman.

Giardina said she was both excited and proud of herself for the recognition she has received for her play.

"I've been playing softball since I was six," she said. "From the start I really liked it. I also liked figure skating but I felt like softball was way more fun and I enjoyed it more."

In 2022, Giardina, played for the 12U Israeli national softball team in Italy. The team, which

is part of the World Baseball Softball Confederation Europe, competed for the European Massimo Romeo Youth Trophy (EMRYT).

She considered the moment a highlight in her young softball career.

"Pitching for team Israel was kind of amazing," she said. "[The fact] that I was representing Israel, that was really cool."

"They ended up going to the championship game but lost to Italy by a couple of runs," said Tim. "It was just incredible and a cool experience."

Despite her excellent play, Giardina continues to practice harder.

"I feel like I always want to do better," she said. "Even when I have a great game, I know I can be better. It is hard because I go to practice in New Jersey. It means that I have to lock in on school when I have free time because I have an hour before I leave for practice, and I usually try to get all my homework and study done."

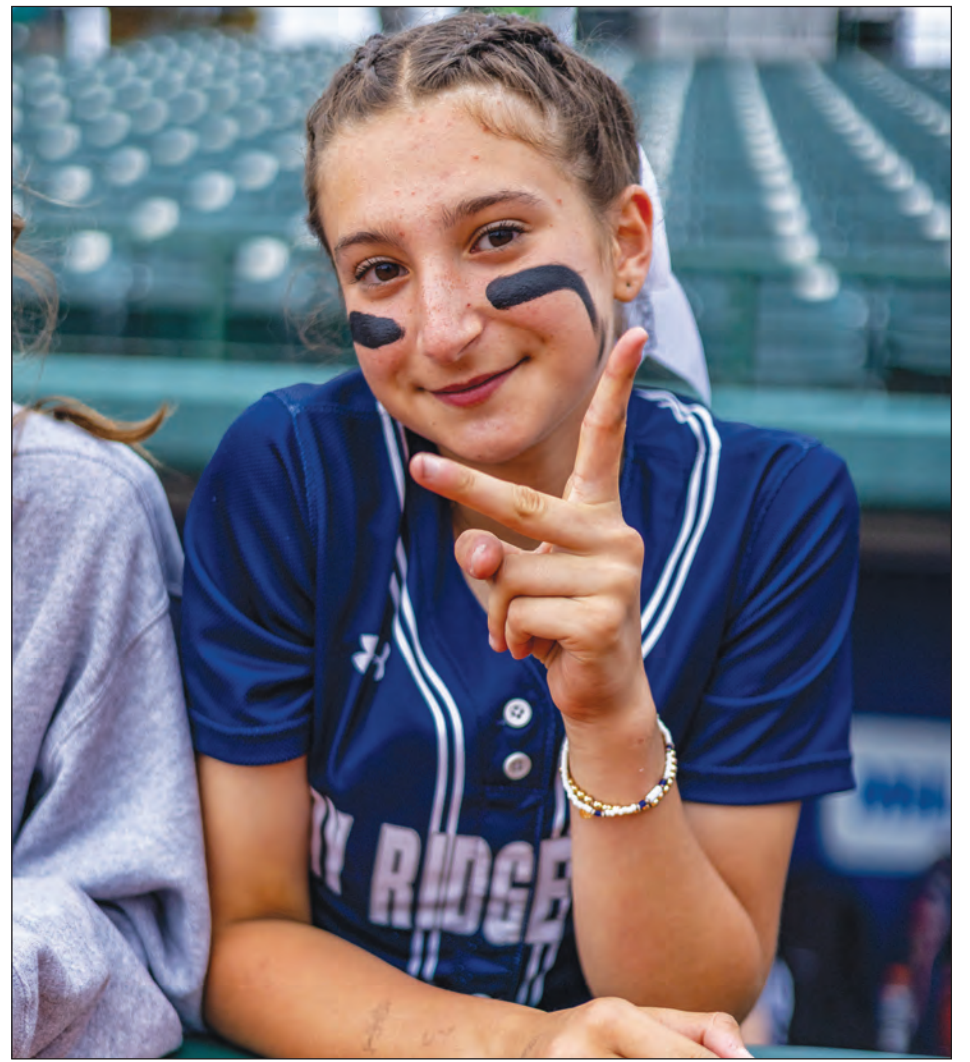
She cited her parents as her biggest supporters.

"My dad played baseball in high school," she said. "He takes me to practice."

"She works hard," added Tim. "She's really focused, more than most kids her age. At this age, a lot of the kids want to go out and hang out and she's been pretty focused with all this. She started playing here in Bay Ridge at six and she's got a pretty good chance at playing Division 1 (D1) softball in college. There's been a few other girls that have started playing here and play D1 and she's probably on track for that as long as she keeps working hard and practicing."

As for the softball team, hope springs eternal.

"It's a smaller school," Tim said. "For them to be able to compete with athletics on a higher level like this is exciting for them and the school. She's a freshman now. We are hoping by the time she's a senior, they can win a state championship."



Claire Giardina looks to keep improving her already impressive skills during her freshman year at Bay Ridge Prep. Photos courtesy of Tim Giardina



The Bay Ridge Prep softball team has high hopes for the 2026 campaign.

IN BROOKLYN

Lear DeBessonnet,
director of 'Ragtime,'
finds home and
inspiration in Brooklyn



Lear DeBessonnet, Artistic Director of Lincoln Center Theater.



DeBessonnet's Broadway revival of "Ragtime" transferred from New York City Center to the Vivian Beaumont Theater, seen here. Photos: Matthew Murphy

Tech on Deck: Artificial Intelligence
Back to the Past: When Media
Was All Opinion, All the Time

Image generated using Sora.





Back to the Past: When Media Was All Opinion, All the Time

There was no CNN when the Founding Fathers wrote the First Amendment.

It was 1791, so there was no New York Times, no Bloomberg, and your sister's friend's cousin's boyfriend's podcast wouldn't launch for another 235 years.

Back then, news didn't break unless the town crier tripped over his own words. There were no "breaking reports," no special election coverage, no bickering pundits crammed into a single screen. News traveled so slowly that it took more than six months for word to spread across the thirteen colonies that the Revolutionary War was over.

What's more, the Founding Fathers had a completely different understanding of news than we do. To them, news and opinion were largely the same thing.

Information came in the form of political pamphlets like Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, incendiary writing meant to persuade and mobilize.

These pamphlets, and later newspapers, were openly funded by political parties and politicians. There was no pretense of objectivity. The goal wasn't balance. It was influence.

now it arrives instantly, endlessly and everywhere at once.

What were once pamphlets and party papers have become social feeds, podcasts and comment threads. And artificial intelligence is about to flood the zone even further, generating persuasive language at a scale the Founders never imagined.

On the one hand, the Founding Fathers lionized a free press. They spoke about it with near-religious fervor.

Benjamin Franklin warned that "whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech." Samuel Adams wrote that there was "nothing so justly terrible to tyrants" as a free press. George Washington cautioned that if freedom of speech were taken away, Americans could be led "like sheep to the slaughter." James Madison called freedom of the press "one of the great bulwarks of liberty."

These were heady words from heady men, men who absolutely despised newspapers.

John Adams complained that newspapers were "the organs of faction," devoted to spreading personal slander and inflaming political passions.



Image generated using ChatGPT.

They were talking about published opinion: free expression, the right to argue in print without fear of punishment.

Read the First Amendment closely. The press appears alongside religion, freedom of speech, the right to assemble and the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. These are not institutions. They are acts of expression. Facts are not mentioned. Objectivity is nowhere to be found.

That idea came later. What we think of as modern journalism — professionalized, fact-checked, separated from opinion — didn't emerge until the late nineteenth century, when Adolph Ochs bought *The New York Times*.

Ochs separated editorials from news and rejected fraudulent advertising, a radical move at the time. He summed up his philosophy with a line that would become famous: "All the news that's fit to print."

The irony is that this slogan is itself an exercise in editorial judgment, which is subjective.

This brings us back to the present. Today's fragmented, opinionated media ecosystem doesn't represent a catastrophic break from American tradition. It represents a return to the original model — pamphlets everywhere, factions everywhere, persuasion everywhere — only now operating at digital speed.

Social media is *Common Sense* with an algorithm. AI is a printing press that can't be unplugged.

The danger isn't opinion. The Founders assumed opinion. The danger is scale — amplification without friction, persuasion without accountability and now, automation without judgment.

The First Amendment was built for pamphleteers, not platforms. It assumed bad speech would be answered by more speech, not multiplied endlessly by machines to the point no one can possibly make sense of it all.

So when we worry that the media is broken, it's worth remembering: this isn't collapse; it's reversion, with a powerful new accelerant.

Now the question isn't how to return to a mythical age of objectivity that never truly existed.

It's whether a democracy designed for pamphlets can survive algorithms.



Image generated using ChatGPT.

The attacks could be vicious and often anonymous. One supporter of Thomas Jefferson described John Adams as having a "hideous hermaphroditical character, which has neither the force of a man, nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman."

Not bad, eighteenth-century insult comic, not bad at all, although it would probably sound even meaner in a tweet.

If this all feels familiar, it should. We are once again swimming in partisan argument, anonymous attacks and opinion masquerading as fact, except

Alexander Hamilton accused editors of acting against the interests of government. Thomas Paine dismissed newspapers as "the organs of falsehood; they only print what they want you to believe." And Thomas Jefferson wrote that "nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper," adding that "truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle."

These were fighting words from men who sometimes settled arguments with pistols. When the Founders talked about "the press," they weren't talking about journalism as we understand it today.

Adam L. Penenberg is a journalism professor at New York University and co-founder of *The Persuasion Engine*, an AI communications firm.



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Adding scenic elements like the one shown here was one way DeBessonnet's team enhanced the production of "Ragtime" in the transfer to Broadway.

Lear DeBessonnet, director of 'Ragtime,' finds home and inspiration in Brooklyn

By Ella Spungen and Peter Stamelman

Lear DeBessonnet is the Kewsong Lee Artistic Director of Lincoln Center Theater (LCT), ran Encores! program at New York City Center, and she founded the Public Works program at the Public Theater. Before this illustrious career, she moved to Queens, NY, from Baton Rouge, LA.

"I moved to New York the day after I turned 22," she told the Brooklyn Eagle. In Queens, she had a roommate, "and by that I mean, shared a room. This is an important distinction!" The move to the city was a hard transition.

"At some point during that year, I visited a friend who lived in Brooklyn," DeBessonnet said. "I remember when I got off the train, I just felt this very deep exhale, and I felt like, this is where I want to live. I moved that next year, and I've been in Brooklyn ever since."

DeBessonnet's debut production as artistic director is the Broadway revival of the musical "Ragtime," which opened fall 2025. The show transferred to the Vivian Beaumont Theater, "a space that is genuinely magical," according to DeBessonnet, from a celebrated limited run at New York City Center. The production will run through June after a four-month extension.

"I think 'Ragtime' is touching on a set of beautiful and complicated and hard truths about

America and where we sit in our relationship to the American dream," said DeBessonnet. "We don't often have a space that allows us to feel things about that: to be able to hold the things that we love about this country and also to be able to hold the pain that is part of our history, that is not past us."

The New York Times, which named "Ragtime" a critic's pick, wrote, "The production is ... imbued somehow with a present-tense sense of civic necessity. This is simply what DeBessonnet, Lincoln Center Theater's new artistic director, has done for years, notably with her productions for the Public Theater's Public Works program."

DeBessonnet's production of "Ragtime" at City Center was a staged concert: orchestra on stage, minimal set elements, moments where actors held binders of sheet music. To restage it for a full production on the Beaumont's thrust stage — the audience surrounds the action on three sides — DeBessonnet had to start work before the star-studded cast even got in the room.

"It required a complete reworking and rethinking of how we approached the show and the design and the movement and the staging," said DeBessonnet. "I spent probably eight weeks in the rehearsal room with the taped-out dimensions of the Beaumont, reworking."



Nick Barrington, left, plays a precocious son to Colin Donnell's, right, stodgy Father.

"For me, it was a truly thrilling creative process, because as a director I love to think about my work as being like an orchestrator, a conductor of emotion throughout the course of the evening, and a storyteller holding hands with all of the other elements," she said.

A thrust stage, like the one at the Delacorte

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.



Ben Levi Ross in the role of Mother's Younger Brother in the revival of "Ragtime."



Nichelle Lewis and Joshua Henry's characters dream of a better life for themselves and their son.



LEFT: Brandon Uranowitz as Tateh on the Lower East Side of 1904. • **RIGHT: Joshua Henry**, left, as Coalhouse Walker Jr., **Caissie Levy**, center, and **Brandon Uranowitz** as Tateh, right, each act as informal representations of each of their communities.

Theater on which DeBessonet directed previously, means a director can't assume the entire audience sees the action from the same perspective.

"I moved seats every day during the rehearsal process, but I often watched from the furthest extremes of the sides," said DeBessonet. "I wanted to really be mindful of how every moment looked from every possible seat angle."

"Ragtime," written by Terrance McNally and based on E.L. Doctorow's book of the same name, is a complex story about turn-of-the-century America. It explores the scourge of anti-Black racism, the false

promise of the American Dream and the potential of labor organizing. "Ragtime" is also a New York story, complete with Lower East Side street corners, Harlem bars, the creak of the aboveground A train, commutes in from the suburbs, and a nearly explosive conclusion at the Morgan Library.

"If I hadn't lived here," DeBessonet said of her 23 years in New York, "I don't think I would have even been able to understand some parts of the story that have informed my direction."

For DeBessonet, Brooklyn shares parallels with "Ragtime."

"Brooklyn is just this glorious, explosive symphony of humanity 24 hours a day. Part of why I love it so much is because it is this collection of people coming from all over the world who have made their homes together in Brooklyn," she said.

As a Brooklynite with children, she frequents Prospect Park, Coney Island, the Promenade in Brooklyn Heights and Brooklyn Bridge Park. Most of all, she loves that Brooklyn is a place where, unlike Manhattan, almost everyone who is there lives there. "I love that home feeling," she said.

As for the future of her role at Lincoln Center Theater, DeBessonet is hoping to continue to build a home for all New Yorkers.

"My goal is to build on the legacy of artistic work that transports people to a heightened experience and to do so in a way that creates the widest possible invitation for all New Yorkers and the wider world, because New York is a global city," she said.

Scan QR code to read online and see more photographs.



Shaina Taub ("Suffs") plays the "radical anarchist" Emma Goldman in "Ragtime."



John Clay III plays the leader and educator Booker T. Washington in "Ragtime."

Jennifer Ikeda, Brooklyn-based actor, goes uptown for “Chinese Republicans”

Ikeda plays a Wall Street banker in the recently-opened Roundabout Theatre production

By Ella Spungen and Peter Stamelman | Photos by Joan Marcus

In “Chinese Republicans,” Alex Lin’s recently opened off-Broadway play, Jennifer Ikeda plays Ellen, a managing director at a fictional major bank and the head of an “affinity group” of female Asian employees. She is brisk, acerbic, ambitious and definitely a Manhattanite.

It’s a change for Ikeda, who has made a home in Brooklyn for decades.

When the actor moved to New York in the ‘90s to attend the Julliard School, she started, as many do, in Manhattan. In 2001, she moved to Greenpoint.

“We heard that it was kind of cool. It was like, well, you can get a space for just \$100 more than the Upper West Side, and you’ll have twice as much room,” she laughed. She got a “great railroad apartment” in Greenpoint and never looked back.

Ikeda originally hails from Oakland, CA, and found a calm home away from home in Brooklyn.

“I just really loved there was something, especially when I lived in Clinton Hill, that reminded me a little bit more of Oakland and of the Bay Area,” she said. “The pace of the neighborhoods, the diversity of the neighborhoods, the variety.”

Despite stepping out of the grind of Manhattan, Ikeda still drew inspiration from her New Yorker status to develop the business-savvy Ellen’s character.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.



Ikeda and Jodi Long, right, as Phyllis. Their characters share a tense, sometimes mentoring relationship at the major bank at which they work.



Ikeda’s character, Ellen, organizes an affinity group with her female Asian coworkers, pictured here, which devolves as the play goes on.



Jodi Long, Jennifer Ikeda and July Lee play coworkers at the fictional bank Friedman Wallace.



Ikeda with July Lee, who plays Iris, a Chinese immigrant on an H1B visa — the only member of their affinity group not born in the U.S.



Ellen serves as a mentor — or tries to — for the younger Katie, played by Anna Zevelson, right.

Jennifer Ikeda, Brooklyn-based actor, goes uptown for “Chinese Republicans”

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.

“Our brilliant director [Chay Yew] would be giving me adjustments, and he would say things along the lines of ‘just be one of those people in the subway who’s trying to get around everybody else,’” said Ikeda. “Embrace that sort of New York sharpness and that efficiency. There’s something about the velocity and the speed of the play that is served by that New York mentality of being on Fifth Avenue at 8:30 a.m. and seeing everybody power walking in their suits.”

Ellen undergoes a similar transformation into a fast-walking New York businesswoman in “Chinese Republicans” — as a young soon-to-be banker, she is instructed by a mentor, Phyllis (Jodi Long), to obscure elements of her Asian-American heritage, including her name, Ailin, to get ahead at work.

“Tomorrow, your name is Ellen,” says the blunt Phyllis, who is “the first Chinese woman to be managing director in the city.”

In that scene, Ikeda transforms on stage into young Ailin, a special challenge for Ikeda.

“It’s one of those really fun theatrical tricks: you do not leave the stage, you’re standing in front of an audience, and suddenly you are asked to go from age 48 to age 25. The only thing that happens is a reorientation of my body in the space,” said Ikeda. “Theater is a magic trick that you’re performing in front of audiences, and it’s one of those magic tricks that relies solely on the actor. It’s my favorite kind of challenge.”

As “Chinese Republicans” is a new play, Ikeda was able to have a hand in developing her character in moments like these.

“In rehearsals, we tried to really nail down a lot of the rhythms of [Lin’s] writing, because there is something symphonic about her ear and about the way that she captures the way that people speak,” said Ikeda. This process also meant that they were getting script rewrites right through previews. “When did I go off book? I mean, late in the game, as early as possible,” she laughed.

For Ikeda, living in Brooklyn steeped in hundreds of years of human history shares parallels to what she loves about being an actor.

“I used to belong to a CSA in my neighborhood, where the pickup was at a church that’s one of the oldest churches in Brooklyn. There are gravestones that are in Dutch where the date of death is, like, 16-something,” she said. “You just feel the history. You feel the contributions from all the people who have been here. It’s something that’s similar to acting, just excavating history and character.”

“Chinese Republicans” is open now at Roundabout’s Laura Pels Theater through April 5.



Jennifer Ikeda, who stars in “Chinese Republicans,” a new play now open off-Broadway.

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Columns of opinion and viewpoint

Delivering tax relief for Brooklyn families: What the new tax provisions mean for your refund this year

By Rep. Nicole Malliotakis

Last year, the Executive Branch and supporters in the House delivered the largest tax cut for working Americans, middle-class families and senior citizens here in Brooklyn and across America. Now, with tax season officially underway and families preparing their returns, I want to highlight that because of the provisions we fought for, families can expect larger tax refunds this year.

One of the biggest reasons Brooklyn residents will see these savings is the quadrupling of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction to \$40,000 for families earning under \$500,000 — providing meaningful relief from high local income and property taxes and benefiting nearly 98% of households throughout our entire district.

Senior citizen homeowners may be the biggest winners because not only will they benefit from the increased SALT deduction, but 88% of all seniors will also see the federal taxes they paid on Social Security benefits in 2025 refunded to them because of an additional deduction of \$6,000 that's available for individuals with income up to \$75,000 and \$12,000 for married couples earning up to \$150,000.

For our tipped and overtime workers, we delivered on our commitment to cut taxes on most tips and overtime pay. Tipped workers can deduct up to \$25,000 per year, with the deduction phasing out for higher earners. Those workers who are paid overtime can also deduct a portion of that income, with a maximum annual deduction of \$12,500 or \$25,000 for joint filers. Gov. Hochul and the State Legislature can and should match this on the state level so these workers get double the benefit.

Additionally, we increased the standard deduction to \$15,750 for individuals, \$23,625 for heads of households and \$31,500 for married couples so families can keep more of their hard-earned income. We also expanded the Child Tax Credit to \$2,200 per child for families with annual incomes of up to \$200,000 or \$400,000 if filing jointly. Finally, we expanded 529 education savings accounts to support scholarships and school choice.

In a first of its kind, we created a newborn baby investment account featuring a \$1,000 contribution for every American child born after Jan. 1, 2025. The account is fully in the child's name, and the



Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, NY-11.
Photo: Office of Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis

parent or guardian is the sole custodian until the child turns 18. No contributions are necessary, but families may deposit up to \$5,000 per year to maximize growth. The account has the potential to grow to \$271,000 by age 18 with maximum contributions.

For those who purchased a new American-made

“Taken together, these tax provisions reflect our commitment to affordability, lowering the cost of living and easing the burden on working families, seniors and middle-class households here in Brooklyn and across America.”

vehicle last year, we also made interest on American-made vehicles tax deductible. Individuals may deduct up to a maximum annual deduction of \$10,000 in interest paid on a loan used to purchase a qualified American manufactured vehicle for personal use. The deduction phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income over \$100,000 and up to \$200,000 for joint filers.

Taken together, these tax provisions reflect our commitment to affordability, lowering the cost of living and easing the burden on working families, seniors and middle-class households here in Brooklyn and across America. That's real relief — and it's exactly what our families deserve.

Scan QR code for more on tax relief provisions



Bonnies earn recognition after playoff elimination

By Jim Dolan

Just two weeks ago, to end the regular season on Senior Night, Fontbonne hosted the Notre Dame School and beat the Dragons from Manhattan 54-35 for a 13-3 third place finish. Now in a reseeded CHSAA City Championship quarterfinal, the fifth-seeded Dragons were well prepared to take on the fourth-seeded Bonnies after being beaten by Fontbonne twice during the regular schedule.

Hoping to at least make the finals to meet up with first-seeded Maria Regina again for a shot at the championship, the Bonnies had their hopes dashed in the Notre Dame game by the second quarter when Fontbonne's leading scorer Maryann Polanco drew her third foul and had to be benched.

In a game of back and forth lead changes, the Dragons stuck close to Fontbonne as Polanco returned to the court by the middle of the third quarter. Midway through the fourth quarter, Polanco eventually fouled out along with teammate Sam Spyliopoulos, which handicapped Fontbonne's offense for the rest of the game. With two key Fontbonne players out of the game, Notre Dame squeaked by with a 46-45 quarterfinal win to end the Bonnies' season.

Despite the early exit from the playoffs, three key varsity Bonnies earned postseason awards that led the team to a hard-fought third place Division A finish. First, the team's high scorer, junior Maryann Polanco (272 points) was named to the CHSAA's First Team. Second, senior Lucy Kuhlmann, with 231 points, joined Polanco on the First Team. In addition to being named to the First Team, Kuhlmann also won the division's Sportsmanship Award. Senior Summer Duffy, who scored 206 points, was also recognized and earned a spot on the Division A Third Team.



Fontbonne head coach Mike Sammon poses with his CHSAA Division A postseason award winners. Left to right are First Team junior and leading scorer Maryann Polanco, First Team senior and Sportsmanship Award winner Lucy Kuhlmann and Third Team senior Summer Duffy. Photo courtesy of Maryann Polanco

Maria Regina claims CHSAA City Championship

By Jim Dolan

All year long, the Maria Regina Tigers from Hartsdale in Westchester fought to stay in first place in the CHSAA's Division A, accumulating a regular season record of 15-1.

Throughout the campaign, the Tigers' top competitors were the second-place Cardinal Spellman Pilots from the Bronx, whom the Tigers beat twice. Oddly enough, it was third-place Fontbonne that gave the Tigers their only loss when a short-handed and highly focused Bonnie squad outplayed them on their own

court several weeks ago.

With both Maria Regina and Cardinal Spellman breezing through the playoffs, they finally met for the CHSAA City Championship game on March 1 at St. Joseph's University in Fort Greene. As they were accustomed to all year, the Tigers took a 24-10 first quarter advantage that was led by the game's high scorer Kayla Sutherland (19 points). By the second quarter, the Pilot defense had toughened up and allowed the Tigers to score just four points, maintaining a 28-19 lead

over Spellman.

In the second half, the Tiger offense caught its stride, led by Emma Yonkers-Talz (13 points) as Maria Regina finished off the third quarter with a 46-30 lead. Down by 16 points in the fourth quarter, Spellman's feisty point guard Milena Amador (16 points) caught fire to score 13 points to get her team back into the game. However, her effort fell short as the Tiger offense outpaced the Pilots for the final score of 66-50 for the CHSAA City Championship win.



The Maria Regina Tigers won the CHSAA City Championship Division A title by beating Cardinal Spellman on March 1 at St. Joseph's University.

Photo by Jim Dolan

2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT. KINGS COUNTY. NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO NYCTL 2008-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, PLTF. VS. ROKIAH LEWIS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF LAURA BULLARD, ET AL, DEFTS. INDEX #517186/16. PURSUANT TO ORDER FOR SUBSTITUTION AND NEW JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE ENTERED JANUARY 27, 2026, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION IN ROOM 224 OF THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS ST., BROOKLYN, NY ON APRIL 2, 2026 AT

2:30 P.M. PREMISES K/A 59 SCHAEFER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207 A/K/A BLOCK 3421, LOT 60. JUDGMENT AMOUNTS \$370,461.98 PLUS COSTS AND INTEREST. SOLD SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE AND THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO REDEEM WITHIN 120 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SALE AS PROVIDED BY LAW. ANTHONY W. VAUGHN, JR., REFEREE. THE DELLO-IACONO LAW GROUP, P.C., ATTYS. FOR PLTF., 312 LARKFIELD ROAD, LOWER LEVEL, EAST NORTHPORT, NY 11731. FILE NO. 04-50354(2) - #102697 #237841

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, NYCTL 2019-A TRUST, AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2019-A TRUST, PLAINTIFF, VS. DANINO NADLAN, LLC, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DATED JANUARY 26, 2023 AND DULY ENTERED ON MARCH 7, 2023, AND AN ORDER SUBSTITUTING REFEREE DATED NOVEMBER 26, 2024 AND DULY ENTERED ON JANUARY 17, 2025, I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, COURTROOM 224, 360 ADAMS

STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201 ON APRIL 16, 2026 AT 2:30 P.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 1516 SCHENECTADY AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11203. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 5023 AND LOT 36. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$115,866.69 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX # 522412/2020. SIMON SHAMOUN, ESQ., REFEREE BRONSTER, LLP, 156 WEST 56TH STREET, SUITE 703, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

10019, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF #238645

NOTICE TO ART INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK CITY INC. AND ANY SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO SAME

THE ACTION CAPTIONED BOARD OF MANAGERS OF MEADOWWOOD AT GATEWAY CONDOMINIUM V. HELEN DAVIS, LVNV FUNDING LLC, BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., ART INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK CITY INC., ET AL., COMMENCED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF KINGS COUNTY, INDEX NO. 511382/2025, THE FULL CAPTION OF WHICH IS SET FORTH IN THE SUMMONS PUBLISHED WITH THIS NO-

TICE, IS AN ACTION TO FORECLOSE THE PLAINTIFF'S LIEN FOR UNPAID COMMON CHARGES AGAINST CONDOMINIUM UNIT 3A (À€CEUNITÀ€), 12399 FLATLANDS AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11207, A/K/A BLOCK 4423 LOT 1203 ON THE TAX MAP OF KINGS COUNTY. DEFENDANT HELEN DAVIS IS THE OWNER OF THE UNIT. THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE ACTION IS A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE AUTHORIZING PLAINTIFF TO SELL THE UNIT AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO RECOVER THE UNPAID COMMON CHARGES AND RELATED CHARGES DUE TO PLAINTIFF.

#238408

COMMERCE

2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

11201

JULES DIAZ PETTA PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: JULES DIAZ PETTA PHOTOGRAPHY LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/9/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS THE LLC 101 CLARK ST APT 21F, BROOKLYN, NY, 11201. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238129

11205

KERRY GRINER LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: KERRY GRINER LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/5/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS KERRY GRINER 90 CLERMONT AVE, APT 4 BROOKLYN, NY, 11205. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237852

11207

SYNCWELL LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: SYNCWELL LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/2/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS NAILAH MILLER 526 NEW JERSEY AVE, BROOKLYN, NY, 11207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237168

11216

BACK BURNER PRODUCTIONS, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: BACK BURNER PRODUCTIONS, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/9/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS STEPHANIE ARD 114 JEFFERSON AVENUE, APT 3 BROOKLYN, NY, 11216. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238662

11223

ONYX SECURITY SERVICES LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: ONYX SECURITY SERVICES LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/8/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS OMAR KAHLIL 1640 OCEAN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY, 11223. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238364

11233

NEW AMSTERDAM HOME LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: NEW AMSTERDAM HOME LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 2/5/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS VANESSA VANDERLINDE-BROWN, 806 HALSEY STREET BROOKLYN, NY, 11233. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238533

11249

PLATED BY KELLY LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: PLATED BY KELLY LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/22/2025. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS PLATED BY KELLY 330 BEDFORD AVE, APT 2 BROOKLYN, NY, 11249. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237947

UMBRELLA LEGACY PROPERTIES, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF UMBRELLA LEGACY PROPERTIES, LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE (SSNY) ON 2/2/26. OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 4214 THIRD AVE, BROOKLYN, NY 11232. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY.

#238017

6 PAR LOFTS LLC

6 PAR LOFTS LLC. FILED 2/19/2026. OFFICE: KINGS CO. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL TO: 100A BROADWAY #456, BROOKLYN, NY 11249. PURPOSE: GENERAL.

#238499

NOTABLE TRANSITIONS LLC

NOTABLE TRANSITIONS LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 01/12/2026. OFFICE LOC: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: REGISTERED AGENTS INC., 418 BROADWAY, STE R, ALBANY, NY 12207. REG AGENT: REGISTERED AGENTS INC., 418 BROADWAY, STE R, ALBANY, NY 12207. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238571

12207

BUTLER RESIDENTS LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: BUTLER RESIDENTS LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 12/18/2025. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237646

TASTEBUDS NYC LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: TASTEBUDS NYC LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/9/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237741

BUILD PEACE LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: BUILD PEACE LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 12/12/2025. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#237985

TRADEMARKS STUDIO LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: TRADEMARKS STUDIO LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/2/2026. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238333

MADAM PRESIDENT STUDIOS LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: MADAM PRESIDENT STUDIOS LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 11/20/2025. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238696

33426

STUDIO GRAVITON LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: STUDIO GRAVITON LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 8/29/2025. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS GILL LAW FIRM PA 1500 GATEWAY BLVD, SUITE 220, BOYNTON BEACH, FL, 33426. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#238707



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Jen Hopewell: jdh@eagleurbanmedia.com

Borough Hall hosts Lunar New Year party



By Jaime DeJesus

Brooklyn Borough Hall hosted its annual Lunar New Year celebration Feb. 27.

The evening included performances, food, and a traditional lion dance by TaiShan Du Hu Association of America.

“Lunar New Year is a time to celebrate renewal, family, and community, and that’s exactly what this evening is all about,” said Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso. “I was overjoyed to see so many Brooklynites join our festivities, and I am so thankful to our partners for helping bring this event to life.”

Along with Reynoso, the celebration was held in partnership with UA3, Wonton Food Inc., and the Office of Council Member Susan Zhuang.

“What a way to welcome the year of the

Horse, a symbol of strength, resilience, and forward movement,” said Don Hong, president of UA3. “The event highlights the spirit of unity that defines the community, emphasizing how community members show up for one another, move with purpose, and continue pushing forward together.”

“Brooklyn is home to fast-growing, vibrant Asian communities, and the Asian American Federation is honored to join Borough President Antonio Reynoso, UA3, and all our local partners in celebrating the traditions and cultural heritage that make our neighborhoods so special,” said Catherine Chen, CEO of the Asian American Federation. “This Lunar New Year is the Year of the Fire Horse, which calls on us to be bold and drive forward change.”



Borough President Antonio Reynoso hosted the festivities.



Kids performed at Brooklyn Borough Hall for the annual Lunar New Year celebration. Photos courtesy of the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso



GENERALLY SPEAKING

To reach Ted General via the Internet, his e-mail address is: General@Journalist.com.

BY THEODORE GENERAL

2026 Half Marathon starts in Brooklyn

The 2026 NYC Half Marathon, sponsored by United Airlines, takes place Sunday, March 15, from Washington Avenue near Prospect Park, starting at 7 a.m. It then proceeds over the Manhattan Bridge along the FDR Drive to East 42nd Street through Times Square and turns into Seventh Avenue up to Central Park near E.79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

According to the Road Runners organization, more than 25,000 people took part in the last Half Marathon, which turned out to be the largest in the country. The two-borough course covers 13.1 miles. This event attracted runners from around the world. Fees for this race were \$135 to \$160.

★★★

As a former volunteer community service director for the Bay Ridge Chapter of the AARP, I still informally advise seniors to take advantage of the many benefits of AARP membership. One of those perks, which I frequently used when I owned a car, was the AARP-sponsored defensive driving courses. I took one every three years either in person or online to

continue to refresh my driving skills, and to qualify for the completion certificate that saved me better than 10% on my auto insurance.

Nowadays, you can take the six-hour course on a smart phone, computer, laptop or tablet, and you don't have to do it in one sitting. You can log off and on at your convenience until you finish the course. The current price is \$26.95 plus a \$5 fee to have your completion certificate registered with the New York State Dept. of Motor Vehicles. For more information or to sign up for the course, visit www.AARPdriversafey.org

★★★

My hearty congratulations to Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the former archbishop for the New York Catholic Diocese, for accepting the job as co-chief chaplain along with fellow co-chief Rev. A.R. Bernard, pastor of the Christian Cultural Center. Their swearing-in for the new posts recently took place in the auditorium of NYPD Headquarters in Manhattan. Those on the dais included Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch and NYPD Chief of the Department Michael J. Lipetri.



Commissioner Tisch with Cardinal Dolan and Rev. A.R. Bernard. Photo courtesy of Facebook



Runners crossing the finish line in Central Park. Photo courtesy of Facebook

OUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The U.S. Supreme Court's 6-to-3 decision to grant a stay in the Democratic New York court-fueled effort to dismantle the Brooklyn/Staten Island congressional seat held by Republican-Conservative Nicole Malliotakis was a victory for all those who are fed up with never-ending political partisanship.

The original decision by a Manhattan judge, who was once a senior staffer to Gov. Kathy Hochul, earned a solid rebuke from Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote the stay was necessary given the nature of the Democratic law firm's arguments and the lower court's

reasoning. Alito went on to say there was a high likelihood upon a full hearing that the Supreme Court would find the New York statute unconstitutional. That in turn would have devastating effects to the Democratic Party on a national level.

Suffice it to say that the national Democratic congressional campaign committee never wanted the lawsuit that was contrived by Democratic left-wing Congressman Dan Goldman and the Democratic Washington Elias law firm, well known for looking to make a quick buck.

Of course, once the lawsuit was filed, every imaginable

Democratic elected official and organization in Brooklyn piled on. Today they are licking their wounds. Goldman now faces Brad Lander in the original Brooklyn/lower Manhattan congressional district, with Lander a heavy favorite to retire Goldman.

As a result of the stay, all New York State congressional seats remain unchanged from last year.

Congratulations to Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, who was reelected in 2024 in a landslide, winning both the Brooklyn and Staten Island parts of the district, and is a heavy favorite to win



COMMON SENSE

BY JERRY KASSAR

re-election again.

★★★

It is sad when ordinary New Yorkers need to spend time defending the NYPD from criticism by the city government and often a part of the general population.

The cops break up a fight on the subway, the first thing Mayor Mamdani wants to know is if the police were fol-

lowing protocol. The NYPD uses great restraint when being harassed in Washington Square Park and Mamdani fails to defend the cops, being far more interested in those harassing.

The mayor has countless tried and failed ideas on how the NYPD should function without a thought for the views of the professionals or the general public. He acts as though terrorism does not exist even when it's outside

his door. The end result is a never-ending fight to keep the resources where they are needed in keeping our city safe.

In this mayor's administration the police are no more than a punching bag for his socialistic drivel.

Even though we are stuck with him for the next few years, we have every right and numerous reasons not to become victims of his dumb behavior.

BROOKLYN HOME REPORTER and sister publication BROOKLYN SPECTATOR encourage public discourse from its volunteer columnists. Their views do not represent those of the publication, and the publisher always welcomes opposing viewpoints. Submissions should be sent to editorial@brooklynreporter.com.

For all of the latest local news, visit BrooklynReporter.com!