



Lincoln Road's \$50 Million Mixed-Use, Mid-Rise Project Is Back on Track

by Jeanne Baron

The sprawling 26,000-square-foot, L-shaped lot that shoulders up to the subway station at Lincoln Road will soon be one of the largest mixed-use developments to come to Prospect Lefferts Gardens in years.

It's a \$50 million project that resurrects in part a smaller version of what had been envisioned as a 20-story residential glass tower before being derailed by the financial collapse of the Great Recession in 2008.

In the newest incarnation, the project unfolds as 133 units of residential rentals, two retail spaces and one giant space exclusively available to community organizations such as churches, doctors' offices, schools, non-profits and a daytime social center for seniors.

The builder behind the nine-story complex is Tom Anderson, the founder of Anderson Associates. The company has been preserving and changing the building landscape of Brooklyn for a quarter of a century—not always without controversy.

Anderson's 16-story condominium development on Union Street near Grand Army Plaza faced down a 2001 lawsuit, according to a *New York Times* article from September of that year. Neighbors alleged the luxury hi-rise violated historic preservation standards, and they won their first round in court. Eventually, Anderson won on appeal.

But the architect-turned-developer says he prizes design as much as the bottom line, and his projects have been lauded in the press as much as criticized. He has rehabilitated historically significant buildings in Cobble Hill, Prospect Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant, to name a few, and brought to the Brooklyn market both affordable and luxury housing.

This time around, Anderson's development on Lincoln Road won praise from Community Board 9 member Michael Cetera, himself an architect.

"Most developers come with a box," Cetera says. "They pull a model out of their desk drawer. But in this case, they've been very creative."

Cetera is both impressed and relieved that the project required not a single zoning change. Fitting the project into the existing zoning laws suggests it will bring few overt changes to the neighborhood while providing more than 100 units of low- to moderate-income housing, Cetera explains.

But Cetera expects the project will also beautify the block, one of PLG's most drab looking corridors. "If you

live right there you might notice, it'll be busier."

The plan calls for a mix of studios as well as one- and two-bedroom apartments. Anderson points out that the exterior will be made of thin panels of a composite product that fuses glass fiber with concrete or plastic cement, and adds structural strength to the building.

The development features two levels of parking garage, a gym, laundry room, roof deck, café, two courtyards, and two entrances—one on Lincoln and another at Flatbush and Lefferts Avenues.

"In 35 years on the board, it's the most ambitious project I've seen," Cetera beams. "It could enliven the community and revitalize the dead-end streets in that area."

The longtime Brooklyn designer says he's especially happy about the 6,000 square feet of community space. "We think it's a great space," he says. "It's full of light and faces the tracks. We'd love to see it used for a pre-school or day care."

This project is receiving a much warmer welcome than the previous proposal to build a 20-story glass condominium tower in the same location. That project met with heated criticism from neighbors who complained that it was out of character with the neighborhood's prevailing architectural style. Others supported the project, hoping that it would attract more mainstream retail options and a bank to the neighborhood.

But this project is getting better reviews. A post at Curbed.com spotlights the low rise of the building and the affordable housing it will add to the local market.

Anderson Associates has applied for funding through a city program of the Housing Development Corporation, or HDC. Its New Housing Opportunities Program requires 20 percent of the housing be affordable to low-income families. The rest of units must be affordable to middle-income families, which will result in rents about 10 percent below market value.

"We are several small steps away from the end of the approval process," Anderson explains. "We are 95 percent done but we've been at that point for a couple of months."

The final stages of approval and permitting can be painstakingly slow, but Anderson says they are on track to break ground before the end of 2012 and adds that if all goes as planned, the building will be open to rent by spring 2014.

Jeanne Baron is a real estate agent with the Corcoran Group and lives on Clarkson 2.



An artist's rendering of the Lincoln Road side of the proposed structure.

Echo Analysis BY MILFORD PREWITT

71st Precinct Earns a C+ on Stop-and-Frisk Record in 2011

Compared to their comrades at the vast majority of the city's police stations, the officers at the 71st Precinct were exemplary models of civility and restraint in 2011 in using force in a "stop-and-frisk."

According to a study by the New York Civil Liberties Union, officers from the 71st used force 581 times out of more than 6,000 stop-and-frisks in 2011, ranking it the 62nd lowest on a list of 76 (the number of police precincts in the city) to use force.

By contrast, the 44th Pct.—which covers a densely populated working-class community in the western Bronx that includes Yankee Stadium, the borough's courthouses, government center and a large expanse of the Grand Concourse—used force 8,413 times during a stop-and-frisk last year, putting it first among all police precincts.

But the 71st's enviable rank on restraint of force is mitigated in an otherwise mediocre report card in which the precinct, like the vast majority of the New York City Police Department, is seen as quick to use race and youth as a pretext for conducting a stop-and-frisk.

As a percentage of total precinct stops in 2011, the 71st came in at 11th place, using race in 9 out of 10 stop-and-frisks—about equal to the NYPD as a whole.

NYCLU reported that what is most worrisome about the study is that the Department is stopping "innocent teenagers and young men of color who, in the moments before their encounter with the police, were engaged in no criminal or suspicious activity."

The 71st Pct.'s patrol area is broadly considered Central Brooklyn, including all of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Wingate and much of Crown Heights. About 117,000 people reside under the 71st Pct.'s umbrella—including about 40,000 PLGers, 78 percent of whom are black, the 2010 Census reported. (continued on page 4)

Superstorm Sandy Gives Many PLGers a Deeper Appreciation of Thanksgiving Day

Story and photos by MILFORD PREWITT

Thanksgiving Day 2012 came with an extra serving of thanks in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

As the rampage of Superstorm Sandy—the worst natural disaster to hit the Northeast in 40 years—tragically devastated neighborhoods near and far, memories of waking up Tuesday morning, October 30, were accompanied for many with a deeper appreciation of the words *lucky* and *gratitude*.

For the night before, the fury of Sandy was laying waste to many New York neighborhoods as if they were the targets of war.

In truth, PLG was more inconvenienced by Sandy and its aftermath than hurt by it: lights flickered on and off at its height; the vital Q, B and 4 subway lines were out for nearly a week; there was the mixed blessing of missing school and work; long lines persisted at the BP gasoline station for days; Prospect Park, the neighborhood's backyard, was closed; and all that training for the NYC Marathon went to waste with the event's cancellation.

But those inconveniences fade into nothing when compared to the calamitous, heartrending losses of others.

News reports say Sandy killed 121 people in the United States (199 counting the Caribbean), 68 of them from New York State, including 30 in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. About a third of the city

Our Neighborhood Escaped The Worst of Destruction



ABOVE: There were long lines to fill gas cans at the BP station at Flatbush and Lincoln.
LEFT: An SUV on Lincoln 1 took a direct hit from an enormous limb, crushing the rear.

residents who died were elderly citizens who drowned in their homes.

The state sustained about \$50 billion (and counting) in property damage, but nowhere were the losses as cruel to homeowners as they were in Breezy Point, Queens—just six miles from here

—where more than 100 homes were incinerated to ashes in a fire driven by Sandy's 60-mile-per-hour winds. But death and devastation also consumed the Rockaways, Red Hook, and many other coastal communities of Queens, Staten Island and Long Island.

City officials have red-flagged 800-900 homes as currently unlivable, with as many as 250 deemed beyond repair and slated to be razed.

PLG's property damage was a trifle by comparison. A few beloved old trees on Rutland, Clarkson and Lincoln will be sorely missed. In Prospect Park, authorities say some 300 trees were damaged badly enough to necessitate their removal, and more than 1,000 large limbs fell.

In a fateful twist, it was largely family members and friends of PLGers who lived in the storm path who suffered more.

Gino and Mary Sela, the affable owners of Gino's Trattoria on Flatbush, have been living with one of their sons ever (continued on page 2)

Rutland Road's Retired Aerial Photographer, Ray Raman

by JACKIE MYERS

Before there was Google Earth, there was Ray Raman.

Right above a sofa in his brownstone's Rutland Road living room is the proof: a near poster-sized, framed, black-and-white photo he shot of Prospect Lefferts Gardens from an airplane many decades ago at the beginning of his long and successful career as an independent photographer. It is an amazing image given the technological photographic limitations at the time.

This image, in many ways, symbolizes Raman's distinguished career as a versatile photographer who excelled in shooting industrial, commercial, fashion and aerial images. He photo-documented various New York neighborhoods; worked for such well-known companies as American Express, Eveready and Lane Bryant; and shot scores of celebrities, movie stars and three presidents (one of them Korea's).

Now 83, the primarily self-taught photographer, aviation enthusiast, pilot, accomplished organ player and Brooklynite regrets that he never finished college. To this day, he speaks to kids and tells them "If you can manage it, go to college right after high school and stay there."

A robust, lean and handsome man who looks far younger than his years, Raman played bit parts in six movies including the 1998 Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington hit, *The Siege*.

After his mother and father died in close succession while he was a very young child, Raman ended up being reared by his maternal grandmother and an aunt in Cedar Manor, Long Island. When he was 10, they moved to Brooklyn where he ultimately went to Boys High School in Bed-Stuy. There he became a standout gymnast, sang in the choir and learned to play the organ skillfully, with an artistry he performs to the delight of family, friends and neighbors to this day.

What brings him much pride is being honored with an Alumni Association Award from Boys High School, where as a teen he discovered photography and found his passion for aviation. He is also proud of winning the Cradle of Aviation Museum Award along with many other professional honors.

After graduation, Ray attended Brooklyn College for two years, joined the National Guard and served four years in the Air Force, part of it during the Korean War.

At the beginning of his service, he landed a position as a photographer at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and flew in and fell in love with the XC99, a behemoth of a troop and cargo plane that

was once the largest in the world until the Russians built a larger one. Years later, he would become a tireless advocate for the ship's preservation.

In Korea, he saw first-hand how war impoverishes civilian populations and can leave people starving. It's a memory he never forgot. Rising to the equivalent rank of sergeant and assigned to be a photographer in Korea, Raman also rallied his comrades to assist him in helping starving Koreans who were displaced by the war and living in caves for shelter.

After the war, he moved back to Brooklyn and lived once again with his aunt and grandmother. On weekends they used to walk around various Brooklyn neighborhoods dreaming about owning a house. On one outing they found Prospect Lefferts Gardens and in 1957 he bought the house on Rutland 1 on the GI bill for \$14,500.

He married Doris, his bride of 46 years. She was a schoolteacher and they raised two sons in the house. Michael is a retired police officer and Kevin works for CBS as a videographer and editor.

Doris died in 2006 and her service was held at Church of the Evangel where Ray sings in the choir and is a deacon. At present, Kevin and his wife, Christine, are living with him.

Looking back on the old neighborhood, Raman recalls that when he moved here, PLG was a solidly white middle class neighborhood, but he never experienced any problems.

Although there have been some economic and social frictions to seep into the neighborhood over the years, Raman says he never planned on moving away because he loves his home and the neighbors too much.

"Besides," he chuckles, "I couldn't afford to move."

Jackie Myers and her husband, Stan, live on the opposite side of the same block as Raman, but had never met him until this assignment. All three say they made new friends.



PLG Author Emma Straub Earns Critical Praise for First Novel

by JOAN KELLEY

Emma Straub has had a busy year: in September, Riverhead Books published her first novel, *Laura Lamont's Life In Pictures*, after releasing her first collection of short stories, *Other People We Married* at the beginning of the year. *Laura Lamont* is the captivating (and highly praised) story of a Hollywood movie star's rise, fall and redemption that spans

the 20th century. Emma and her husband, Michael Fusco, a graphic designer, also run the design company, M+E/Michael Fusco Design (mplusedesign.com), whose recent projects include designs for the restaurant Smith Canteen in Carroll Gardens and the rock band The Magnetic Fields' album "Love at the Bottom of the Sea."

Michael and Emma spent the early part of the year traveling with the band, handling their tour merchandising.

Emma has recently been crisscrossing the country on tour to promote *Laura Lamont*. I caught up with her (electronically) at the Wisconsin Book Festival:

How did you and Michael come to live in the neighborhood?

Michael and I had moved from Brooklyn to Wisconsin, where I went to grad school, and were looking to buy a house when we moved back in 2009. It turns out that it's really hard to buy a house long-distance—we started looking in Carroll Gardens, where we'd lived before, but we were totally priced out. It was then that we found some PLG houses on the internet, and were blown away. We looked at two houses on our block and knew immediately that we've found the right place.

What does the neighborhood mean to you?

I love my block enormously—I grew up on a very similar-looking block on the Upper West Side, and never knew more than a handful of neighbors. After living on the block for three years, I feel like I know everybody. And their spouses and parents and children and dogs and houses! It is the most welcoming place I've ever lived, hands down. Talk about warm and fuzzy.

What have you missed about home since you've been touring for *Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures*?

I've been on the road for most of the last two months, and so I miss my house and cats hugely. I miss my book club! I miss the doubles from De Hot Pot. I miss walking around the park. I'm home for good just before Thanksgiving, and I'm really looking forward to hibernating for the rest of the winter. And, of course, most importantly, finishing my next novel. Winter is excellent for that.

For more about Emma, go to her website, www.emmastraub.net, where you'll also find links to her wacky and wonderful Tumblr and Twitter feeds.

Joan Kelley and her husband, Dennis Kelley (webmaster of the LMA website), have lived in the neighborhood for nine years.

Superstorm Sandy in PLG

(continued from page 1)

since they escaped with their lives from their beachfront Babylon, Long Island home. They and a neighbor were in thigh-high water actually pushing against the garage door attached to their house, trying to keep out ever-strengthening waves of a rising tide when Sandy won the contest, and punched out the door.

Even though FEMA visited the Selas at their home two days later, where they saw the Selas' neighbors' backyard decks strewn over the property, the couple is worried that it may be several months before life returns to normal.

"I thought I was going to die that night," Mary says with a shudder, recalling the event.

NYU graduate student and content editor Chris Buonincontri, who moved to a Flatbush Avenue apartment back in the spring, attempted to walk to his parents' Howard Beach home the night Sandy made landfall. His mother had made a frantic phone call to tell him that water was pouring in through the front door. His father is a firefighter and was a first responder the night of the storm.

Buonincontri says he grabbed a flask and was planning to hike across Brooklyn to help his mother. He had

only walked five blocks when the winds forced him to consider another way. He was able to catch a locally-based cab and took it all the way to Queens. When they got to his old neighborhood, rising waters and a police cordon would not let the cab proceed.

Undaunted, Buonincontri says he walked another 10 blocks. By the time he made it to his parents' home, the water was chest high.

"It was the scariest [expletive deleted] Halloween I can remember," he declares. "My parents lost everything. But at least they are safe."

Closer to home, in one of those freak-of-nature acts that only high winds can cause, the adjoining backyards of five Lincoln 2 homes sustained extensive damage to their wooden stockade fencing when a tree limb broke, went airborne like a missile, and punched out the same center panel of each yard's fence as if shot by a marksman.

Over on Fenimore 2, a large tree branch was blown over onto the porch roof of ESPN executive and author Roxanne Jones's wood frame home. She was visiting a sister in Connecticut at the time, and a neighbor, who heard a loud crash during the storm, went outside and texted her a photo of what had happened. The branch damaged her gutters

and destroyed the original porch banister and a fence she had installed just a few months earlier. All the shingles were blown off by the wind.

She was saddened that the limb also crushed and destroyed a 40-year-old rhododendron.

Repair estimates currently range between \$15,000 and \$20,000, she reports.

Ironically, Jones and her neighbors had been pleading with the city for years to take the tree out, fearing it was aged and had already lost limbs in previous storms.

"But they [the city] just refused," she laments.

"On a happy note, my neighbors came over the day after and cut the tree off my porch so I could get in and out of the house," she says, beaming. "I love this neighborhood."

Returning the favor, Jones put her problems aside and volunteered in a shelter in Fort Greene.

"After seeing how many lives were really devastated, I feel grateful to have been spared."

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



ABOVE: Pedestrians dodge a fallen limb on Fenimore 2 at Roxanne Jones's home. LEFT: Surveying the damage in a Lincoln 2 backyard where a limb destroyed five adjoining fences. BELOW: The large tree at the corner of Rutland and Bedford snapped like a twig.



Local Entrepreneur Turns His Barbershop into Jus Fishy *by Dave Miss*

When his new fish and chips joint, Jus Fishy, opened in July, people were eager to give owner Tyro Matthew a hearty welcome to the neighborhood. But it turns out he has been here longer than most of his customers—some 20 years.

Hailing from Trinidad, Matthew opened up the new restaurant in the same space that he previously owned and operated for 13 years as a barbershop.

Jus Fishy, near the corner of Flatbush and Maple, is a far more appetizing and appreciated use of retail space.

The food is simple and delicious. The décor is bright and minimal. It's a tad small, with one table and four padded chairs filling up the place along with two flat-panel monitors, one playing sports and the other with a large menu. So takeout is key to the operation's success.

Tyro has a lot of restaurant experience and has even worked at Brooklyn's best-known dining establishment, Junior's.

Just a few doors down from Jus Fishy is another barbershop that he used to own as well.

The inspiration to go into the restaurant business grew out of his own hunger to try something new and give the neighborhood food that he likes. He says he felt disappointed in the quality of other offerings in the neighborhood and decided to do something about it.

His determination to "take no shortcuts" shows in the quality and freshness of the food on the menu. Everything is made to order so it's hot

and fresh. The signature offering of fried whiting and steak frites were cooked perfectly, crispy without being greasy. The fish was flakey, and seasoned just south of spicy. Priced at \$8, it's a bargain. Even the steak frites, which under less-talented hands can turn cold, mushy and tasteless, had a light dusting of oregano and salt that teased the taste buds. Don't be surprised if you find yourself searching for every morsel of fish by chasing down the small, crumbly pieces that fall between the fries.

Try the crab burger, too. At \$10, it comes with sides of sweet potatoes and corn, both equally delicious. Topped with pineapple, cooked onions and a "secret sauce," the crab was sweet, rich and not too breadly. The bun is whole-grain wheat that added to the savory-ness, spiked by the toppings. The servings of the sides were generous and simply put, cooked well.

Other standouts on the menu this writer learned from frequent guests waiting on their orders are the salmon burger and the various steamed fish, like shark and snapper.

It's pretty simple fare but too often restaurant-goers will try a place whose food is simple and end up asking on the way out, "how could someone mess up something so simple?"

Jus Fishy is not one of those places.

Tyro's philosophy is country food that is healthy. Supporting that ethos, he offers punches, which are traditional icons for health in Trinidad: channa, peanut, pumpkin, sea moss and "Daddy's punch" are a few of the offerings. He suggests with a smile that if "someone is tired, I'll make something for you."

His eyes light up when recalling fishing in the Caribbean, catching freshwater fish by pumping out a lake with friends during the dry season and getting the monsters hiding in the bottom and cooking them up, even alligator.

When told that this reviewer lived in New Orleans for two decades and that alligator is on a few menus there and not very good, Tyro flatly stated that with some good lime and vinegar, even alligator could taste great.

Clearly Tyro enjoys what he does.

Dave Miss is a cook who has lived on Ocean Avenue for seven years.



Tyro Matthew is all smiles about his restaurant on Flatbush Avenue.



Ramagi Pizzeria Brings Cozy Italian Dining to PLG's Southern Edge

A mini-restaurant hub is taking root on Rogers Avenue at Prospect Lefferts Gardens' southeastern edge with the crowd-pleasing reception of Ramagi Brick Oven Pizzeria.

Ramagi opened in February on Rogers Avenue between Winthrop and Hawthorne Streets, going head-to-head in the same menu category with a franchise outlet of Papa John's right across the street. One block away between Fenimore and Hawthorne is a mom-and-pop Caribbean bakery and café that seems to do pretty strong, all-day business.

Like a Bedouin offering a parched desert traveler a tall glass of cold water, Ramagi is a welcoming and hospitable delight and the first eatery in that section of Rogers to offer table service.

An airier but less hectic and less prosperous sibling to Flatbush Avenue, one-way Rogers Avenue bustles with speeding vehicular traffic and few pedestrians.

Eateries along this strip are scant and few exhibit Ramagi's level of style and service. Yet, the restaurant's owners say business is good

and growing thanks to word of mouth kudos about the place. Moreover, Ramagi has a very engaging website with high production values akin to Manhattan dining places. [Check it out at www.ramagipizza.com/video.html.]

Ramagi's storefront will also attract the curious diner. Situated between the entrance to an apartment building and a hair salon, its bold, black awning features the Ramagi name carved in stainless steel relief while its partially-frosted plate glass front etched with the name echoes the sign above. It brings to mind the canopy signage one might find at a slick Alphabet City eating spot.

The cozy eating area, with its dark wood tables, bar-height ledges and soft pendant lighting, easily serves as a pit stop for a customer grabbing a quick slice or as a comfortable dining room to settle in for a meal with table service. A counter topped with a glass display case replete with pizza choices cordons off the food preparation area.

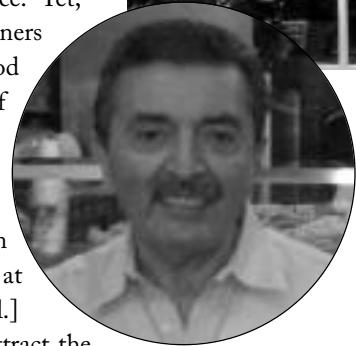
The menu features about a dozen different family-size pies and toppings between \$12 to \$20. The baked ziti pizza comes in at \$20, the house's signature Ramagi pizza is \$19, and a BBQ chicken pizza is \$18. Traditional pasta entrees range from \$6 to \$10 and include penne à la vodka, shrimp fettuccini alfredo, spinach cheese ravioli and lasagna al forno.

Ramagi is a family business co-owned by the father-and-son team of Raul and Martin Gimenez. More than a brick oven pizzeria, this newcomer to the area also offers appetizers, creative salads and a regular selection of blackboard specials. The cuisine reflects the family's Italian roots, but the Gimenez clan actually hails from Argentina. Throughout the years they have moved between their ancestral lands and the United States.

The affable, elder Gimenez, is the ever-present host and manager. Surprisingly, he was formerly a machinist. Once the owner of a machine shop in Argentina, he also worked in the U.S. making aeronautical parts, some even for the space shuttle Columbia. Martin, the chef and visionary, studied pizza-making in Salerno, Italy, designed the décor, and chose Ramagi's location. Currently living in Long Island, Martin worked in PLG for 10 years and fell in love with the area.

While the name Ramagi sounds convincingly Italian, it is a truly American moniker created from the initial two letters of each of the owners' first names. (Martin's sister, Gisella, who does bookkeeping for the restaurant, contributes Ramagi's final syllable.)

Currently business is "very good," says Raul, so much so that they're planning to open another Ramagi elsewhere in Brooklyn in the near future.



Raul Gimenez, the co-owner of Ramagi Pizzeria, a welcome sight on Rogers Avenue.

ECHOPINION

PLG Residents Urged to Oppose Closing Audubon Center for Private Events

by Elaine Marvin

This coming spring the Audubon Center in Prospect Park will be operating on a new schedule. The building will be open only on Thursdays and Fridays and closed permanently on the weekends. The Prospect Park Alliance (PPA), which operates the Audubon Center, explained in a recent meeting of the Prospect Park Community Council that it is experiencing financial difficulties, and is attempting to raise funds by using the Audubon Center as a catering and special events hall on the weekends.

This means the building will be closed to the public.

To compensate for these closings, the PPA is planning on having "Pop-Up Audubons" in different areas of the park.

These weekend activities will be limited by weather and season. Although I admire the attempt to offer an alternative Audubon-like experience, these activities will not replace the experience of being in the Audubon Center, which welcomes parents and children, rain or shine.

The public deserves to have a permanent place to enjoy nature by experiencing hands-on exhibits, observing live animals, taking bird walks and creating nature crafts.

The center gets most of its visitors on weekends, when parents and children can eat at the café, read a book together or observe the park and the lake from the wonderful balcony.

When I moved to this neighborhood approximately 38 years ago, the Boathouse was a sad sight, nothing more than storage

space, covered by graffiti and large window gates. Then the Audubon Society came and helped support the renovation, and the first Audubon Center in an urban park was born.

Classes on different environmental subjects were available for public and private school children, using the park for their classroom. This was a great way to foster the stewardship of the



The Prospect Park Boathouse, seen here on a 1912 postcard, was restored to its original grandeur and given new purpose as the Audubon Center.

park in the next generation of New York City's children. There is no longer a separate fundraiser for the center to support its previous activities, and the public school classes no longer exist.

In my opinion it seems that the Audubon Center is being diminished piece by piece until it no longer exists. The writing is on the wall. The Audubon Center has supported the families of Prospect Park and now is the time for the people to speak up and defend the continuation of the Audubon Center in its Prospect Park home.

Both Senator Eric Adams and Assemblymember James Brennan have been apprised of the situation. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz has spoken to the Alliance about his concern for the closing of the Audubon Center on weekends. He has requested that on the weekends when there are no events taking place the center should be open to the public. Assemblymember Brennan has said that there needs to be a better balance in the use of the facility.

In addition, the Lefferts Manor Association formally supports the idea that the Alliance should open the Audubon Center on the weekends when there are no events taking place. Ben Edwards, the LMA president, was instrumental in establishing contact with Marty Markowitz's office and State Senator Eric Adams to apprise them of the neighborhood's concerns.

At minimum, I think Mr. Markowitz's suggestion should be firmly incorporated in the PPA's plans: if there is no event scheduled on a weekend, the building must be open to the public! No other situation is acceptable.

If you feel as I do please contact your local officials: Senator Eric Adams at 718-284-4700 or voiceofconcern@aol.com; Assemblymember James Brennan at 718-788-7221; and Emily Lloyd, president of the Prospect Park Alliance, at elloyd@prospectpark.org or 718-965-8951.

Elaine Marvin is a 38-year resident of Midwood 2 and represents the LMA on the Prospect Park Community Council.

71st Earns C+ on Stop-and-Frisk

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No number spoke more to the Department's heavy-handed use of race in a stop than this one: "The number of stops of young black men exceeded the entire city population of young black men (168,126 as compared to 158,406). Ninety percent of young black and Latino men stopped were innocent."

Black and Latino Stops

Precinct	Stops	Rank	% of Total Stops	Rank as a % of Total
75th*	28,850	1	96.4	16
71st	5,819	40	97.1	11
123rd**	294	76	14.8	76

* Covers East New York, Starrett City and Cypress Hills in Brooklyn

** Covers the South Shore section of Staten Island, said to be the city's fastest-growing precinct by population.

Number of Innocent Stops

Precinct	Stops	Rank	% of Total Stops
75th	27,672	1	89.0
71st	5,273	45	51.4
22nd*	444	76	31.4

* Covers Central Park

Stop-and-frisks—or "tosses" in police slang—are widely criticized by community activists, religious leaders, elected officials and defense attorneys despite the Department's ardent reliance and strident defense of the practice in reducing crime and getting guns off the street. And while the Department's defense is a sound one, opponents complain that in some cases stop-and-frisks can ruin lives when events spiral out of control as fear and tempers rise.

In fact, the tragic police killing of an unarmed African merchant, 23-year-old Amadou Diallo, in 1999, not only exemplified how fast events can get out of hand, but his death is the catalyst behind why the NYPD reports stop-and-frisk numbers in the first place.

About one year after Diallo was shot at 49 times—with 19 bullets striking him—by four plainclothes police officers in the Bronx who mistook his wallet for a gun during a stop, the City Council enacted a law that required the NYPD to report every stop-and-frisk, precinct by precinct, every quarter.

It is those numbers that the NYCLU used to compose its annual report, which was released this past summer.

For the first and second quarters of this year, the NYPD recently reported that stop-and-frisks were down 34 percent from a year ago and that 800 weapons—200 of them handguns—had been taken off the streets.

Beyond the strong criticism from a number of constituencies including civil rights leaders, parents, and even the United Nations, the declining trend also follows the federally approved, class-action lawsuit in August against the city for using race as the main trigger for police stops of civilians.

But a majority of New Yorkers is in favor of stop-and-frisks even as they acknowledge that the Department's street enforcement practices fall unfairly on black New Yorkers. An August *New York Times* survey of 1,060 city residents found that 80 percent believe that the NYPD favors whites over blacks, with a plurality of whites, 48 percent, in agreement.

But the same poll found a big racial divide. While 48 percent of all polled supported stop-and-frisks as "acceptable to make New York City safer," 55 percent of whites described the tactic as acceptable while 56 percent of blacks said it was excessive. Among Latinos, 48 percent said the practice was acceptable.

One of the clear takeaways from the 2011 study is that the more dense or concentrated blacks or Latinos are in a neighborhood, the higher the frequency of stop-and-frisks. The corollary: that frequency inverses when the neighborhood is primarily white and affluent; witness the track record of the 22nd Pct. that patrols Central Park and its environs in the table above.

In total, police stopped 685,724 people in 2011—up 14 percent from 2010. Of those, NYCLU found that 605,328 were of people who had engaged in "no unlawful behaviors as evidenced by the fact that they were not issued a summons nor arrested. Of those, 310,390 were black (53.1 percent), 197,251 (33.7 percent) were Latinos, and 53,726 white (9.2 percent), NYCLU reported.

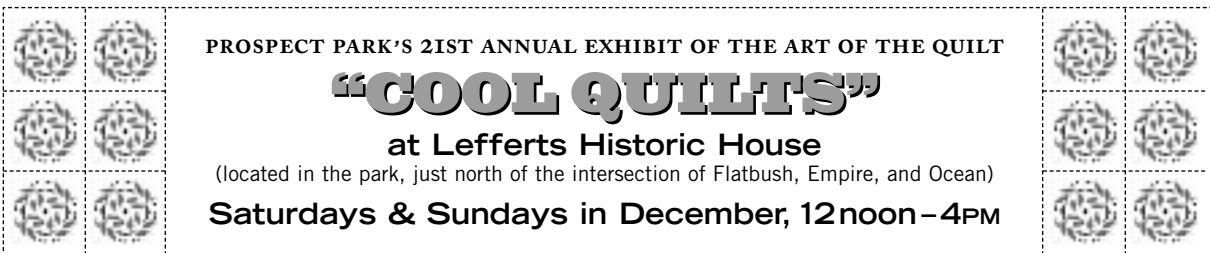
Long Vacant Mike's Int'l to Become Upscale Natural Hair and Wig Salon

Despite community hopes that the five-year-vacant Mike's International space on Flatbush Avenue would be revived as a mainstream restaurant, the word is that the long-empty retail spot will become the flagship in a chain of wig stores.

A prosperous entrepreneur who owns several other wig salons in Brooklyn and whose stores cater to celebrities and common folk alike, confirmed that he will be opening a wig and natural hair replacement store that will serve both the wholesale and retail trade.

Rumors had persisted during the several-week renovations that the space was going to be a Chinese buffet or a midscale American restaurant. But neither turns out to be the case, to the great relief of Gino Sela, whose Gino's restaurant is just one door away.

"It's going to transform the neighborhood," he says. "Imagine, celebrities going to a hair salon right next door and where are they going to want to eat when they finish shopping?"



PROSPECT PARK'S 21ST ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF THE ART OF THE QUILT

"COOL QUILTS"

at Lefferts Historic House
(located in the park, just north of the intersection of Flatbush, Empire, and Ocean)

Saturdays & Sundays in December, 12noon-4PM



Election Day 2012 PLGers waiting to vote for president and Congressional representatives at P.S. 375—the Jackie Robinson Elementary School—on McKeever Avenue, one of three polling places in the neighborhood. At one point, voters waited two hours to cast their vote as the line snaked and stretched for three blocks, 800 to 1,000 persons strong.

Report from LMA's Autumn General Meeting

State Senate Uses Redistricting to Push Eric Adams Out of PLG

State Senator Eric Adams and Prospect Lefferts Gardens—two names that together defined teamwork and community spirit—are paired no more.

Adams charges that a vindictive Republican-led state senate that has had long resented his progressive stances on a host of city issues and which gets to reshape district boundaries after each Census, has reassigned him to a new district deeper into East Brooklyn.

"But in losing you as your state senator, maybe I'll pick you up as Brooklyn Borough President next year," Adams said in addressing the Lefferts Manor Association's annual general meeting and confirming in his most formal statement to date that he will be running to replace the term-limited Marty Markowitz in 2013.

Adams said Gov. Andrew Cuomo may veto the realignments.

Adams new district—which some legislators have called "the weirdest-shaped election district"—is an arrowhead-shaped district that takes in much of Central Brooklyn including Crown Heights and a few blocks of PLG. The balance of PLG currently falls under the 21st District of State Senator Kevin Parker, a legislator since 2002 and the minority whip since 2008.

"Imagine going to sleep one night in the bedroom that you've enjoyed for over 20 years," Adams told the audience, "only to wake up the next morning to discover that someone has arbitrarily relocated your bedroom into someone else's home. This is precisely how I felt when the Republican Party targeted and gerrymandered me for being too outspoken for the communities that I represent. Yes, their response was to gerrymander me out of my own district."

In one of his last acts in the neighborhood, Adams presented LMA president Ben Edwards with a proclamation extolling Edwards's 10-year leadership of the LMA.

Other speakers at the LMA's biannual meeting included Tom Ridges, a prosecutor under Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes, who urged residents to say something to authorities when they see suspicious activities in the neighborhood.



State Senator Eric Adams presented LMA President Ben Edwards with a proclamation recognizing his 10-year leadership of the organization.



For a stronger community, join the

Lefferts Manor Association

MANOR RESIDENTS:

- I (we) subscribe to LMA's efforts to improve our neighborhood as a community of historic, landmarked, single-family homes.
Dues: \$20.00 per household or \$10.00 per senior citizen household

NON-RESIDENT FRIENDS:

- I (we) support the work of the LMA and would like to contribute to their efforts.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____

DUES ADD'L CONTRIBUTION TOTAL

Dues cover January through December 2013. Make checks payable to Lefferts Manor Association. Send payment and form to: P.O. Box 250-640 / Brooklyn, NY 11225 or drop in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Rd., 163 Rutland Rd. or 25 Maple St.

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