



## AUTUMN CALENDAR

### Oct. 30 Prospect Park Haunted Walk & Carnival

Zombies, wolfmen, headless horsemen, witches good and bad and other creepy characters will lurk about at the annual scarefest at Lookout Hill and the Nethermead. 12-3 pm, rain or shine. All ages welcome. All free.

### Oct. 31 PLG Halloween Parade

The annual "Safe Halloween Parade" sponsored by the 71st Precinct will start off at 5:00pm, beginning at Rutland Road and Flatbush Avenue. The route snakes through the area and winds up at the station house for a free party for all trick-or-treaters.

### Nov. 2 Election Day

Need we say more? Vote! For most neighborhood residents, the polls are at PS 92, 601 Parkside Avenue

### Nov. 6 LMA Fall General Meeting

Politicians may be in short supply at this season's general community meeting (the election is a few days earlier), but that's no reason for you not to attend. Saturday, Nov. 6th, 10 am-noon, Church of the Evangel, on Bedford Avenue between Hawthorne and Winthrop. Hear about crime trends from the 71st Precinct, nominate yourself or others for open board positions and hear what the board has been up to. Bring your questions and comments. Have some good coffee, too.

### Nov. 6 StoryCorps Seeks PLG Voices

StoryCorps, the non-profit collector of oral histories from average Americans that are archived in the Library of Congress, wants PLG residents to record short stories about their lives here. The taping sessions will be at Church of the Evangel, 3-6pm. For more information visit [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org) or call 718-488-1110.

### Nov. 20 2010 LMA Membership Deadline

If you want to get a holiday wreath, this is the last day to join or renew membership in the Lefferts Manor Association. Annual dues are \$20 per household or \$10 per senior citizen household. Join in person at the fall meeting or use the application form on page 4 of the Echo.

### Dec. 4 Neighborhood Wreath Distribution

Current LMA members will receive their holiday wreaths. Volunteers are needed to help distribute them. Sign up at the fall meeting or call Mary Miller at 718-693-5109.

## THE GRATITUDE OF A MAPLE STREET SCHOOL GRANDMA

by Marcia Lloyd

It was 1975, and it seemed as if every woman in PLG of childbearing age was pregnant. It was a running joke that the condition was catching. So, in September 1977, Susan Bolitzer, with two small children, Ben, 4, and Sarah, 2, hired a teacher, Penny Ewell, and started a nursery school in her home at 28 Midwood Street.

In 1978, Susan decided to return to work and disband the school, which my daughter, Alexis, attended. Fortunately, my husband, Tony, knew a couple on Lincoln Road who agreed to rent their garden apartment to the school. In August, the school relocated there, with Carmel Rosa, a Montessori teacher, in charge. At the same time, it became a cooperative with parents responsible for everything from making policy decisions to cleaning the apartment. There were so many children that the youngest group met in a parent's home a few blocks away.

In 1980, the toddler group and the preschool relocated to a Catholic school building on Maple Street. That's where the school acquired its name. Today, conveniently located on Lincoln Road beside the Prospect Park subway station entrance, the Maple Street School occupies 2,000 square feet on two levels and serves 51 students. (It is at full capacity.)

On a recent tour, this reporter noted a block corner, a library/listening area, sand and water tables, a light table to build structures using see-through tiles, and a greenhouse from which the children can observe approaching trains. Children and teachers continually create new areas.

Wendy Cole, holding a Master's in Social Work and a second Master's in Early Childhood Leadership, became the school's director in 2001 after teaching there for a year and a half. The Maple Street School follows the Bank Street model of child development: Children interact with the world around them and learn through play. "At Maple Street, that model is fueled and sustained through parental involvement," says Wendy. "In that way, we can both enrich the school and try to keep it affordable."

The school also takes advantage of neighborhood resources – even the shuttle train, the car wash, and the laundromat. An outside teacher comes in every week to lead music and storytelling.

The school consists of an extremely diverse (continued on page 4)

## Principal at PLG's First Charter School Seeks Nothing Less Than Excellence

by MILFORD PREWITT

Besides having a name reminiscent of ancient Roman nobility, Marc Magnus-Sharpe has a professional goal that is even nobler.

In his words: "Our goal is to become a good-to-great elementary school; give these students the skills that will allow them to apply to any specialized school in the city and get accepted; and then, make it to the college of their choice."

The "our" in Marc's declaration is his small team of energetic administrators and teachers. The place is Lefferts Gardens Charter School, on the fourth floor of P.S. 92 on Parkside Ave. As for himself, Marc is the principal of the charter school, an engaging, deferential, 26-year veteran teacher and administrator, who picks his words carefully as he outlines the goals of the school while dismantling the misperceptions, innuendos and distortions that come with starting a new school.

He gave the Echo a tour of the first charter school to debut in Prospect Lefferts Gardens (or as the School Board prefers to think of the neighborhood, School District 17) while setting the record straight on a number of issues that dogged the school's founding.

Among those were the allegation that affluent, white families would have a leg-up on the lottery system through which students are selected for charter schools, a controversial admissions practice used nationwide. *New York* magazine described charter school lotteries as "humiliating and primitive" in its review of the new documentary, *Waiting On Superman*, which examines the crisis in public education.

Marc insists that the lottery, at least as it was applied at LGCS, was fair and free of manipulation.

"Applications were sent to all district families of school-age children eligible to enroll," he says. "We received over 600 applications going into the lottery. You know, we have children related to people who helped start this school who didn't get in. We have children of doctors, plumbers, newspaper people whose kids didn't get in. It was purely random. It's totally transparent."

The result of that randomness is a 153-charter school student body. Of that, 80 percent are black; 7 percent are Hispanic; 6 percent are white and the balance are Asian, multi-racial or students whose parents refused to race identify.

Currently hosting just kindergarten and a first grade,

Marc says the school is chartered to go K-thru-5th grade – and ultimately to the eighth grade if the school's performance hits certain state standards.

Each class has two teachers, both certified, with master's degrees and one of them with a Masters in Special Education. They were hired from a pool of more than 400 applicants, and the selected teachers backgrounds and skill sets were further evaluated by an additional team. The teachers were substantially involved in determining the classroom pairings, he notes.



Central staff of the PLG Charter School are, left to right, Administrative Assistant Cecile Kidd, Principal Marc Magnus-Sharpe, Director of Finance Mark Dicus, and Director of Operations Karen Palmer (seated).

photo: Milford Prewitt

What makes the charter school unique is its driving emphasis on science instruction that Marc predicts will give the students a marked competitive advantage as they move through the system.

"Every week, 30 weeks out of the school year, all our children go on a field trip to the Prospect Park Zoo, the Botanic Garden, the Audubon Center or the Lefferts House," he says. "Every one of our children gets an in-depth science curriculum that will make them very strong in science, and strong in reading, writing and English as well. That will get them access to the selective high schools and the best colleges in the country."

That will also, Marc hopes, achieve another goal the school is committed to. (continued on page 3)

### StoryCorps to Archive Neighborhood's Voices

## PLG Artist Otto Neals Debuts "National Day of Listening"

by Deborah Mutnick

Internationally recognized neighborhood artist Otto Neals was the first Prospect Lefferts Gardens resident to tell his story about life here for StoryCorps' "National Day of Listening." Mr. Neals recorded his story

as part of the NDOL in September, even though the official date is Nov. 26th, the day after Thanksgiving. And on Nov. 6, local residents will have a chance to record their stories about living here when the Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association coordinates oral history recordings for the project at Church of the Evangel on Bedford Avenue between



PLG artist Otto Neals also contributed a panel to the sidewalk mural on Lincoln Road.

Hawthorne and Winthrop, from 3pm to 6pm.

Normally a day people begin their holiday buying binge, the day after Thanksgiving was selected by StoryCorps three years ago as an alternative holiday. Since 2003,

StoryCorps has recorded 30,000 oral histories from average Americans and archived them at the Library of Congress. Visit [www.storycorps.org](http://www.storycorps.org) or tune into National Public Radio to hear some.

In his interview with a neighbor, Neals lamented vanishing art spaces in the neighborhood – including the now-demolished build-

ing next to the Lincoln Road subway station that for ten years housed the Association of Caribbean American Artists Gallery.

One of Neals' sculptures is housed at the renowned Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem; another – "Peter and Willie," a bronze work based on stories by Jack Ezra Keats – can be seen at the Imagination Playground in Prospect Park.

Currently, Neals helps run the Dorsey Art Gallery at 553 Rogers Avenue – at 40 years old, the longest-running, black-owned art gallery in New York City – continuing the legacy of the gallery's founder, Lawrence P. Dorsey, who died in 2007.

Deborah Mutnick is a writer and documentarian who has lived on Midwood 2 for 13 years. She teaches English at Long Island University.

A customer checks out a leather belt with a silver buckle at Tafari Tribe. Below, the store's co-owner Steadman Young. photos: Stan Myers



Zenobia Marion and Blane Charles hosted a party for some of Boutique Flea's neighborhood designers. Standing behind them, left to right, are Lesley Williams, Pia Raymond and Felicia Beyond. photo: Kamau Ware

## "A Madison Ave. Shopping Experience in PLG" The Boutique Flea

by Milford Prewitt

Rutland Road is hardly Madison Avenue, and the Boutique Flea is no Laura Ashley or Ralph Lauren. But don't tell that to Zenobia Marion, the owner of the classy new shop, or her assistant, Blane Charles, who are bringing a Madison Ave.-style shopping atmosphere to the cozy and relaxing boutique on Rutland Road near Flatbush Avenue.

On a retail footprint smaller than the typical Lefferts Manor living room, Boutique Flea manages to pack in a broad inventory of contemporary and classic apparel, wall art, home furnishings and clothing accessories without sacrificing its warm and welcoming ambience.

Boutique Flea aims to be a showcase for the creations of the neighborhood's many talented but largely unrecognized apparel and accessory designers. Among the designers is Felicia Beyond, the "feather lady," who has fashioned a unique and singular design reputation in using brilliantly colored, almost luminescent, feathers to craft scarves, hats and other accessories.

Boutique Flea's clothing inventory is selected and purchased by Zenobia from a unique group of designers, fashion houses, and showrooms. The shop also accepts a small percentage of gently worn and seasonally appropriate clothing into its inventory on consignment from supportive neighbors.

Open since May, Boutique Flea has been a driving dream of Zenobia's for years. A single mom and entrepreneur who also operates a bread and breakfast out of her Rutland 1 home, Zenobia says she had been eyeing the location for a retail clothing venture since she moved into the neighborhood in 1993. At the time, the spot was a private social club of sorts, later a computer repair shop, then a string of fly-by-night stores. Meanwhile, Zenobia used her English basement to sell men's and women's classic clothing to a stream of regular customers on the weekends.

"Boutique Flea actually was born in my basement," she says laughing. "Then one day last year the owner of the spot asked me if I was still interested in the location and it was as if the universe had opened up for me," she says. "It was timing, opportunity and patience, and I immediately said, 'Where do I sign?'"

She met Blane not too long afterwards at a party through a mutual friend, the Ditmas Park actress Debra Collins.

Blane, who was born in Brooklyn but lived much of his youth and young adulthood in South Carolina, is a man of boundless creativity and passions. A multi-careerist, he is an interior designer, professional model, personal shopper, and for nine years worked as an evening wear specialist at Barney's.

"It's trite to say that our business relationship developed into a real friendship, but it has and it is really about my love for her and love of what we have going here," he says. "She's given 100 percent of the fruits of her effort to this community and I have to say, it's like giving the community a Madison Avenue experience."

## Eclectic Art and Internationally Diverse Clothing

# Tafari Tribe Globe Trade

by Jackie Myers

It markets itself as a retail store that merchandises art, clothing, home furnishings, jewelry, musical instruments, fabrics,

fragrances, and more. But for all intents and purposes, it's best to see Tafari Tribe Globe Trade as an art gallery that also sells a lush international and ethnically diverse inventory of clothing from Africa, Asia and even the South Pacific. Shopping there is as much a multicultural and educational enrichment experience as it is enjoyable and relaxing.

Open in early August on Flatbush mid-block between Midwood St. and Rutland Rd., the display windows at Tafari (a kind of slang for "Rastafari") expose a riot of brilliant colors in the clothing racks, wall paintings and other parts of the store, so much so that pedestrians have been known to stop in their tracks in awe.

To try to detail the inventory of this innovative and eclectic emporium would take up a full page in the Echo. But I'm obligated to tempt you with a sampling.

There are large-scale ethnic paintings, Buddha scrolls, masks (some from the Maori people of New Zealand), sculpture, thumb pianos, pillows, textiles and canopies for beds. The clothing and jewelry are fabulous. In the back of the store there is a wall of fragrances and incense and a lovely private space with a fountain.

Tafari Tribe also does a large wholesale business and imports arts and apparel from places worldwide including Africa, Thailand, India, China and Morocco. This fall the emphasis will be on new high-end global household items.



Sandra Marshall, owner of Tafari Tribe Globe Trade, relaxing in her colorful store.



Sandra Marshall Haye is the driving force behind this stunning new store. Born in Jamaica, she spent her teens to young adult years in Lefferts Gardens, so you might say she has done a full circle and come home.

Sandra worked for J.P. Morgan for 30 years, and started her international retail business at major street fairs and shows on weekends. She has a keen eye for design and travels worldwide to buy art, textiles and clothing, often having things made to her specifications.

My favorite dresses are designed by Sandra, in the European style and made from African fabric. I bought a wonderful pair of harem pants and while we were there a woman bought a stunning woven leather belt with a silver buckle made in Morocco.

Sandra's business associates are Steadman Young, her husband Michael Haye, and their daughter, Saidah.

Steadman has been our neighbor for 20 years. He found the location and is often the person to greet you upon entering the store. Michael skillfully implemented Sandra's vision for the interior space and did the upholstery on the showroom furniture.

Obviously you will have to stop by yourself to get an idea of the scope of the items they carry and I can promise that you will receive a warm welcome and be made to feel at home.

Jackie Myers is a jewelry designer who has lived with her husband, Stan, on Rutland 1 for the past three years.

## An interview with Enkunish Hailu, owner of the boutique

# Smile: For Every Sistah In You

Interview by Renee Michael-Prewitt

Since childhood, Enkunish Hailu has had an obsession with fashion, clothing and clothing design. About four years ago, following a 28-year-career as a cardio-pulmonary therapist, she opened her boutique, "Smile: For Every Sistah In You," on the corner of Flatbush and Midwood. Since then, the long-time PLG neighbor and community-minded merchant has been blessed with strong patronage from our diverse community. But what she didn't expect and has come to enjoy even more is that Smile has evolved into a low-pressure, visitor-friendly enclave where many neighbors just stop by to chat with a woman whose infectious smile is the origin of the store's name.

### The Echo: How did you come to name your store Smile?

Enkunish: I was going to name the store Enku. I had registered the name of the business under Enku Royal Attire. But one day I was talking to my sister on the phone about opening up the boutique and she said to me, "With that big, sweet smile of yours, you could sell the Brooklyn Bridge." And I said, You know something, you are the second person today that's said something about my smile. I'm going to change the name of my store to Smile.

Your success seems to have helped encourage others to open businesses in the area, including Zenobia Marion's vintage clothing and furnishings store and Tafari Tribe arts and apparel store.

Well, I welcome them. I need that and I think we need each other. The way I see it, I was doing this by myself and now I have help. We can be helpful to each other. We are all selling similar yet different things

and we are all bringing beautiful things to the neighborhood that people want. The skirt I'm wearing right now came from Tafari Tribe. So you see we help each other.

Why did you open your store in Prospect Lefferts to begin with?

I wanted something that was close to where I live and close to the people who I love the most, my neighbors.

So your customer is...?

The whole neighborhood: male, female, black, white, Asian, Hispanic, young and old. The men come in shopping for their girlfriends or their wives.



Enkunish Hailu (right) and Malaku Santiago, her 13-year-old general manager. Malaku attends the 9th grade at Kamit Preparatory Institute in Brooklyn.

### How'd you go from respiratory therapist to fashion retailing?

Fashion is really my passion. I've always liked it a lot. As a child I was creative. I would make dolls and doll clothes. I enjoyed creating beautiful clothing, and doing things a little bit differently. Changing it up. And as I got older I would sew clothing for myself and I would create things for others part-time. I always had in my mind to open up a little boutique some day.

Renee Michael-Prewitt is a staff editor on the New York Times Magazine and lives with her husband on Midwood 1.

{ ECHOPINIONS }

For our back-to-school issue, roving reporter Marcia Lloyd asked PLG parents:

**Where do you send your children to school and why?**

We hope that the responses increase awareness of the variety of choices available to parents in the neighborhood. Most of the interviews were conducted at the Rutland 2 block party in August.

Photos by Marcia Lloyd



**Howard Gibbons  
Renata Gomes  
Thomas, 8 and Sophia, 5  
Maple 2**

“ We send both children to P.S. 10 in Windsor Terrace. When we looked at schools for Thomas, this school impressed us as being both educationally sound and very warm and welcoming. The students seemed very happy, and when Sophia’s turn came, we wanted both siblings in the same school.”



**Louise Coleman  
Jason, 13  
Robert Coleman  
Rutland 2**

“ We weren’t going to send Jason to the local public schools because they weren’t any good, so we decided on St. Francis, a Catholic school on Lincoln and Ocean. They have a traditional curriculum, small classes, and the principal knows every child by name. In addition, it’s Robert’s alma mater.”



**Gong Re  
Mica, 4  
Edgar Friedman  
Maple 2**



**Ronald Malik Brinkley, Jr., 10  
Ronald Brinkley  
Rutland 2**

“ Ronald attends one of the better schools in Brooklyn, P.S. 91 on Albany and East New York Avenues, out of district. They require school uniforms and have a dress code. The teachers are great; they work one-on-one with the children and take them on a lot of trips, for example, to see plays and visit museums.”



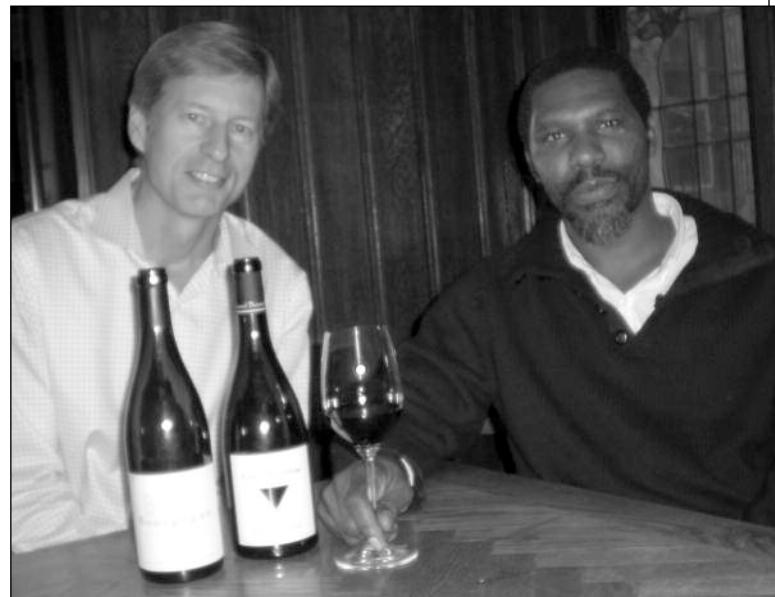
**Max, 8 and Cedar, 2  
Alyssa Schwartz  
Andrew Drury  
Lefferts 3**



“ We send Max to P.S. 146, the Brooklyn New School, because the entire curriculum addresses social justice and because it is an unusually supportive community that crosses racial and class lines more than any other school we have seen. (Max adds, “Brooklyn New School is awesome!”). For Cedar, we chose The Maple Street School because it is very loving, fun, play-oriented, and stress free. It has a good vibe.”

**PLG Wine Summit: Mike Campbell and Kurt Eckert Describe the Glories of the Grape**

A recession is a sword that cuts both ways. For most, it can be a career and dream killer. For others, a recession can be a career and dream reviver. Mike Campbell and Kurt Eckert, the neighborhood’s presiding wine experts, represent the latter: wine entrepreneurs who are investing in themselves and their futures in the expectation that when this mess ends, they will be in command of their own fates with prosperous enterprises. Campbell is the owner of 65 Fen, the wine store on Fenimore and Flatbush. Although he runs a law firm’s library, Campbell is eyeing the day when his retail wine store frees him to pursue his passion even more fervently. Eckert, after more than 20 years experience in the foodservice and hospitality business as waiter, sommelier, wine consultant and vendor, has launched from his home Marathon Selections, a boutique wine distributorship and wine consultancy for restaurants, collectors and others.



Kurt Eckert (left) runs Marathon Selections from his home on Midwood 1. Mike Campbell is the owner of the 65 Fen wine store.

photo: Milford Prewitt

**The Echo: How did you come to develop this passion, expertise and love of wine?**

**Mike:** When I was in my early 20s, I went on a date, and though I had been drinking long before then, the sommelier served us a bottle of Lambrusco and I had never tasted anything like that. It just changed my world.

**Wait a minute! When I was a kid, Lambrusco was a cheap, bubbly, low-class, too-sweet kind of wine we considered Italian champagne.**

**Mike:** Lambrusco makes an everyday table wine that will blow your mind out and that is what I had. But back to your original question, later I met a master sommelier who told me if you want to learn about wine, taste, taste and taste some more. So I’ve been tasting for 15 years.

**What about you Kurt, how’d you come to develop this expertise?**

**Kurt:** I guess I was in my early 20s when I started to appreciate wine, but it was the bottles and the labels that got me. I’d look at a label and was intrigued by where it came from and wondered how did it get here? What did the land look like? Who grew the grapes and bottled it? Later, I became a good observer of other people enjoying wine and it went from there.

**Kurt why is wine so expensive in a restaurant? Why is the wine list so thick? Why do I feel so intimidated and uncertain when ordering a bottle of wine in a restaurant?**

**Kurt:** No one should feel intimidated ordering a bottle of wine. As a former sommelier, I can tell you that they are there to make sure that you have a good time and enjoy your experience, that you come back, that you tell your friends about the place, and that you become a regular. It’s not rocket science. It’s just good customer service.

**Mike:** Plus, with this recession and the blogosphere and websites like Yelp out there, a restaurant that intimidates its customers is a restaurant that’s soon to go under. A good restaurant will always let you taste from the bottle first. And a well-trained staff will give you a good selection.

**When, where and why did humans get the bright idea to pair wine with food?**

**Kurt:** It goes back to ancient times, way before the discovery of the New World. But if there was a birthplace, at least in terms of what we consider modern gastronomy, we have to credit the French. France is where the great traditions of restaurant service and fine dining began and they had the best restaurants in the world for a while.

**About 10 years ago there was a big story about some collector who had dropped and busted a bottle of wine owned originally by Thomas Jefferson. Later, it turned out that it was undrinkable anyway, probably tasting worst than vinegar. So it raises the question, how long can you keep a bottle of wine if you intend to drink it one day?**

**Kurt:** Well keeping in mind that 98 percent of all wines are meant to be drunk immediately, it comes down to what you want from your wine. If you want the bright, rippling sharpness of the fruit, I’d say drink it while it is young. If you want spices, cigar smoke, hidden accents, I’d say drink it after a few years. There’s no magic to it.

**You’re on a spaceship that will never come back to Earth. You can only take one case of your favorite wine with you. What is it going to be?**

**Kurt:** Well, I’d have to take two cases. One of them would be a great Champagayne, a 1971 vintage Krug, for example. The other would be a Pinot Noir, ideally from Burgundy, ideally from a town called Gevrey-Chambertina. I’d also take a case of something white, also from Burgundy, and I’d be quite happy.

**Mike:** I’d take a Châteauneuf du Pape. It’s a Rhone. It has a great balance between the taste of the fruits and the age of the older bottles. I’d also take an Amarone and a Barolo.

**There are so many sayings about wine. What’s one of your favorites?**

**Mike:** I like something Mark Twain said: “Sometimes too much wine is barely enough.”

**Kurt:** All wines will get older, but few will get better.

Interview conducted by Milford Prewitt, Echo Editor

**Gino’s Satisfies PLG’s Pent-Up Hunger for Authentic Italian Cuisine**

by BOB MARVIN

Gino’s Trattoria, which opened in May at 548 Flatbush Avenue, is a very welcome addition to the growing Prospect Lefferts Gardens restaurant scene. Although this restaurant is new, its proprietor, Gino Sela, is no stranger to our neighborhood, having opened a pizzeria at this location over 25 years ago. The original pizzeria has been replaced with a new one, complete with a brick oven, next door to the oratorio.

Gino’s is a family-run establishment that serves food in an inviting dining room with a warm Mediterranean atmosphere and the restaurant has been very well received.

Online reviews proclaim it to be very, very good, exceeding all expectations. One reviewer comments “Gino’s is one of the first high-quality restaurants to open in Prospect Lefferts. To my heart’s delight, their mission is to provide fresh food every day using only the best of ingredients, which is the key component to great food.” Another writes that Gino’s “has a certain genuineness that you can taste!”

Regular dinner selections include such fare as linguine alle vongole, chicken florentine, veal sorrentino and shrimp fra diavolo, complemented by daily specials, such as lobster ravioli and rib-eye steak. Gino’s also has a large selection of \$9.75 weekday lunch specials. The restaurant has an excellent wine and beer selection and a full bar, which has developed a following of its own.



The Sela family, proprietors of Gino’s Trattoria, from left to right: Tony, Gino, Mary and Timmy

photo: Bob Marvin

Gino commented that, in the few months since opening, he has already achieved 75 percent of his expectations, in terms of return. He’ll work hard for the remaining 25 percent which, he says will involve building beyond his neighborhood base and attracting patrons from other neighborhoods, as well as visitor’s to local attractions, like the Botanic Gardens.

In the opinion of this writer, Gino’s quality deserves to attract restaurant goers from all over.

Bob Marvin, who has lived for 36 years on Midwood 2 with his wife, is a member of the LMA Board.

**Charter School Principal**

(continued from page 1)

“In our charter, we are committed that 90 percent of our children will be at or above the state standard,” he states, noting that in many schools the standard is much lower.

He credits his colleague, P.S. 92 Principal Diana Rahman for being “exceptionally supportive of the charter school and the community,” adding that “together we are united in the best outcomes for every child in the building.”

Siobhan O’Neil, a local parent whose son Raphael attends the charter school, says she couldn’t be happier or more upbeat about her son’s attendance or prospects.

“I wanted a public school for my son, but did not love the ratio of teachers to kids at my old school, which was 1-to-20,” she says. “The Lefferts Gardens Charter School offers two teachers per class of 25 students.

“Besides being just a six-minute walk for us, Rafe loves the school so far. My experience has been warm and welcoming.”

Milford Prewitt is the editor of the Echo.



## Carl V. Jameson, Long-Time Resident of Maple Street, Dies

Carl V. Jameson, a community-minded Manor resident whose neighborliness and willingness to help others led to a volunteer stint in post-Katrina Louisiana, died July 21, after back surgery. A native-born Brooklynite, Jameson was 70 years old.

He and his wife, Ella Claudette, lived for 33 years on Maple 1, where they raised five children.

A Triborough Bridge and Tunnels toll-booth retiree who went on to become a customs enforcement officer for the Department of Homeland Security and Border Protection, Jameson was the

epitome of being an "active senior" and loved his job as a customs officer.

Right up to his surgery, Jameson had been an active bicyclist, who was most proud of being the Imperial Director of the Bicycle Unit of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Noble Mystic Shrine.

Jameson enjoyed being a marshal almost every year at the New York City Marathon and participated in the New York State

Police Olympics. For many years, Jameson taught judo to young people in Brooklyn and Queens.

He believed in giving back to the community and those in need. Right after the Hurricane Katrina disaster, he volunteered to serve with FEMA in disaster recovery centers in Louisiana and Alabama. Later, he would tell friends and family that his "eyes had taken pictures that would never be developed because of the content."

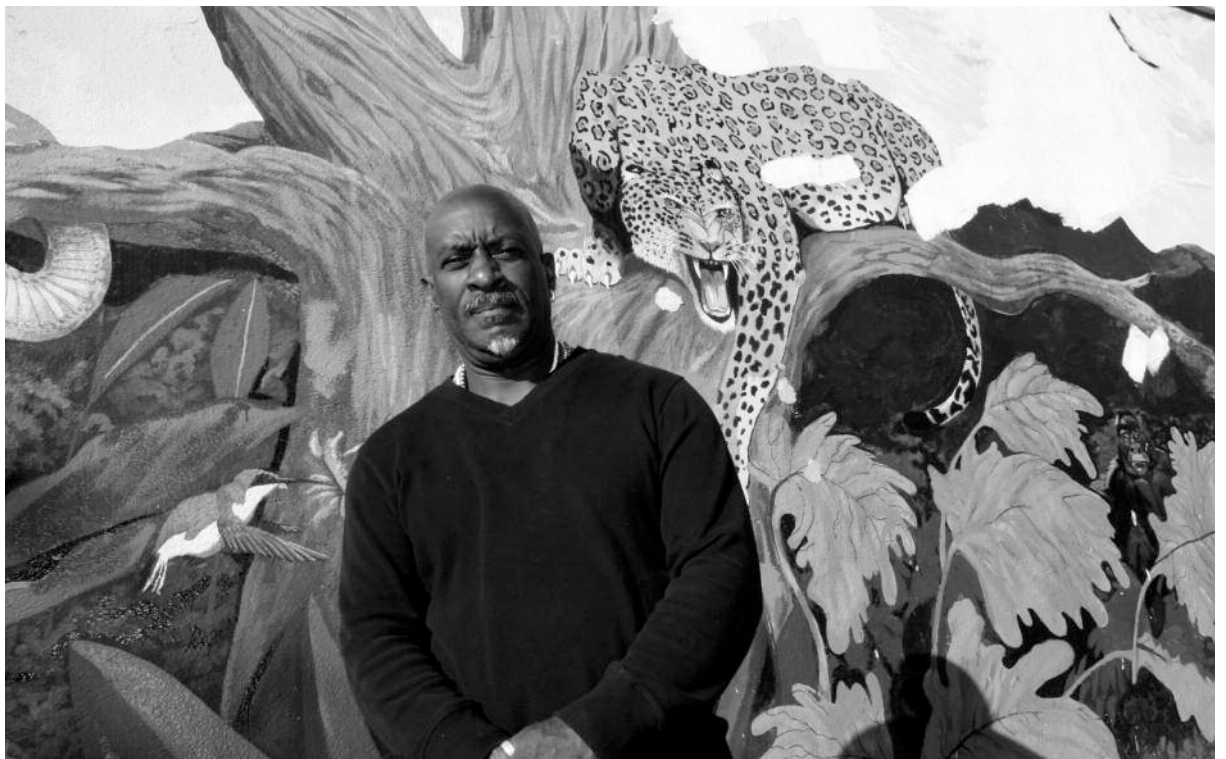
He worshiped at Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for more than 60 years and was a member of its choir and trustee board.

As a community-minded neighbor, Jameson painted the yellow lines on the curbside of his block to help motorists see where they were parking so they could leave room for residents to get in and out of their driveways. He was also a member of the Crown Heights Community Board.

In the 1970s and '80s, Jameson's front stoop was always full of children who came to believe that the Jameson household was a second home since he mentored many of his children's friends.

His wife said he elected to have back surgery to correct an awkward gait he had developed. Later back home recovering, "he woke one morning raring to go," she recalled, "but he said he wasn't feeling too well. Next thing you know, he was gone."

In addition to his wife, five children survive him: Sharron Lavon, Carlette Yvonne, Rashame Clarke, Everton Terrell and Kimberly Jameson-Katz. Also surviving him are his mother, Dorothy Martin; a brother, Ralph; two sisters, Renel and Donna; two grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews; two sons-in-law and a host of friends.



## Original Mural Artist of Prospect Park Subway Stop Seeks Restoration Funds

Quentin "Kwenci" Jones, a mural painter who teaches art throughout the metropolitan area, is seeking \$700 to restore one of his best known works of art, at least as it relates to Prospect Lefferts Gardens. In 1998, he painted the lush and colorful African savanna scene that adorns the Empire Blvd. entrance to the subway platform. Peeling, fraying and fading, the mural has been battered by the elements over the past 12 years. Jones says he intends to restore the mural using special paints that are impervious to weather and which did not exist until recently. In addition to paint, Jones says he will need scaffolding and ladders to complete the project. The Lefferts Manor Association has made a financial contribution and hope you will too.

If you want to help, please send a check to: Crown Heights Youth Collective—Mural Restoration / 113 Rogers Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11216. Or visit [www.muralopolis.org](http://www.muralopolis.org).

photo: Foster Henry

## Grab and Dash Bandits Preying on the "Digitally Distracted"

Robberies in which fleet-footed bandits grabbed digital devices from unwary users, and then outran the victims, were rampant in Prospect Lefferts Gardens in the closing days of the summer, police at the 71st Precinct reported. At least once every three days over a 28-day stretch, nine people told police speedy bandits grabbed their ipods, cell-phones or digital cameras and swooped. All of the cases occurred on Lincoln Rd. between Flatbush and Ocean Aves. Most victims were going to or coming from the subway station.

Community Affairs Officer Vincent Martinos expressed frustration that the neighborhood has not been heeding repeated police warnings to become more mindful of their surroundings when using digital devices in public. Officer Martinos said digital device "grab-and-run" thefts happen as often in the daytime as they do at night. He urged residents to be more conscious about their surroundings and to remove one earplug while using portable devices.

There has not been a single arrest, he noted.

In total, 13 property crimes – including four apartment break-ins in which burglars entered homes through open windows off of fire escapes – were reported in PLG since late August.

### Credit Card Identity Theft Via Computer

Officer Martinos said police were investigating a credit card identity theft in which criminals obtained a Lefferts Manor man's credit card number through his home computer and charged several hundred dollars of merchandise.

## MAPLE ST. SCHOOL GRANDMA

(continued from page 1)

community of family and staff with more than 40 percent of families coming from more than one background. Several of the teachers have been at the school for many years, like Peggy François, who began at 15 as an intern. She is now 26, pursuing her B.A. in Early Childhood Education while continuing to teach at the school.

"Maple Street," says Wendy, "is different from other schools in that it is truly child-centered and helps children bring their interests to life in a variety of ways. It is a magical place that inspires children and their families."

The school hopes to obtain accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the gold standard of accreditation, within the next few years.

Now here comes the next generation of Maple Street School children. Julian Turner, son of former student Kamaria Turner began last year, and Benjamin Lloyd-Stevens, son of Alexis Lloyd, one of the founding children, and my grandson, will start in September.

Marcia Lloyd, a 40-year resident of Maple 2, is a college literature instructor and a photographer currently exhibiting work in two galleries.

## THE LEFFERTS MANOR ASSOCIATION

was founded in 1919 to maintain and improve our historic neighborhood, enforce the restrictive one-family dwelling covenant, and bring together residents for their better acquaintance and mutual benefit.

If you're not a member, please join now.

Dues, Jan.–Dec. 2010: \$20 per household / \$10 per senior citizen household

Please send application and check to:

The Lefferts Manor Association / P.O. Box 250-640, Brooklyn, NY 11225

or put in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Road.

I (we) subscribe to LMA's efforts to improve our neighborhood and continue it as a community of historic, landmarked, single-family homes.

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TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
DUES                      ADD'L CONTRIBUTION                      TOTAL

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 Send application and check to: Lefferts Manor Assoc. P.O. Box 250-640 / Brooklyn, NY 11225  
 or dues/form can be put in the mail slot of the LMA's treasurer at 214 Rutland Road.

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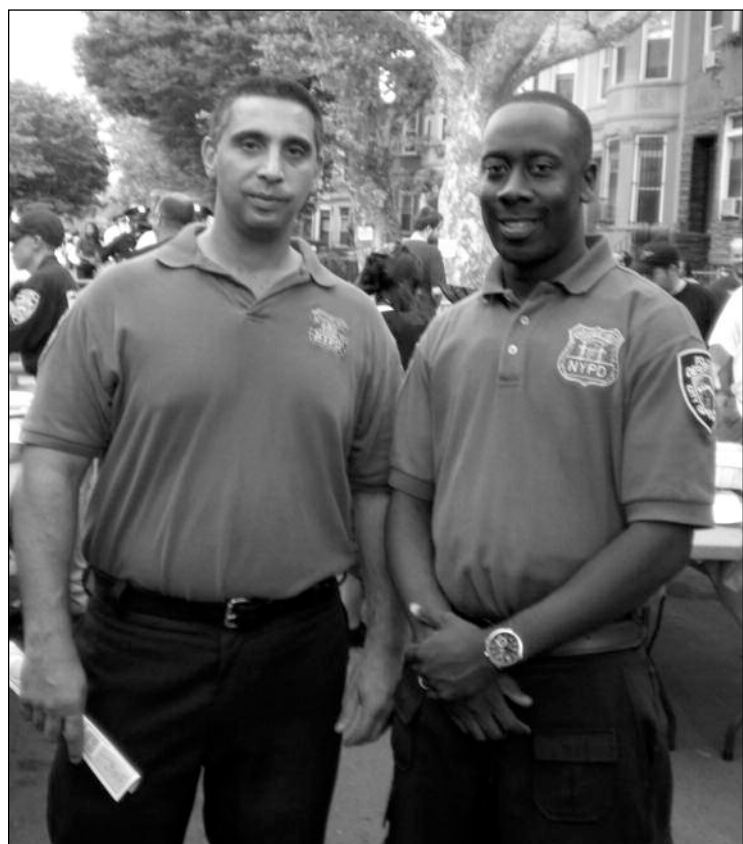
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## Officers Arrive *Not* to Shut the Party Down

Officer Vincent Martinos (left) and his partner, Officer Leo Fergus, both of the Community Affairs Unit of the 71st Precinct, attending the annual National Night Out street party, this year held on Sterling 2. "We hope this block party brings the neighborhood together to see us and show we are part of the community," Officer Martinos said. "I've worked this community for 18 years. I spend more time here than I do in the community where I live."

photo: Milford Prewitt