

AT A GLANCE

GREENPOINT — The Chairmen of the Bored presents the “I Love New York” segment of its five minutes series at 7:30 p.m. today at The Word Bookstore, 126 Franklin St.

If you have a story that sums up what life in N.Y.C. is really like, come share it in five minutes or less. RSVP to thechairmen@chairmenofthebored.com. Call (718) 383-0096 or visit <http://wordbrooklyn.com>.

DOWNTOWN — Catalyst Production presents a limited run of the play “Shoot 2 Win” at the Kumble theater for the Performing Arts, 1 University Plaza.

The sassy and gritty play is set in a locker room during the finals of a female basketball tournament and features an all-female cast. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. tonight through Saturday, with 3 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$22 and \$15. Call (718) 488-1624 or visit www.kumbletheater.org.

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

— The unveiling of “Undeniable,” an exhibition of new works by award-winning visual artist Alonzo Adams and emerging collage artist Monique Luck debuts with a meet-the-artists reception on Saturday at the House of Art Gallery, 373 Lewis Ave.

The reception is from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information about the gallery or exhibit, call (347) 663-8195 or visit the Web site at www.nychouseofart.com.

DOUGLSTON — Elementary school students from Queens and Brooklyn will come face-to-face with their “angels” today.

A hundred kids from schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens are set to meet the heretofore anonymous donors who contributed half of each student’s tuition. The “Be an Angel to a Student” program, run by Futures in Education Foundation, helps support inner-city Catholic school students.

The event will take place at the Immaculate Conception Center, 72-00 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston.

Gayle DeWees

SEND US YOUR NEWS TIPS

Bronx Bureau (718) 822-1174
bronxboronevents@NYDailyNews.com

Brooklyn (718) 875-4455
brooklynnews@NYDailyNews.com

Queens (718) 793-3328
queensnews@NYDailyNews.com

HAPPY FEET — AGAIN

BY BEN CHAPMAN
DAILY NEWS WRITER

HE’S THE ANGEL of Park Slope.

A neighborhood businessman is coming to the rescue of a local dance company that was ripped off on its way to performing at an arts festival in Scotland.

The amateur teen troupe Dancewave won a slot last October to perform at the prestigious Aberdeen Festival — the only American group invited to perform.

The only wrinkle was the company had to pay its own way to the festival, which runs from July 27 through Aug. 7 and is expected to attract 30,000 people.

Raising that kind of money was

Biz owner helps dance troupe finance trip

a tall order, especially since half of the troupe’s 16 members come from low-income families.

“Most of our kids couldn’t afford to go to Europe without this trip,” said company director Diane Jacobowitz. “It’s an opportunity of a lifetime, and they worked hard for it.”

To raise money for the trip, the scrappy teens — who practice out of PS 77 on Park Place — pooled their baby-sitting cash, held benefit performances and asked friends and family for help.

They were on their way to paying for the journey when a phony travel agent ripped them off for almost \$9,000 in January.

“I couldn’t believe anyone could be so heartless,” said dancer Nola Smith, 17. “It was a terrible shock to all of us.”

Police are investigating the case, but the money is still missing.

The dancers’ luck turned around when Nick Kotsonis, the owner of Slope Health and Fitness, read about their troubles in the Daily News.

“When I read the story, I thought it was a great opportunity for these kids,” said Kotsonis, 44, whose family opened the Purity Diner on Seventh Ave. in 1929 and sold it in 1986. “They’re good kids and they deserve this chance.”

The third-generation Park Slope businessman pledged to donate \$10,000 to the troupe if it could first raise \$10,000 on its own.

Last week, the group exceeded its \$10,000 fund-raising goal, and Kotsonis is ready to deliver on his pledge.

He’ll present his check to Dancewave at an open-to-the-public rehearsal next Wednesday at PS 77.

It’s enough money to guarantee the dancers will make the trip, but the troupe still needs to raise another \$20,000 to pay for the journey in full.

To attend Wednesday’s event or make a donation, visit www.dancewave.org or call (718) 522-4696.



Nick Kotsonis, owner of Slope Health and Fitness, made a matching pledge of 10G to Dancewave. He’s making good on it. Photo by Nicholas Fevelo

Postal group needs cash to put stamp on soldier support

BY MIKE McLAUGHLIN
DAILY NEWS WRITER

A PATRIOTIC Dyker Heights group that paid shipping costs for packages sent to soldiers in the Mideast is struggling to raise cash after a U.S. Postal Service crackdown.

Post Office employees and volunteers raked in \$10,000 a year for the postage fund, but donations slowed to a trickle after the USPS banned souvenir sales and donations in the 13th Ave. branch in 2008.

“When we were raising money here, we always had funds,” said USPS clerk Lucille Lovisi, who added that the Postal workers raised more than \$52,000 before their efforts were shut down.

“It was never a problem, but now packages sit around a little longer,” said Lovisi.

Sometimes, there’s only enough money to cover part of the bulk mailings organized by Boy Scout troops and local schools.

“We can’t really handle 25 boxes at a time,” said Lovisi.

That’s because USPS officials ordered them to stop taking collections from customers and selling knickknacks like American flags in the branch lobby, which federal officials said violated Postal Service policy.

“There was never any fund-raising allowed on the Post Office grounds. They were doing it on their own,” said USPS spokeswoman Darleen Reid-DeMeo.

The program has been kept alive by the Dyker Heights Civic Association — which passes the hat at meetings and neighborhood events — but donations have fallen to as little as \$3,000-\$4,000 a year.

“It’s been very hard to keep up with demand,” admitted civic association president Fran Vella-Marrone. “It’s just on a hand-to-mouth basis. We raise the money, and out it goes.”

The program started small, but rapidly took off.

Lovisi hatched the fund with co-workers in 2003 when they discovered local hero Marine Sgt. Edward Chin — who draped the Stars and Stripes over a gigantic Saddam Hussein statue in Baghdad in 2003 before American troops toppled it.

At first, they paid to ship packages to Chin from his relatives in an impromptu “adopt a soldier” program, but they expanded their generosity to cover the mailings to any overseas soldier.

It became a popular local charity, although it was never formally incorporated.

“It’s really a very positive thing,” said Fort Hamilton Army base spokeswoman Cathy SantoPietro. “It’s been there for so many families.”