

CARING FOR CAREGIVERS



◆ Lucina and Wayne Clarke of My Time Inc.

Spend five minutes with Lucina Clarke and you know she could sell sand in the desert. But this **Canarsie** resident isn't interested in any get-rich-quick-schemes, just doing good.

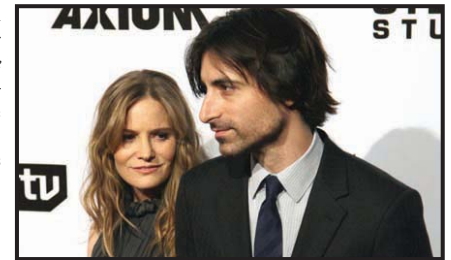
As a special education teacher, Clarke worked with students with disabilities, many with autism, which affects up to 1.5 million Americans. Her contact with one mother—who spent many sleepless nights with an autistic child—made her realize that caregivers need help, too. So Clarke, originally from Trinidad & Tobago, and her husband, Wayne Clarke, a former Barbadian, created My Time, Inc. in July 2004.

My Time offers critical support to caregivers and it's all free. Workshops and training are given at several Brooklyn locations, and run the gamut from state of the art science on disability to insight on the special education process and understanding your child's I.E.P., or Individualized Education Program, the services offered to students with disabilities in the New York City public school system. Participants learn about community resources and can even take a workshop on how to de-stress. My Time holds a wine and cheese reception every month where parents and caregivers can socialize, as well as share ideas and concerns.

"I wanted parents and caregivers to have a place where they could be the center of attention, recharge their batteries, and recognize that they're not alone," says Lucina Clarke. And because of Lucina and Wayne Clarke, My Time offers programming that is definitely time well spent.

My Time Inc., Parent Support and Networking Center is located at 1312 E. 84th Street in Canarsie. (718) 251-0527 or www.mytimeinc.org.

BROOKLYN'S INDIE FILM!



◆ IFP, the group behind the Gotham Awards (2007's star attendees Jennifer Jason Leigh and Noah Baumbach, above) moves to Brooklyn!

Brooklyn is the location when it comes to indie films—*She's Gotta Have It*, *The Squid and the Whale*, the list goes on and on—but what about behind the scenes? The Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), America's oldest, largest organization of independent filmmakers, is moving its NYC operations to **DUMBO**, where many filmmakers, like Oscar winner Ross Kauffman (*Born into Brothels*), are already established.

Independent films—usually low-budget movies made outside the big Hollywood studio machine—draw audiences that appreciate complex characters and story lines rather than happy endings and big box office records.

For indie filmmakers and lovers, IFP is an important forum for conferences, festivals and screenings, with its membership program and special events that honor independent film, like the Gotham Independent Film awards. IFP's Independent Filmmaker Lab—moving to the DUMBO-based Galapagos Art Space—pairs first-time filmmakers with experienced mentors who provide creative and production advice. Members can even rent HDV cameras, procure discount production services and drop into a cyber jobbank.

It's only natural that IFP would move to Brooklyn, a great roiling incubator of artists and actors, poets and producers, all types of creatives, in various stages of their careers.

"After 17 years in isolation in the Flower District, we're really pleased to move to the new heart of independent film—DUMBO," says Michelle Byrd, IFP executive director.

And so rave reviews to IFP for choosing the best location ever, behind of, or in front of, the camera. Roll credits: Brooklyn!

IFP is located at 68 Jay Street, Suite 425, Brooklyn, NY 11201. (212) 465-8200 or at www.ifp.org.

CAMP BROOKLYN

Sleep away summer camp is great for kids, and even better for parents!

Perhaps you have fond memories of your summer camp experience; or you smile when you think of the "time off" that your kids' camp visit meant for you. Maybe you always wanted to go away to camp but just never got the opportunity.

Support **CAMP BROOKLYN**, and give children from low-income families the fun and excitement of a sleep-away camp experience. Just \$500 sends a Brooklyn kid to an accredited camp for two weeks in the great outdoors where the new skills and self-respect that a kid experiences will last an entire lifetime.

Please use the form here to donate as generously as you can. All donations are fully tax-deductible. No donation is too small (or too big!) and every donation is sincerely appreciated by Marty and more importantly, by the children and their families!

For more information, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org or call (718) 802-3875



CONTRIBUTION FORM

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

\$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

BEST OF BROOKLYN, INC.

Please mail this form and your contribution to:

CAMP BROOKLYN
209 Joralemon Street - Suite 330
Brooklyn, New York 11201

CAMP BROOKLYN is a program of Best of Brooklyn, Inc., a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission includes improving the quality of life for all Brooklynites, in particular our youth.

LOVE & MARRIAGE, BROOKLYN STYLE

At 210 Joralemon Street at the Municipal Building in Downtown Brooklyn during the week, you're likely to see vendors selling corsages on the street. It makes more sense when you realize that just inside, nervous couples will soon be taking the ultimate leap.

If you want to get hitched, who needs the "outer" borough of Manhattan when you can get married right in Brooklyn at the Marriage Bureau in the Office of the City Clerk.

Sheepshead Bay resident and deputy city clerk Marie Lennon

has been marrying Brooklynites for seven years, but that hasn't toughened her stance when she officially pronounces them "husband and wife." Lennon said that no matter how many times she officiates, "the nervous smiles, trembling hands and teary eyes still get to me."

Brooklynites aren't the only ones who choose Kings County to start their wedded bliss. Lennon weds lovebirds from India, Africa, Germany and beyond in the second floor chapel, which features a colorful backdrop of faux stained glass. One Pennsylvania couple came back to their native Brooklyn to marry so they could celebrate the big day with all their Brooklyn friends.

One of the craziest nuptials Lennon ever officiated was on Halloween. The groom was Count Dracula, the bride was Dracula's Bride, and the nieces and nephews were little vampires. Now that's love and marriage, Brooklyn style!

The Marriage Bureau in the Office of the City Clerk in the Municipal Building (opposite Borough Hall) is located in Rm. 205 at 210 Joralemon St. at Court St. Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 4pm. (718) 802-4107. Married couples are invited to cross the street to Borough Hall, where Marty will be happy to congratulate them.



◆ Samantha Harnarain and Kamal Persaud chose Brooklyn for tying the knot; daughter Christal looks on.