

# WILLIAMSBURG NOW

A community newspaper serving the Williamsburg area

## Rehabilitating Southside Williamsburg

In the past year, Los Sures has been working to refinance and rehabilitate many of the buildings in our portfolio in order to provide higher quality of living for our community residents. Here's a look at some of the projects we are currently involved with:

### 210 Roebling Street

Los Sures has been working with the tenants of 210 Roebling Street to convert the building into a co-op after performing substantial rehabilitation. Construction began in August 2009, and the construction is set to be completed in early 2011.

The building underwent some major structural work, including re-pointing at the façade, exterior damp proofing, and a new roof to keep the cold weather out. Tenants will come back to beautiful brand new apartments with the option to become owners.

Along with New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Los Sures is working with Banco Popular, a private lender who is supplementing HPD funds and making this project possible.

### Eleuterio Reyes Apartments

Construction on the three buildings of E. Reyes Apartments finished in April 2010. The entire brick facades of the buildings have been repointed and waterproofed, preventing water filtration and keeping out the cold. Our contractors, Almo Group Corporation, have also installed a brand new cap sheet on the roof, replaced the comp-actor chute at 232 Metropolitan Avenue, and replaced cracked concrete slabs on the sidewalk.

Los Sures has also secured weatherization funds  
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## The New Look of Southside United

Although neighbors along South 4<sup>th</sup> St might not have noticed the new facade, employees, neighborhood officials and fellow organizations were proud to see the new awning put above the blue door at #213. On Friday, January 7th, Southside United HDFC unveiled their new sign renaming their building the *David D. Pagan Administrative Offices* in recognition of 32 years of service and commitment to the community by the recently retired Executive Director David Pagan.

In celebration of his achievements a number of local community board members, directors of partner organizations, political officials, and his wife and family gathered on the main floor to share their sentiments on the life work of Southside's very own David Pagan. Ramon Peguero, on behalf of Los Sures, congratulated Mr. Pagan on his retirement and thanked him for his dedication, guidance, and his inspiring ability to keep the non-profit in operation for over 3 decades, while still always being able to deliver paychecks to his staff on time. Introduced next was Councilwoman Diana Reyna, who gave her regards to Mr. Pagan, but wished to thank dearly his wife, who gave up her husband all those years to better the community, and who gave him the energy and motivation to do so.

Those that also took the floor to honor Mr. Pagan were Frank Lang, Director of Housing at St. Nick's Alliance, Frances Lucerna, Executive Director of El Puente, and David Lopez, Chairman of Los Sures. Among other attendees were Rob Solano, Executive Director of Churches United, Community Board Member, Esteban Duran, and of course, Betsy Pagan, "the woman behind the man".

Mr. Pagan has left his title to Ramon Peguero as the new Executive Director, but will remain a distinguished figure in Southside Williamsburg.



The Staff of Southside United

## ***Rehabilitating S. Williamsburg***

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through Community Environmental Center. We plan to replace all the windows with energy efficient models to prevent leaks and upgrade appliances and common area lighting with energy efficient models.

We are also working to access reserve funds in order to paint common areas and apartments, upgrade kitchen cabinets, paint and repair fire escapes, and replace Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors. All of this will result in a safer building, and will help to resolve many of the maintenance issues tenants have been facing.

### **101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Almo Group Corporation finished capital work at 101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in February 2011. The contractors have replaced the boiler and mailboxes, as well as repaired the intercom system and sidewalks. We are also requesting access to reserve funds in order to begin on emergency maintenance work within the building. This will include repairing water damage and installing new tiles in public areas.

### **Rodney, Driggs, and South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Mecca Contracting began construction in June 2010 on some major capital items that were in dire need of attention at the three buildings in this project. We will be providing new roofs, installing a new intercom system, replacing the boilers, and re-pointing the façade.

CEC will also be providing weatherization funds, and we are working to secure a scope of work that will include more energy efficient items to make our buildings greener.

### **Los Sures SIP and 383 Hewes Street**

Los Sures is planning to access \$2.5million in Reso A funds, as well as 8A loans from  
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## **The Food Pantry Has Moved!**

As of October 5, 2010 the Food Pantry from Los Sures has moved to a new location at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The Food Pantry has been serving low-income residents of Community Board 1 since 1996 when Los Sures adopted the program from the Hispanic Federation. At its start the pantry was helping about 20 families get food assistance; today it has expanded to serve over 450 families.

The move came about when the program received additional funding from the Food Bank and other state and federal agencies, which allowed them to offer a new "Choice Pantry". Under the new system, eligible residents are awarded points based on family size and income and are allowed to shop from a number of shelved items instead of the old means of receiving prepackaged meals. The grant also equipped the pantry with a new refrigerator to be able to offer fresh meat for the first time, shelves, shopping baskets, and "weekly specials" of fresh produce. Recipients are delighted that they get to choose what items best suit their family and have access to healthier choices than before. They also approve of the new, more spacious, location that is equipped with a seating area where they can sit with each other or meet social workers to learn about other opportunities they can benefit from.

Back in 2006, New York Community Trust conducted a study that showed people living in CB1 did not have enough access to emergency food to fully meet the need. They referred the Hispanic Federation, which is still the acting financial conduit and umbrella organization of the Food Pantry, to the Food Bank of New York City. NYCT also gave them additional funding to supplement what they were receiving from TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program from USDA), FEMA (U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency) and United Way's EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program).

With the increase in their budget the Food Pantry was able to expand their services to more families, hire an additional staff member, purchase a new industrial refrigerator, and receive technical



assistance and upgrades to help with their record keeping and screening. They were also connected to HIPNAP, a state organization that provides money for food, operational support, and stipends for volunteers. Currently there are two volunteer seniors from the community that are assisting at the pantry to help other residents with their shopping and teaching them how to utilize their points to get the most for their families. Last year the program had served 11,501 individuals. This year they have served 14,623 people and expect that number to increase.

The staff, which is consisted of members of Los Sures' Social Service Unit, is excited for all the new features the additional funding has allotted. They see the food pantry as the cornerstone of their program; it has become a way to organize the residents and through their intake assessment they can see and inform families of what other assistance programs and benefits they may be eligible for. There is about 150 people a week visiting the pantry that they can further help with financial literacy, legal assistance, Medicare and SCRIE applications, screen for food stamps, and offer other referrals and information, all while residents shop for their groceries. The staff is also beginning to organize nutrition workshops, with specially tailored programs for seniors. Their hope for the future is to develop into a food co-  
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## Annual Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Violence

On Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 6:30 pm locals gathered around the parking lot of the MS 50 school in Southside Williamsburg to commemorate those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. Domestic Violence is a serious global issue that affects mostly women and children. Experts from the United Nations Development Fund for Women say that one out of every three women globally have been beat, raped, or assaulted in their lifetime. In New York City last year police responded to 250,349 reports of domestic violence; which is an average of 650 incidents a day. In 2009, domestic violence killed 61 people in New York City - 67% of these victims had made no prior reports of family violence (*New York City Statistics from the Office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg*). Every October, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, group members of the North Brooklyn Coalition against Family Violence (formerly known as the Alternatives for Women for Victims of Domestic Violence) join with local supporters for the Annual Candlelight Vigil and March to help raise awareness and end domestic violence.

The march begins with a prayer, led this year by Adelaida Perez, a 32-year survivor of domestic violence and graduate of the original Los Sures Social Service support program, Alternatives for Women. People trickled in to join the circle as members of the Southside community prayed for past and present victims of domestic violence. It was then kicked off with a few inspiring words from the King's County District Attorney, Charles Hines, who has been personally affected by family violence. Mr. Hines reminded all those present that may be a victim, or know someone who is, that there is help and the District Attorney's



District Attorney Charles Hines

Office is always willing to listen and offer their services. Robin Sirota Bassin, director of Los Sures Social Services Unit and founder and board member of North Brooklyn Coalition against Family Violence, then led the march from MS 50, down South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and joined up with further awaiting demonstrators out front of the 90<sup>th</sup> precinct.

As police blocked the streets the neighborhood echoed with the shouts of activists demanding from their neighbors and on-lookers the need for safe homes and the end of violence. Those that marched together included members of the District Attorney's office (along with the DA himself), Los Sures, St. Nick's Alliance and the Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP).

At the corner of Union Ave. and South 5<sup>th</sup> St. fellow supporters, including long-time resident of the Southside, Janet Barnes were waiting to meet with the parade of advocates. Ms. Barnes, also being a graduate of Alternatives for Women, is now on the board of the Coalition. As she spoke about her experiences she encouraged others to share their tragic stories and show the community that there can be an end to violence, but it starts with an end to the silence.

This year's organizers were the North Brooklyn Coalition against Family Violence, the 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Southside's Los Sures. The fight against domestic violence has long been an important battle in Southside Williamsburg. In 1995, Los Sures Social Services started a domestic violence educational support group called Alternatives for Women for Victims of Domestic Violence. The program worked closely with the local precinct, the Kings County District Attorney's office, and other local providers to ensure the protection of its members. Much of the program's success rate is contributed to the commitment and vigilance of the members and staff. Members made sure to check regularly on one another

## Report from the City:

- The Dept. of Sanitation now requires that all mattresses and box springs intended for pick-up by DSNY *must* be fully enclosed in a sealed plastic bag. This precautionary measure is in a citywide attempt to combat the spread of bedbugs. Any one that fails to comply with these city regulations will be faced with a \$100 fine.
- More greenmarkets across the city are accepting EBT/food stamps to ensure that all New York City residents have access to healthier choices, including one in the Williamsburg neighborhood. Every Thursday (and select Tuesdays) from July 7-November 17, 2011 at the corner of Havemeyer St. and Broadway the farmers market will be open and is accepting EBT/Food Stamps and WIC & Senior FMNP coupons. For more info: [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).
- McCarren Park Pool is 33% complete! It's scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2012. Funded by Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC initiative, the newly renovated pool and bathhouse will also offer a snack bar, a rooftop café, a recreation center and operate as an ice skating rink during the winter season.
- The Panel for Educational Policy has voted to close a total of 22 low-performing schools and replace them with new ones on Thursday night, February 3, 2011. Among the schools chosen to be phased out is the Metropolitan Corporate Academy at 362 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn.
- The East River ferry is extending its services starting in June 2011. The operation will be run by a division of New York Waterway and begin operating regularly (instead of the current ferry operated by New York Water Taxi that runs only during rush hours). The new ferry will be open 7a.m. to 8p.m. on weekdays and 9a.m. to 7p.m. on weekends, departing every 20 minutes during rush hours and every 30 during off-peak hours. Additional stops have been added at India St. in Greenpoint and North 6<sup>th</sup> St. in Williamsburg. During the summer the ferry will also extend its service to Atlantic Ave. in Brooklyn and to Governor's Island on Fridays. The fare is expected to be \$3.00 a ride.

her and make house visits if an attendee did not show up to a scheduled meeting. The group began attending community meetings, marching through the streets and started the first  
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## The New Domino

In July 2010, the New York City Council voted unanimously to approve changes in local zoning that would allow CPC Resources to move forward with its New Domino project on the Williamsburg waterfront. Los Sures helped to rally community members in support of the New Domino project, which will provide 2,200 residential units, of which 660 will be affordable. CPC Resources is providing 30% of its units at below market-rate, which is a higher percentage than is required by rezoning laws.

A majority of the affordable units will go to low- or very low-income households. The developers are also providing a home-ownership option, which will benefit middle-income families who would otherwise not have a chance to own an apartment in New York

City.

On top of the much-needed affordable housing the development will provide, there will also be 4 acres of open space which includes a waterfront esplanade, 1,700 parking spaces, two playgrounds, and 14,000 square feet of community space.



Executive Director, Ramon Pequero, Development Director, Sandy Rozario, Development Assistant, Soula Panagodimos, and Property Manager, Nicole Volz

## Compartiendo con la Comunidad

Over 500 people lined up outside of 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. on Tuesday, December 14, to receive free pernil (pork shoulder) and other groceries from Coors Light's "Compartiendo con la Comunidad". "People started lining up at 8 am," said one volunteer with Los Sures' Social Service Unit. For three hours Los Sures staff, officers of the 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct, personal from Councilwoman Diana Reyna's office and twenty volunteers from the community worked to hand out canvas bags filled with groceries and pork shoulders to the first 500 people in line.

Each year Coor's Light, in conjunction with National Supermarkets Association and their vendors, sponsors this event in one of the five boroughs in light of the upcoming holidays. This year they chose to host it in Brooklyn and contacted Councilwoman Diana Reyna's office to organize the give-away. The Councilwoman reached out to Los Sures to request the use of their food pantry and to help with the marketing of the event to the Southside community. Los Sures' Social Service unit requested the assistance of twenty

volunteers from their food pantry for the day of the event, and began reaching out to the senior citizens in the neighborhood. Through tenant relations and word of mouth, news that there would be free pernil to the first 500 people Tuesday morning quickly spread.

The temperature that day hit lows of 18 degrees but volunteers tried to keep the crowd outside warm through caroling and spreading holiday cheer. Aside from a few set backs in food deliveries residents, some of which had waited for four hours, left content with their bounty. Each recipient received canned beans and seasoning from Goya, garnitos chocolates, Thomas' English muffins, and, of course, a pork shoulder. Councilwoman Diana Reyna was there to meet each resident as they came in from the cold. Detective Bruno Vidal was also on site keeping those waiting outside in high spirits, and the new Executive Director of Los Sures and Southside United, Ramon Peguero, assisted in directing the crowd and handing out the donated food to friends and residents.

Member of Diana Reyna's office handing out pernil.



Executive Director of Los Sures, Ramon Peguero, instructing volunteers after receiving a shipment of pork shoulder.

## Annual Candlelight Vigil

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Candle Light Vigil in 1996 to raise community awareness to the issues of domestic violence.

In 1998, Los Sures, along with five other community groups in North Brooklyn came together to expand the Alternatives for Woman program and to found a separate non-profit entity, the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence (aka the Coalition) to work solely around domestic violence issues. Los Sures and the Southside community has remained in support of the Coalition to ensure that it may continue to provide services to Williamsburg residents living with domestic violence and that it may work to create safer homes and serve as a model to other communities.

*If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence and needs or assistance or would like information, call the North Brooklyn Coalition at (718) 302-4073*

The line-up outside of 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St.



## Los Sures "David Santiago" Senior Center Holiday

On Tuesday, November 23, pedestrians might've heard sounds of celebration coming from the typically quiet Los Sures "David Santiago" Senior Center on the corner of Roebling and South 4<sup>th</sup> St. About 80-90 seniors were there around 12:30 to share a Thanksgiving meal with one another and dance to live music from the group Estampas de Borinquen, a local Brooklyn band reproducing the spirited sounds of Puerto Rican music. Local senior citizens not only got to partake in a free meal, but got to meet with friends, socialize, dance, and some even left with a free turkey donated by Council Woman Diana Reyna's office.

The center is funded by New York City's Department for the aging and sponsored by Southside United HDFC. For 20 years, Southside United HDFC has been opening its doors to seniors from the community to offer recreation, social events, and medical services. Some of the activities include weekly Bingo matches, Dominoes, movie screenings, crocheting, puzzles, and special activities and monthly trips. But one of the most important services provided at the center is the reduced priced lunch offered every day at noon. For \$1.25 local seniors, most of who subsist on SSI checks, SCRIE, and other means of state & federal provisions, get to eat healthy meals with neighbors and friends.

Laura Hernandez has been running the senior center for six years now, and working with Southside United for over 20. With limited funding and the additional \$1.25 from seniors that they receive, she manages to keep the operation going and the doors open Monday-Friday from 9:00-5:00. This year on the table, Laura, three staff members, and two volu-

nteers, provided a feast of Turkey, stuffing, arroz con gandules, cheese and charcuterie platters, bread rolls, milk, juice and apple pie. The meal was made possible by City Council Woman Diana Reyna, who allocates money to the center for their three large annual meals: Thanksgiving, Christmas and Mother's day.



Starting next year, the City Council has donated additional funding to sponsor nutrition classes, yoga and aerobics classes, professional massages, and diabetes testing and information at the senior center for a six month period, after which the center hopes to continue offering these services as regularly as possible. Over the past couple of months, Laura has also been able to fundraise and organize monthly trips to the casinos in Yonkers. The staff and seniors find it a wonderful opportunity, not only to partake in a fun activity, but a chance for them to travel out of the



city; an occasion that is fewer and farer between for most of these aging citizens.

Many of the seniors will tell you that with the changing neighborhood, family obligations, and their daily errands and doctors' appointments, that coming to the senior center is the only time and only place that they get to meet with their peers and see all the old faces of the community. Vi-

siting the center also keeps their minds and bodies active as they come to play, sing, dance, socialize and eat. It is one of the many ways that Southside United is trying to keep the community connected, while serving the individual needs of community residents. One of Laura's greatest hopes for the future of the center is to recruit more volunteers so to increase the number of activities they offer. Anyone interested in volunteering with the elderly should visit the center at **201 South 4<sup>th</sup> St.** from Monday to Friday between 9:00-5:00 and ask for Laura Hernandez. Seniors can also obtain a schedule of upcoming activities from the office located inside the center or can check out the *Events Page* on page 8 of this paper.



Raymon Roman of Southside United serving Thanksgiving dinner

## The Food Pantry

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op so that low-income residents can have access to fresh, locally farmed produce and animal products.

The pantry opens every Tuesday of the month and schedule's its operation alphabetically to prevent overcrowding and food shortages. Eligible residents should show up on their designated Tuesday to shop for their groceries. In addition, Los Sures' Social Service Unit has collaborated with Kings County Hospital's Food and Nutrition (FAN) program to administer groceries to over 200 disadvantaged seniors in the Southside Williamsburg community.

*To volunteer at the food pantry, or to find out more about it, call Los Sures' Social Service Unit at (718) 599-1940*

*Or visit the pantry at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. - Basement Level*



## Southside United's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Eight years ago, Ramon Peguero, the new Executive Director of Los Sures, had an idea to host an event with the sole purpose of bringing the people of his community together under a non-political pretext. With the assistance of the local church and a number of community organizations, Southside United started their annual, free Thanksgiving meal. The public event provided the opportunity for families, individuals and local officials to gather together and break bread with one another while simultaneously offering a free meal to those in need. People of all different economic statures, origins, beliefs, political affiliations and creeds were invited to sit at the table and share food and conversation with one another. "In starting this tradition, my hope was to improve the neighborhood's sense of community and provide a setting for positive discourse," says Mr. Peguero.

The tradition has carried on for eight years now and has become a much-anticipated affair for the community. This year's event must be greatly attributed to Awilda Pequero and Los Sures

board member, Gladys Franco. They offered their time, culinary talents, and organizational skills to gather donations to provide a beautiful meal for over 100 people at The Church of God of Prophecy's on South 1<sup>st</sup> street. Guests enjoyed their fill of turkey, beet and potato salad, pasta, rice and beans, and the delicious Dominican dessert, *avinchuela con dulce*. Recognition must also be given to the women and men who prepared and served all the food for this year's feast.

Among the guests were 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Bruno Vidal, a well-known Detective and long-time friend of the Southside community, and City Councilwoman Diana Reyna, who stopped by to raffle off three donated turkeys and applaud Los Sures and Ramon Peguero for all their efforts. This year's event was also made possible with contributions from The Methodist Church Nueva Jerusalem, A.C.C.I.O.-N., Community and Parents Day Care, Cadena Internacional de Oracion, The Helping Hands of Williamsburg, and Nuestros Ninos.



Councilwoman Diana Reyna and Executive Director of Los Sures, Ramon Peguero announcing the winners of the turkey raffle.

## Rehabilitating S. Williamsburg

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HPD and a greening loan from CPC, to rehabilitate the six buildings in our SIP project. Almo Group Corporation won the bid

and began work in August 2010. The scope includes new boilers and heating systems, roof replacements, new windows, compactor replacements, and

façade work.

We are also working with HPD to merge Los Sures SIP and 383 Hewes Street in order to make the project financially sustainable.

All of Los Sures' real

estate developing and planning projects are reflective of the efforts of the organization to aesthetically and financially improve the community and the quality of life of its residents.

## Santa Comes to Williamsburg!



Santa Clause paid a visit to the residents of 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. He greeted eager children and took pictures with them and their families as they received candy canes, chocolates and of course, toys!

Robin Sirota-Basin, Los Sures' Director of Social Services, personally contacted the big man to assist with this year's toy drive. As Santa was busy in the community room, the Social Service unit of Los Sures and volunteers were busy like elves in the basement making sure that each child left with a toy that day. The toys were lined wall-to-wall and were the product of the efforts and donations of Robin Sirota-Basin, her assistants, Raquel Queme, and Denise Correa, the 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct in association with Toys for Tots, the Hispanic Federation, and funding from the Carl Family Foundation. Mrs. Sirota-Basin and her team had been working since 3:00am on Black Friday to get ready for this event. Also present was Detective Bruno Vidal and Los Sures' Executive Director Ramon Peguero who showed up for the chance to meet Santa Clause.

Unfortunately, Santa was needed back at the North Pole, but as he left he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Denise Correa-Cales, Los Sures' Social Service Unit, serving Thanksgiving dinner.

## Los Sures Fundraiser

On October 28, 2010, Los Sures hosted its annual fundraiser to raise money to assist in our continuing mission to maintain and develop affordable housing for lower income families.

Over 250 guests attended the event, held at Battery Gardens Restaurant, to celebrate this year's honorees. Michael Lappin, President and CEO of The Community Preservation Corporation, received our Corporate Award; Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez, President of the Hispanic Federation, received the Community Recognition Award; and Tony Carucci, President of L.P. Fuel Oil Company, received the Friend of Los Sures Award. The support and dedication of our honorees has allowed Los Sures to reach our goals and honor our mission year after year.

The event also included a spectacular performance by Opera Hispanica, a newly founded nonprofit which gives voice to many Latin composers.



President and CEO of CPC, Michael Lappin (center), accepting the Corporate Award presented by Chairman, David Lopez (left) and Executive Director, Ramon Pequero (right) of Los Sures.

## Local Submissions

### **Chicago** by Emmanuel Diodonet

"Breathe, relax, calm down  
I constantly repeated to myself  
as I struggled to cope with the loss of your love  
Your words that would inspire me to love you more  
than anything in the world  
Every little kiss from your  
tender lips couldn't have been a lie  
As they caressed mine I felt so alive.  
But as I spread my wings and set myself free,  
Never doubt you'll always be a part of me."

### **The Chase** by Danger Poet (Erica Ortiz)

On your mark. Get set. GO!

...  
Where?  
What's the rush?  
Where's the finish line?  
What do I win if I make the fastest time?  
The praise would be shortlived, the  
quicker I get through.  
I'd much rather take my time getting to  
you.

I don't understand the obsession with the  
chase.  
Is it like playing tag or a full blown race?  
And in that case, what's the fun?  
I tag you, no tag backs  
Or 2 laps and we're done?  
Is it the burst of adrenaline that's so  
irresistible?  
The thrill of chasing someone who's fast?  
Or are you testing how long your stamina  
can last?  
Until someone faster runs past...

Then let the chase commence!  
Prepare every muscle in your body to  
tense.  
It has nothing to do with the person  
you're chasing.  
But everything to do with how they make  
you feel.  
Self-gain  
Motivating  
Irrational thoughts  
Spinning circles like a wheel  
Completely forgetting to think,  
Not even caring to look around.  
Bumping into passersby  
Obsessed with what's been found.

Creating all these tales,  
Anticipating a life just out of reach.  
So caught up in the what-if's  
Reality doesn't exist.  
Causing you to actually miss  
The person you can create fantasies  
with.

Wanting so badly to experience  
something new  
To see what else is out there  
Who else is left to do?  
One bite from one apple won't suffice  
your taste.  
Factor in more people,  
NOW it's a race.  
Then the satisfaction of a mission  
complete.  
Yet the lust is insatiable for  
Pale skin and  
Rosey cheeks.

It's tempting to go after someone whose  
mystery is unsolved.  
Then again, it's simpler to not get  
involved.

So chase.  
Because it's simple.  
Because it's fun.  
Because it's quick.  
Because you don't really have to take  
the time to think  
About who you picked.

I used to be the girl that would run.  
But it became more shallow with every  
victory I "won."  
Too much chasing  
My body is still sore.  
I don't see the point in hurting myself

more  
When there's so much left to admire,  
so much to explore.  
Details I never noticed before.

So...  
You can get ready. You can get set.  
You can go.  
I, for once, am taking this one slow.  
I don't want to be chased.  
I'd rather you try going at my pace.  
Of course, the decision is yours.  
And  
It would be much easier to run through  
the finish line alone  
But how rewarding would it be,  
if you had known,  
You could have taken a walk with  
A person who could have shone  
Irresistible compassion.  
Nothing that could match  
But when  
You rush things to move forward...  
You lose out on the now.  
Then you get to a place you didn't want  
to be  
And you can't remember how.

So on your mark. Get set. Now go.  
Don't think about where.  
Just try to enjoy the fresh air.  
As you think in solitaire.  
And trust ... Nothing can compare  
When you become aware that you care.  
Then the chase isn't a game.  
It's not for fun.  
You're not expecting it to ever be done.  
So now you feel so free,  
All you can do is run.

*\*All submissions are compliments of the  
students of El Puente*



Lillian Rodriguez at the Los Sures Fundraiser

## Events Calendar

- **Thursday, April 21 Ignite the Light Awards!**  
The Hispanic Federation's Annual Gala honoring the stars of the Hispanic Community in support of one of the leading Latino Organizations. *Red Carpet 6:00pm, Awards Dinner 7:00pm. The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.*
- **Need help with Tax forms? Every Monday** at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. from 1:30-4:30 get assistance with your tax forms.
- **The 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council Meeting - second Wednesday of every month.** Join the officers of the 90<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the Community Council to discuss community affairs and share your ideas and concerns. Meetings are held at 30 Montrose Ave. in the community room at 7:30.
- **Free access to exercise equipment and counseling every other Monday** (starting 2/28/11) at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. *Call (718) 599-1940 for times*
- **Blood pressure screening every other Wednesday** (starting 3/2/11) at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. *Call (718) 599-1940 for times*
- **Health Education Workshop, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Learn ways you can prevent against a stroke at the next Health Education Workshop at 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. *Call (718) 599-1940 for times*
- **National Night Out Against Crime, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** (*finalized date and location TBD*). Join the local precinct and members of the community at the annual NNO to help educate and support the fight against crime. Games, food, and fun will be provided.
- **Domino, Bingo and discounted lunch offered daily** for local Seniors at the David Santiago Senior Center on the corner of Roebing St. and South 4<sup>th</sup> St.
- **Puzzles and games every Thursday** at the David Santiago Senior Center, corner of South 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Roebing St.
- **Crotchet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday** at the David Santiago Senior Center, corner of South 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Roebing St.
- **Free movie every Tuesday** at the David Santiago Senior Center, corner of South 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Roebing St.
- **Free therapeutic massages** at the David Santiago Senior Center, corner of South 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Roebing St.
- **Father's Day Barbecue**, organized by Los Sures' Social Services Unit. Open to the public; date TBA.
- **Mother's Day Party**, organized by Los Sures' Social Services Unit. Open to the public, date TBA.
- **Thursday, May 5, free performance of Soneto de Amor y Muerte**, presented by Opera Hispanica – New York's first & only Spanish-language opera company. Show starts at 8pm at El Museo del Barrio, with a pre-performance discussion with Opera Hispanica company members at 7pm. To reserve tickets visit [www.elmuseo.org/en/event/opera-hispanica-soneto-de-amor-y-muerte](http://www.elmuseo.org/en/event/opera-hispanica-soneto-de-amor-y-muerte).
- **Food Pantry every Tuesday!** The Food Pantry is located at the basement level of 145 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Dates and times are organized alphabetically by name. Please call (718) 599-1940 for more information.



### Mission Statement

The goal of the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence program is to decrease the incidence of domestic violence in the community and mitigate its effects on victims and their families. By providing community based services and creating a locally based support network, the Coalition seeks to reduce the practical and cultural barriers which often prevent victims from seeking or receiving assistance from the criminal justice system. Our ultimate goal is to enable survivors of domestic violence to negotiate the criminal justice system, break the cycle of violence, and increase their capacity to take back power and control of their own lives so that they may safely remain in the community, if they wish, or begin new lives elsewhere.

Please call us if you think you are in a relationship that contains any type of domestic violence we are here to help. Our services are confidential, bilingual, and we are located right in the community

(718) 302 4073