

SUMMER 2011

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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New York

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal.

Cheap Living remains a work in progress.

Restaurants and attractions continuously open and close. If you notice any listing is out of date or if you have suggestions or additions for future years, please let us know!

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Assistant Director of Administration

***The New York Guide was updated this year by 1L Section Representatives Esther Chan, Samara Fox, Mara Sacks, Charles Griffin, Stephanie Davidson, and Misty Wright.**

WELCOME TO NEW YORK CITY!

New York City is an exciting place to be. NYC, or "The City" as locals are wont to call it, may be famous for a lot of things, but unfortunately being a cheap place to live isn't one of them. However, with a bit of planning and an adventurous streak, the budget-minded can have a great summer taking advantage of the many free and low-priced events that take place throughout the city.

This guide is meant to be a starting point for those on the cheap. Use it in conjunction with the city's most useful publications for the latest in what's going on: the *New York Times* (ask about a discount for new subscribers and students and omit that you're only around for the summer), the *Village Voice* (free in Manhattan, distributed throughout the city – look for it in newspaper boxes on corners), *New York Press* (free everywhere), the *New Yorker*, *Time Out* (including a free very up-to-date online version and Student Guide for cheap living in NYC), and *New York Magazine*. These publications often have useful web-sites - they have *everything* and tend to be very current and accurate. Some good ones: www.timeoutny.com, www.villagevoice.com, www.newyorkmag.com. Other helpful sites include: www.ny.com, www.panix.com/clay/nyc, www.papermag.com, urbandaddy.com, dailycandy.com and newyork.citysearch.com.

HOUSING

Many law students opt for safe, convenient, but fairly expensive housing through **New York University's "Summer Living in New York" program**. NYU rents apartments from May 24 through August 8 for periods of four weeks to 11 weeks. Rates for eight to 11 week stays begin at \$328 per person per week (and run to over \$700/person/week), depending on the type of apartment. Law School housing includes two high-rise buildings. All of the housing is apartment or apartment-style, from studio and 1-bedroom apartments to double and triple suites in which each resident has a private bedroom in a 2 or 3-bedroom unit, sharing the kitchen and bath with the other resident(s) of the suite. This program also gives you access to NYU's Law School Library (though not borrowing privileges), summer lecture series, and access to NYU's sports complex. The school provides 24-hour security. NYU housing is located in the heart of Greenwich Village. More information is available at www.law.nyu.edu/depts/housing/summerliving/. Accommodations available for couples and families with children.

Columbia University offers summer housing in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of the upper-Upper West Side. Columbia rents apartment-style dorm facilities from June 1 through August 2 starting at \$2,400 per person for the full 10 weeks. For more info, go to www.columbia.edu/cu/housing/docs/summer-residents/interns.html. The program does not, however, offer housing to married couples, unless each person wishes to pay for a room, and does not offer accommodations for children either.

If you're looking uptown, the **92nd Street Y**, on Lexington Avenue (Upper East Side), offers clean and safe dorm living for periods of 46 days or more (\$1350 per month for a single room). The residence has weekly maid service, a kitchen and laundry room on each floor and 24-hour security. The residence also offers access to the Y's Buttenwieser Library (which has computers with Internet access) and reduced fee access to the Y's gym. The Y is also home to the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life and doubles as one of New York's leading cultural centers, hosting speakers from Frank McCourt to Mikhail Gorbachev, and residents gets reduced fee admission to many of these events. A few drawbacks: all the bathrooms are shared and arrangements must be made for overnight guests in advance. For more information, go to www.92y.org/content/de_hirsch_residence.asp.

If dorm living isn't for you, you can also try for a **sublet**, but with the tough New York rental market, apartments are in high demand. Your best bet to find a sublet is probably **Craig's List**, newyork.craigslist.org, where you can find tons of sublet and general rental information (often with no broker's fees!). It's populated by twenty- and thirtysomethings like you who are looking to share the cheap, chic apartment they already found with a pal. You may be able to find a decent apartment for significantly cheaper than an NYU dorm, though possibly not in the same neighborhood. Apartments can go for as little as \$600/month (and individual rooms sublet in multi-tenant apartments can be an even better deal), but get to know your neighborhood (and especially the distance and route to the nearest subway – do you feel safe walking it alone at night?) before you decide it's a steal. Areas for spacious (by New York standards, granted) and reasonably safe sublets are likely to be in the outer-boroughs: check out Williamsburg, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Fort Greene, Prospect Heights and Park Slope in Brooklyn, which will still provide easy access to Manhattan while offering a little more air – if you're working downtown or in Brooklyn, these locations may even be closer to work than uptown apartments. Also try around CUNY Law in Queens. For information on NYU and Columbia and other students offering sublets in New York, check the **National Association of Law Placement's Apartment Exchange** online at <http://www.nalpexchange.org/home.cfm>. You may also want to consult the *Village Voice* which often lists sublets in its real estate pages (www.villagevoice.com); for searching via the *Voice*, it is best to pick up a copy on a Tuesday evening, when it first hits the newsstands. **Educational Housing Services** is a not-for-profit organization that provides safe and affordable housing to students and interns in New York City. EHS has SEVEN properties throughout New York City and Brooklyn this summer, and offers fully furnished accommodations which include 24/7 security, utilities, internet, cable, and much more. EHS offers the opportunity to live in a community of your peers, since their buildings are for students and interns ONLY. To find out more about EHS and view the properties that are available this summer, please visit: www.studenthousing.org. You may also call: 1-800- 297- 4694.

If you're willing to sacrifice the "New York" in your address altogether, an attractive option is **Hoboken**, which is just across the river from Wall Street in New Jersey and Jersey City. Both areas have been rediscovered by many current students and recent college graduates, and have become a trendy residential neighborhood. Don't be afraid to go through local realtors, particularly if you are looking in the Jersey City/Hoboken area. The rent can be significantly cheaper than in the city, and the PATH train runs very regularly right into New York City, as does a NYC Transit bus leaving the Port Authority at 42nd at 8th Ave. The PATH takes 20-30 mins, and the bus 15-30 depending on traffic.

A good Web resource to get you familiar with areas and rents is **Real Estate On-Line**, which you can find at www.cityrealty.com/. Their listings tend toward the expensive side, but there are some reasonable offers, particularly if you are searching with roommates. If you are going to take a few days and apartment hunt, make sure you get the *Village Voice* or any other periodical the night it comes out or you'll be left in the cold by other rabid apartment hunters, and if you see something you like, be prepared to make a decision quickly – in NYC, someone else is always out there looking for the same apartment so if you snooze, you lose.

TRANSPORTATION

Walking is undoubtedly the cheapest and sometimes most convenient (and entertaining) way to get around Manhattan. Avenues run north-south and streets run east-west. About 20 north-south blocks make a mile. Any trip of less than 15 north-south blocks and two east-west blocks can easily be covered in less than 20 minutes (a generous rule of thumb is one minute per north-south block and three per east-west block) and is

quite safe to do by day or with a group at night. Take a look at a map (pick up a wallet-sized copy at a newsstand) when you get there so that you'll remember things like whether or not Columbus is west or east of Broadway (it's east above 63rd Street)...and don't forget that for about 50 blocks (from 59th to 110th), there is a big park bisecting the east and west sides of the city. Another tip: If you are meeting someone somewhere, locals refer to corners by cross-streets and geography – for instance, the North-East corner of Broadway and 105th or the South-West corner of Madison and 79th ...without this information, you might be standing across the street waiting for your friend and never know it.

For longer trips, public transportation, provided by the MTA's New York City Transit Authority, is usually your best option, and always your cheapest if traveling alone. The **subway** operates 24 hours a day and is safe until about midnight, and frequently well into the night on well-traveled routes. There are four north-south subway routes in Manhattan: Lexington/Park Avenues (4,5,6 trains), 6th Avenue (B,D,Q trains), 7th Avenue (1,2,3 trains), and 8th Avenue (A,C,E trains). The L runs east-west. They cover roughly five blocks per minute. The NY subway system is extensive and travels to Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens without a price change. When you're on the subway, pay attention to the signs and the time – some subways become express trains at certain hours and if you don't pay attention, you'll find yourself backtracking to your stop (and some express trains run local on the weekends). Subway maps, available free from any token booth and at www.mta.nyc.ny.us/index.html, indicate where transfers are available and where express trains stop (the maps have been revised within the last few months so be sure to pick up your very own). The most useful website for determining the best subway route is undoubtedly www.hopstop.com/.

The cost of a one-way trip on the subway is \$2.25. Subway turnstiles accept only Metrocards (no tokens). Metrocards can be purchased at any subway station or at participating pharmacies, newsstands, and convenience stores around the city. With Metrocards, a 30-Day Unlimited Ride Metrocard is \$104, and is protected against theft or loss when purchased with a credit/debit card at a vending machine. (Unlimited cards are useful if you plan to take the subway twice every weekday and occasionally on weekends). Each Metrocard trip also allows one bus-to-subway or subway-to-bus transfer (there's a 2 hour window). Main subway stops are Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall, Grand Central, Union Square, and Times Square.

Another public transportation alternative is the **bus**, sometimes a safer (late at night) and more direct (especially for cross-town rides) alternative. Buses tend to stick to one street or avenue and run either north-south or east-west and stop frequently (usually once/avenue for the cross-town buses). All avenues have at least one bus route, as do the major cross streets (e.g. 14th, 23rd, 34th, 42nd, etc). For a single fare, you can get a free transfer that allows you to take a combination of one cross-town and one uptown-downtown bus. Additionally, at night (10PM – 5AM) buses on most routes will stop anywhere a passenger requests along the route (even if it is not an official stop). The fare for a local bus is \$2.25 and \$5.50 for an express bus; buses accept Metrocards or exact change (no bills). Pay attention to the schedules, posted on the bus stops, since some buses have different weekday and weekend schedules. That being said, buses do not always meet their schedules; if you've been waiting a long time, there will likely be a cluster of buses on their way in close succession very soon.

Taxis are less expensive and more available than in Boston, but still too expensive to meet everyday travel needs (\$2.50 base fare, \$.40/one-fifth mile, \$1 rush-hour surcharge between 4PM and 8PM on weekdays, \$0.50 evening surcharge after 8PM and before 6AM). To save money, taxis should probably be used only when you question the safety of the subway (late at night) or need to take a complex trip not easily covered by public transportation. For group travel, however, taxis can be a better, and cheaper, way to go: four people

can go about 26 north-south blocks (depending on time of day and traffic) in a cab for the same price as the subway. And taxis do not charge for additional riders or additional stops! Yellow cabs are licensed by the city and charge standard rates. They are available when the middle (of the three) light on the roof is ON. If you see just two lights that are on either side of a light that's off, the taxi's taken. However, remember that it can be very hard to find a taxi sometimes during peak hours (for instance, uptown, between 8AM and 9AM or midtown from 5PM to 7PM) or during shift changes (3PM-4PM), so you can't always count on finding one then. A good place to find cabs regularly is outside Penn Station and the Port Authority, or outside a large hotel, especially in midtown.

Gypsy cabs (usually big dark cars with a livery license in the window), on the other hand, are operated either by individuals or commercial car services (look in the phone book) and are not subject to city rates, though they are regulated. You have to judge this one for yourself: while some passengers say they have been cheated and there are legitimate concerns about personal safety, many others have had no problems with them. If you live in Manhattan above 96th Street (on the east side; above Columbia University on the west side) or in most parts of the other boroughs, gypsy cabs are a way of life and definitely do cost less than yellow cabs, provided your negotiation skills are up to par (drivers will generally ask for more than you need to give them). Just get a firm price before accepting the ride – it's often possible to get a great deal (example: \$20 from the city to La Guardia). For more complicated trips or trips where you need to be picked up at a certain place/time, you can call a car service, though they tend to be very expensive. The two most well-known are Tel Aviv (212-777-7777) and Carmel (212-666-6666).

For airport trips, you can take a taxi or car service but there are cheaper options as well. Super Shuttle will pick you up and drive you to the local airports for \$13-\$22. Contact them at 212-Blue-Van. You can also find them at most airports for rides into the city. The local airports are also served by public transportation: the A subway train goes to JFK (with a shuttle bus involved), and the M60 bus stops at all the LaGuardia airport terminals.

For information on Laguardia, go to: <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/laguardia.html>.

For information on Newark, go to: <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/newark-liberty.html>.

For information on JFK, go to: <http://www.panynj.gov/airports/jfk.html>.

For people who choose to live outside the city, or who are looking for an inexpensive weekend getaway, Metro-North (leaving from Grand Central Terminal at 42nd and Lexington) and the PATH (to New Jersey, with multiple stops in Manhattan), Long Island Railroad, Port Authority buses, and New Jersey Transit (leaving from Penn Station at 34th Street and 7th Avenue) provide relatively cheap and easy access to Westchester County, Connecticut, Hoboken, and the beaches of Long Island and New Jersey.

Information about all the city's transportation offerings, from the subway to LIRR to bridges and tunnels, is available at www.mta.nyc.ny.us and www.njtransit.com.

FOOD

Food in New York is fantastic, but it can also be really expensive. Often the best way to experience NY's finest restaurants is to explore their lunch offerings and keep your eyes open for great neighborhood restaurants. However, the city is also full of great quality, reasonably-priced places in every neighborhood.

There are tons of these places and, another big New York plus, many of them are open really late into the night, some even 24 hours. With so many restaurants in New York City, please take the following listing for what it is – scattered recommendations by people who have lived in the area – and not as a comprehensive or authoritative guide. We hope you'll find a few favorites on this list, but we encourage you to consult any of the numerous NYC eating guides for others: **the New York Times'** food critics offer opinionated recommendations; newyork.citysearch.com has quite comprehensive listings which can be sorted by distance, ratings, cuisine, price, etc.; **New York Magazine** (www.newyorkmag.com) has some good and reliable listings all over the city (although they are heavier on the pricier places, they do include a fair number of reasonably-priced places, especially their "Cheap Eats" issue <http://nymag.com/restaurants/cheapeats/2007/>); **Time Out** New York's annual **Eating & Drinking Guide** (available at newsstands and by subscription at www.timeoutny.com); and, of course, the ever-famous **Zagat Survey**. Another great resource is **Menupages** (www.menupages.com), an online restaurant guide which posts menus from most restaurants, although the posted menus can be outdated. There is also a great website for foodies called **Chowhound** (www.chowhound.com), which uses a searchable message board format. If you are looking for a particular type of restaurant, you can post a question and will likely receive several informative responses. The site is little-known and frequented by serious foodies, and while it is a great source of ideas, you may want to follow-up on recommendations by further research in some of the abovementioned guides. And remember, sometimes the best restaurants are the ones you stumble across accidentally, so make sure to be adventurous. Also, remember that a lot of the city's top restaurants offer great deals for lunch and dinner during **Restaurant Week**, (actually two weeks, in mid-July—exact dates haven't been confirmed yet). You can make reservations early on Open Table, at www.opentable.com. **Hipguide** (www.hipguide.com) and **DailyCandy** (www.dailycandy.com) also offer the inside scoop into the restaurant scene.

Grocery Shopping

If you'd rather whip up a meal at home, there's likely a small grocery store on every corner to get your basics, but they are generally overpriced. Larger supermarkets like **Sloan's**, **D'Agostino's**, **Gristedes** and **Food Emporium** are a little better for staples, but you will likely find the produce disappointing at most larger supermarkets in NYC. You can often do much better at a corner groceries and fruit shop. There are several health food groceries around the city, including **Wholefoods** (7th Avenue and 4th street or Broadway and 89th Street, among other locations; not to be confused with Whole Foods, the national chain); **Healthy Pleasures** (University Place just below Union Square Park and a location in SoHo); and **Commodities Natural Market** (1st Ave. at 11th St.) **Integral Yoga Institute** (West 13th Street, just south of 7th Avenue) is a little-known market that offers great vegan and healthful groceries and prepared foods. The city also has several branches of the national organic and gourmet bastion, **Whole Foods Market** (including beautiful locations at the Shops at Columbus Circle, Union Square at 40 E. 14th St., in Chelsea at 250 7th Ave. at 24th St, in Tribeca at Greenwich and Warren, and in the Bowery at 95 East Houston St.). On the Upper West Side, **Fairway** (Broadway and 74th Street) has prices similar to or better than other larger supermarket chains, but generally better produce, more international and gourmet offerings, and a full organic market upstairs. If you have access to a car or you're really ambitious with your shopping, be sure to check out the giant **Fairway Uptown** (under the West Side Highway at 125th Street) which has better prices, wider selection, and is an experience in itself – a huge warehouse grocery store where they lend you a jacket to enter the sprawling meat-freezer portion of the store (on a hot day, it may be worth a visit just to stand in the freezer). Buy your whole summer's groceries here and take a cab home. **Trader Joe's** (Manhattan locations at 14th St. and 3rd Ave., 21st St. and 6th Ave., and 72nd St. and Broadway; new Brooklyn location at Atlantic Ave. and Court St.

in Brooklyn Heights) tends to carry inexpensive snacks and other wholesome fare but a regrettably sparse produce selection; the 14th St. location has a separate store devoted entirely to a wide selection of reasonably priced wines. **Gourmet Garage/Vinegar Factory**, (with locations in the Upper East Side, Soho and West Village) tends to the gourmet, but offers a good selection of bread, cheese, and prepared foods. **Citarella** is another higher-end market chain, known for its fresh fish (some say the best in Manhattan) and meats.

For more interactive and experiential shopping trips, check out the farmers' markets around the city. There is a great **Green Market** several days a week, and on weekends in Union Square, with farm-fresh vegetables, fruits, plants, dairy, and baked goods. During the summer, Rockefeller Center hosts an outpost of the Green Market. Other farmers' markets take place around the city and are worth scheduling grocery shopping around. For locations and schedules, visit www.ny.com/dining/green.html. **Chinatown** has wonderful fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, and other provisions, and it is always the cheapest around. There's a great Chinese bun/dumpling store on Grand Street (north side of the street just west of Elizabeth Street) that sells a half dozen giant buns for under \$3.

Even if you can't afford gourmet grocery stores, it's fun to browse through some of them, like **Dean & DeLuca** (Broadway and Prince Street in SoHo and with prepared food in Rockefeller Center) or **Zabar's** (Broadway and 81st street) on the Upper West Side, right next to the bagelry many New Yorkers swear by, **H&H Bagels**, at 80th and Broadway. **Agata & Valentina** on 79th St. and 1st Ave. has gourmet produce, groceries, and prepared foods. Finally, many New Yorkers swear by **FreshDirect**, a grocery-delivery service, online at www.freshdirect.com, where you place an order and can have it delivered in a time window of your choosing. Their selection is quite good, and their produce meets or beats the quality you'll find on your own in a store. Also, almost every block has a “**deli**” or “**bodega**” offering groceries, sandwiches, and hot and cold salad bars at all hours. These are often staples for picking up lunch near the office, or grabbing milk on the way home from work.

Restaurants: Manhattan

CHINATOWN/DOWNTOWN

Chinatown Ice Cream Factory (65 Bayard St. btwn Elizabeth and Mott): great ice cream, made fresh on premises, including some special Chinese flavors like durian and lychee

Chinatown Penang (Malaysian) (Elizabeth St. just north of Canal): same delicious food as at the uptown and Soho branches for a fraction of the price

The Excellent Dumpling House (Chinese) (Lafayette St., just below Canal): try the vegetable dumplings and scallion pancakes—supposed to be the best in the City

Fried Dumpling (Chinese) (between Mulberry and Mott on Mosco St.): Try 5-for-\$1 minced pork and leek dumplings. Very delicious and cheap!

Joe's Shanghai (Chinese) (Pell St.): one of the ultimate Chinese restaurants in NY, where if your favorite dish isn't on the menu they'll make it for you better than you've ever had it (try the soup dumplings); generally attracts tourists

Kong Kee Food (Chinese) (South East Corner of Canal and Chambers): \$1 chow-fun and lo-mien take-out at where they pack an old-school Styrofoam Big-Mac container with fresh noodles from their factory down the street

New Green Bo (Chinese) (66 Bayard St. btwn Elizabeth and Mott): great cheap, authentic Shanghai-style Chinese

New Pasteur (Vietnamese) (Baxter St. between Bayard and Canal): good, reasonably priced Vietnamese food

Pho Viet Huong (Vietnamese) (Mulberry St. between Canal and Bayard) : good, reasonably priced Vietnamese food

Red (Mexican) (at South Street Seaport): delicious inexpensive Mexican food

The Thailand Restaurant (Thai) (Bayard and Baxter) really great food, lunch for under \$6 (try the yellow curry)

The Vegetarian Dim Sum House (Vegetarian Chinese) (on Pell just off Mott): authentic, delicious, very cheap, vegetarian dim sum (skip the regular menu and just select random things on your dim sum sheet - you will rarely be disappointed)

Vegetarian Paradise 3 (Vegetarian Chinese) (Mott by Pell): authentic, delicious, very cheap, vegetarian dim sum (again, skip the regular menu and just select random things on your dim sum sheet - the sesame buns (steamed) are a *must*)

Zeytuna Market (prepared foods; take-out only) (Maiden Lane at John St.): terrific selection of good, fresh prepared foods for take-out

EAST VILLAGE/LITTLE ITALY

Dojo's (Vegan) (St. Marks btwn 2nd and 3rd Aves.; 4th St. btwn Broadway and Mercer): very cheap Asian-influenced vegan food

French Roast (French-inspired diner) (6th Ave. and 6th St.; *also* other locations around the city): terrific breakfasts and big French-style bowls of cocoa

Gray's Papaya (hot dogs) (8th Street and 6th Avenue; other locations throughout the city including 72nd & Broadway): cheaper version of the Papaya King; offers 2 dogs and a tropical drink for under \$2.50; good for quick bite

Il Bagatto (Italian) (192 E. 2nd St. btwn Aves. A and B): delicious cheap Italian

Moustache (Middle-Eastern) (90 Bedford Street btwn Barrow and Grove; also E. 10th St. btwn Ave. A and 1st Ave.): great cheap Middle Eastern

Perbacco (Italian) (234 E. 4th St. btwn Aves. A and B): Italian-style tapas (small plates), cheap, great wine-by-the-glass list

Rose of India (Indian/Pakistani) (E. 6th St. btwn 1st and 2nd Aves.): good quality, cheap

Round-the-Clock (diner) (St. Mark's Place): fine quality, inexpensive, open 24-hours

Sal Anthony's SPQR (Italian) (133 Mulberry Street): good Little Italy staple; prix fixe lunch for \$7.95 (includes appetizer and entrée)

75 Greenwich Café (European cafe) (7th Avenue and Greenwich Avenue): open very late; good calamari

Veniero's (Italian desserts) (11th Street and 1st Avenue): well-known authentic Little Italy pastries and other desserts

Veselka (Ukrainian) (9th Street and 2nd Avenue): great for cheap Ukrainian food (oh those blintzes!)

HARLEM

Amy Ruth's (Southern, Soul Food) (116 b/w Lenox and 7th): get ready for a food coma w/ fried okra and buttery biscuits

Dinasaour Bar-B-Que (BBQ, Southern) (131st at 12th Avenue): the real deal when it comes to bbq...great ribs, fried green tomatoes, and an amazing selection of pies

Keur-Samba (West African) (116th Street btwn Lenox and 8th Ave.)

Pisticci (Italian) (125 LaSalle St., btwn 123rd and 125th): Delicious and reasonably priced food; fresh pasta in a warm atmosphere. Try it once and you'll undoubtedly be back for more. Recommend the lamb ragu with ricotta cheese.

Sylvia's (Soul Food) (Lenox Avenue and 125th Street)

Well's (Soul Food) (Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. and 130th St.)

LOWER EAST SIDE

Katz's Delicatessen (Deli) (Houston and Ludlow Streets): classic NY Jewish deli, featured in the orgasm scene in the movie "When Harry Met Sally"

Schiller's Liquor Bar (Eclectic, International, Gastropub) (Rivington and Norfolk St.): one of Keith McNally's several successful eateries, Schiller's is a cheaper and hipper alternative to the regular bistro.

'inoteca (Italian, Sandwiches, Tapas) (Rivington at Ludlow): trendy LES fixture with a no reservations policy for tables under 6; fun for late night group gathering. the bill adds up.

Shopsin's (Coffee Shop, Brunch, Eclectic) (Essex St Market, Stall No. 16 b/w Rivington and Delancey): when old Shopsin's closed the West Village wept for weeks. Quirky staff, crazy long but delicious menu especially for those who swear by brunch.

Freemans (Brunch, American New) (End of Freeman Alley, Off Rivington Btwn Bowery & Chrystie): Hipster Haven w/ great food and yes..it is located at the end of an alley.

Essex (American, Brunch) (Essex at Rivington): great brunch prices, big greasy portions-\$16 can get you a meal and 3 boozy beverages!

Kampuchea Restaurant (Cambodian, SE Asian) (78 Rivington St): delicious interpretations of Cambodian street food, communal-tabled noodle bar.

MIDTOWN

Blockhead's: (Mexican) (322 W. 50th St btwn 8th & 9th Aves, also on 2nd Ave btwn 50th & 51st Sts and downtown): good cheap tacos, burritos, try the fish tacos with chipotle mayonnaise; they also have beer and frozen margaritas

Carve Unique Sandwiches (Sandwiches) (760 8th Ave. at 47th St.): really delicious, fresh, creative sandwiches

Carnegie Deli (Jewish Delicatessen) (854 7th Ave. at 55th St.): famous, authentic, New York deli. Huge sandwiches, matzo ball soup, cheesecake. A must see New York City experience.

Eatery: (American) (798 9th Ave at 53rd): good large salads and interesting appetizers, as well as comfort food entrees for a reasonable price. Try the macaroni and cheese, it's the house specialty. A bit expensive for only slightly above-average food.

Ess-a-bagel (sandwiches) (831 3rd Ave. btwn 50th and 51st): good bagel sandwiches

Llamo Bello (Italian) (59th btwn Madison and Park)

Mangia (prepared foods; sandwiches; take-out) (57th by 6th Ave.): good gourmet take-out food, salad bar, etc.

Margon (Cuban) (46th St. btwn 6th and 7th Aves.): to-die-for Cuban food – whether roast chicken, rice and beans, or a plain old cubano you will not believe how good they make their food taste

Rudy's Bar and Grill (hot dogs) (9th Avenue and 44th street): really a dive bar, but owner Johnny Dirt always has FREE hot dogs ready on the grill and pints are under \$3

Siam Inn (Thai) (8th Ave. btwn 51st and 52nd): good Thai

Uncle Nick's (Greek) (50th & 9th): good for a not-too-expensive delicious Greek dinner; try the flaming cheese appetizer

MURRAY HILL/FLATIRON

Bao Noodles (Pan-Asian) (391 E. 2nd Ave. at 23rd St.): cheaper but equally good off-shoot of Bao 111 in Alphabet City; cash only

Bar Stuzzichini (Italian Tapas) 928 Broadway, nr. 22nd St): new Italian eatery following the tapas craze...the little plates add up!

Bistango (Italian) (3rd Ave at 29th Street): Home-style, reasonably priced Italian food...great neighborhood place.

“Curry Hill” (Indian) (Lexington Avenue between 27th and 29th Sts.): a string of inexpensive Indian restaurants (diners benefit in price and taste from the tight competition among them)

Penelope (café and bakery) (150 Lexington at 30th): though you'll have to wait for a table for brunch, you won't regret it. Enjoy a delicious brunch in this quaint country café.

Shake Shack (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Shakes) (Madison Square Park at 23rd Street; Upper West Side location too at Columbus at 77th; a few other city locations): Danny Meyer does gourmet burgers in the park. Be prepared for long lines. Delicious. Absolutely wonderful. Shroom burger and cheese fries are delightful. Daily rotating custard flavors! A MUST in New York!

SOHO/UNION SQUARE

Cafe Habana (Latin) (17 Prince St. at Elizabeth): cheap, delicious, diner-style Latin; the corn with grated cheese and butter is soooo tasty!

Chat n' Chew (comfort food) (10 E. 16th btwn 5th Ave. and Union Square West): amazing mac-n-cheese; great chili; delicious, cheap comfort food

ChickPea (Middle Eastern, Kosher) (14th Street b/w 2nd and 3rd): addictive hummus, shawarma, and falafel

Jean Claude (French bistro) (137 Sullivan St. btwn Houston and Prince): great value in good French bistro fare (try the steak frites)

Olive Tree (Mediterranean) (117 MacDougal St. at West 3rd): very good Mediterranean food and extremely cheap

Maoz (Vegetarian, Middle Eastern) (38 Union Square East): cheap, healthy, quick.

Max Brenner (Chocolatier and restaurant) (841 Broadway btwn 13th and 14th): the perfect dessert stop for a special occasion. A bit pricy. Chocolate creations include chocolate pizza, chocolate soup and choctails. But make sure to try the banana hazelnut cream crepe!

Mexicana Mama Centro (Mexican) (47 E. 12th btwn Broadway and University Place): delicious burritos, charming atmosphere, great for a date night. Be prepared to wait for a table on weekend nights

Momofuku Ssäm Bar 207 Second Ave., at 13th St.: a must for your complete NYC experience. David Chang's latest creation is beloved by hipsters, foodies, and even hard to please NY Times critic Frank Bruni. long lines, delicious steamed buns, and the Asian burrito. Not for vegetarians, perfect for meat lovers.

Press Toast (Israeli) (112 MacDougal St. btwn Bleeker and West 3rd): extremely cheap and good Israeli paninis, but no room to sit down

Rainbow Falafel & Shawarma (Middle Eastern, Vegetarian) (17th b/w Bway and 5th): cheap and tasty

Republic (pan-Asian) (37 Union Square West btwn 16th and 17th): good, cheap pan-Asian; bench-seating at long, communal tables

Tomoe (Sushi) (172 Thompson St. btwn Bleecker and Houston): most New Yorkers place Tomoe among the best sushi in the city; not the cheapest sushi but reasonably priced for amazingly fresh and delicious fish; expect to wait (but it's worth it!)

Van Leeuwen Artisan Ice Cream (Ice Cream) (Greene St. at Prince St., afternoons; University Pl. nr. 11th St., evenings): the latest dessert truck to roll into town, delicious, original flavors (\$3.50 for a small)

UPPER EAST

Barking Dog (comfort food) (1678 3rd Ave. at 94th St.; *also* 1453 York Ave. at 77th St., and 150 E. 34th btwn Lexington and 3rd Ave.): great salads, sandwiches, and burgers

Beyoglu (Turkish) (1431 3rd Ave. at 81st St.): really good, moderately-priced Turkish mezes (like tapas) and kebabs

Buttercup Bake Shop (Bakery) (973 2nd Ave btwn 51st and 52nd): a cupcake from this bakery and a stroll in Central Park make for a lovely, lazy summer day

Candle Cafe (Vegan) (1307 3rd Ave. at 75th St.): even non-vegetarians will love this wonderful, creative and healthy food

Dakshin Indian Bistro (Indian) (1713 1st Ave. btwn 88th and 89th; *also* 741 9th Ave. at 50th): reasonably-priced good Indian

Ecco-la (Italian) (3rd Avenue and 93rd St.): wonderful, fairly-cheap Italian

EJ's Luncheonette (diner) (1271 3rd Ave. at 73rd St.; *also* 447 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 81st and 82nd; 432 6th Ave. btwn 9th and 10th): classic, cheap, cut-above-the-corner-diner food; great sweet potato fries

Saigon Grill (Vietnamese) (1700 2nd Ave. at 88th St.; *also* 620 Amsterdam at 90th St.): fabulous, really inexpensive, fresh Vietnamese food (West Side location recently expanded and now includes sushi, but stick with the Vietnamese); love the cubed beef and bun xiao!

Spice (Thai) (2nd Ave. btwn 73rd and 74th; *also* University St. at 10th St.; *and* 19th St. & 8th Ave.): delicious cheap Thai food

UPPER WEST SIDE

A (French-Caribbean) (947 Columbus Ave. btwn 106th and 107th): really delicious and inexpensive creative food; small menu, but everything is great; BYO; no credit cards

Absolute Bagels (take out bagels) (2788 Broadway btwn 107th and 108th): any Columbia grad and most Upper-Upper West Siders will attest that Absolute Bagels are just as good (or better) for cheaper than the world-famous H&H

Alice's Teacup (Tea, Brunch) (102 W. 73rd St., 156 E. 54th St., 220 E. 81st St.): Cute and frilly settings for tea parties, light salads sandwiches, and the best scones you've ever tasted; very fun to go with other girls!

Barney Greengrass (Brunch) (541 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 86th and 87th): a must-visit for THE BEST smoked fish (nova, lox, whitefish, etc.) in New York; amazing potato pancakes; this place is a classic New York experience – it's definitely worth the wait and the slightly higher price than some of the other delis and diners around; closed for vacation for a couple of weeks every August

Bin 71 (Wine Bar/American) (237 Columbus Ave. at 71st St.): great cozy wine bar with delicious small plates. American with European accents

Burritoville (166 W. 72nd St. btwn Amsterdam and Columbus Aves.; *also* many other locations around the city – see www.burritoville.com): super-fast, really cheap, fresh California-style burritos

Brother Jimmy's (BBQ) (428 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 80th and 81st): good cheap BBQ and a “hoppin” bar on weekends

Café con Leche (Cuban-Dominican) (424 Amsterdam btwn 80th and 81st; *also* 726 Amsterdam btwn 95th and 96th): good, cheap Cuban; great fried plantains

Cafe Lalo (café and desserts) (201 W. 83rd St. btwn Broadway and Amsterdam): delicious desserts and coffee cocktails; also good salads and sandwiches for lunch or brunch; made famous by the Meg Ryan-Tom Hanks movie “You’ve Got Mail”; really yummy frozen yogurt

Carmine's (Italian) (2450 Broadway btwn 90th and 91st; *also* 200 W. 44th St. btwn Broadway and 8th Ave.): family-style Italian; copious amounts of food; only go with big groups and share a few items. Reservations recommended

Celeste (Italian) (502 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 84th and 85th): tiny gem of inexpensive delicious Italian; all of the pastas are freshly made; great saffron ravioli; no credit cards

Fairway Café (American) (2127 Broadway btwn 74th and 75th): upstairs from the famous market; great for brunch or lunch

Gabriela's (Mexican) (315 Amsterdam Ave. at 75th; *also* 685 Amsterdam at 93rd St.): delicious, cheap Mexican; good margaritas

Gennaro (Italian) (665 Amsterdam btwn 92nd and 93rd): really delicious Italian food that is among the best bangs-for-your-buck in the city; it's always busy so go early or late; no credit cards

Good Enough to Eat (Brunch/American) (483 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 83rd and 84th): country-style, fresh ingredients; great for brunch or lunch

H&H Bagels (take out bagels) (2239 Broadway at 80th St.; 639 W. 46th St. at 11th Ave.): world-famous bagels; just the bagels, hot and fresh from the oven (on the Upper West, stop next door and splurge on lox from Zabar's); some people say these are the best bagels in New York

Kitchenette (American) (1272 Amsterdam at 122nd): Quaint country feel. Try the turkey, brie, apple omelets. Good red velvet cake but call ahead to make sure they have it on that day!

Lemongrass Grill (Thai) (2543 Broadway btwn 94th and 95th; *also* other locations around the city): good, cheap Thai

Magnolia Bakery (cakes) (200 Columbus Ave.): great, delicious famous (thanks to Sex and the City) pastel-iced cupcakes; also terrific cakes; a bit over-rated; popular with tourists but not necessarily with locals

Mary Ann's (Tex-Mex) (2452 Broadway btwn 90th and 91st; *also* other locations around the city): cheap, huge portions; great margaritas

Max (Southern Italian) (1274 Amsterdam Ave. at 123rd St.; for other locations see www.maxrestaurantny.com): good quality, inexpensive Italian – one of your best bets above Columbia

Ollie's (Chinese) (1991 Broadway btwn 67th and 68th; *also* 2957 Broadway at 116th St.; *and* 2315 Broadway at 84th St.; *and* 200-B W. 44th St. btwn Broadway and 8th Ave.): decent, cheap Chinese

Patsy's Pizzeria (Italian) (61 W. 74th St. btwn Columbus and Central Park West; *also* several other locations around the city): solid pizza and great salads; good to go with a group because salads and pasta entrees are large enough to share; no credit cards

Pinch and S'Mac (American) (474 Columbus Ave. at 83rd St.) Tasty thin crust pizza, macaroni and cheese and signature salads.

Popover Café (Brunch/American) (551 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 86th and 87th): good, reasonably-priced American; good for brunch but also great salads, sandwiches, and veggie chili for lunch and dinner

Sarabeth's (Brunch/American) (423 Amsterdam Ave. btwn 80th and 81st): cute brunch and tea spot; delicious muffins; take your parents when they visit; usually long lines; simple but yummy

Symposium (Greek) (554 W. 113th St. off of Broadway): the selection is much like what you'd find in a taverna in Greece, including dolmadakia, taramosalata, spanikopita, saganaki, radikia, moussaka, souvlaki, and fresh whole fish; cheap food; great sangria

Yuki Sushi (Japanese) (656 Amsterdam Ave. at 92nd St.): very good quality, not-too-expensive sushi, creative rolls (many say this is the best reasonably-priced sushi on the Upper West)

Zen Palate (vegan pan-Asian) (2170 Broadway btwn 76th and 77th; *also* 34 Union Square East at 16th; *and* 663 9th Ave. at 46th): cheap, good vegan Asian food; the Union Square location is a bit fancier upstairs and has a more limited menu than the Upper West of Midtown locations

WEST VILLAGE/CHELSEA/MEATPACKING

Arte Pasta (Italian) (81 Greenwich Ave. and Bank St.): prix fixe Sunday brunch is great for big groups; big portions and unlimited mimosas for under \$11

Better Burger (burgers) (8th Ave. at 19th St.): “healthy” burgers and fries for carnivores and vegetarians alike; great veggie burgers

Blue Moon Mexican Cafe (Mexican) (8th Ave. at 17th St.): reasonably priced Mexican food; 20 different flavors of margaritas

Corner Bistro (burgers) (8th Ave. and 4th St.): some say this has the best and cheapest burgers in the city

Cucina Stagionale (Italian) (Bleecker Street btwn 6th and 7th Aves.): great Italian hide-away; BYO

Da Andrea (Italian) (557 Hudson St. nr Perry St.): cheap excellent and very authentic

Day-O (Caribbean) (103 Greenwich Ave. at W. 12th St.): unbeatable Caribbean buffet

Empire Diner (diner) (10th Avenue, 22nd Street): good, fresh, inexpensive diner food

Florent (French diner) (69 Gansevoort St. btwn Greenwich and Washington): not really cheap, but not too expensive; often crowded so go early or late – it's a great place to end a night out with what some say are THE BEST french fries in the city

Gobo (Vegetarian pan-Asian) (401 6th Ave. btwn Waverly and W. 8th St.): really good, not too expensive vegan/vegetarian pan-Asian

Gonzo (Italian/pizza) (140 W. 13th btwn 6th and 7th Aves.): not really cheap, but not too expensive, and the super-thin grilled pizza is delicious; lots of interesting toppings and great salads; go with friends and share a few salads and pizzas

Good (Latin-inspired comfort food) (Greenwich Avenue and Bank Street): not-too-cheap, but great brunch; Latin flair

Gottino (Italian/wine bar) (52 Greenwich Ave. nr. Perry St.): “Gastroteca”—an Italian gastropub. Great food, great wine and thoughtful service.

Grey Dog’s Coffee (Cafe/sandwiches) (33 Carmine St. btwn Bedford and Bleecker): great creative sandwiches and good coffee

Hog Pit (BBQ) (W. 13th St. and 9th Ave.): pulled BBQ pork and Pabst Blue Ribbon

ino (Panini sandwiches) (21 Bedford St. btwn Downing and 6th Ave.): good, inexpensive panini sandwiches and nice wine list

John’s Pizzeria (pizza) (7th Ave. and Bleecker St.): delicious brick-oven pizza in historically hand-carved wooden booths

La Taza de Oro (Puerto Rican) (8th Ave. btwn 14th and 15th): great lunch counter style

Magnolia Bakery (cakes) (Bleecker St. and 11th St.): great, delicious famous (thanks to Sex and the City) pastel-iced cupcakes; also terrific cakes

Malatesta Trattoria (Italian) (649 Washington St. at Christopher St.): Fresh, delicious and reasonably priced pasta. Wonderful atmosphere.

Mamoun’s Falafel (Middle-eastern) (Macdougall St.): great, cheap falafel (attention Yalies: same owners as in New Haven)

Petite Abeille (400 W. 14th btwn 9th and 10th Aves.; *also* several other locations around the city) (Belgian comfort food): good, inexpensive “moules and frites” (mussels and french fries)

Po (Italian) (31 Cornelia St. btwn Bleecker and W. 4th St.): this may not be cheap, but it is great bang-for-your-buck; delicious Italian created by Mario Batali of Babbo fame; good place to splurge for a nice meal; has a very well-priced \$40 6-course tasting menu.

Soy Luck Club (café) (115 Greenwich Ave. at Jane St.): good for lattes and celeb-watching near the Equinox sports club down the street

Tartine (French) (11th St. and 4th St. —only in the W. Village can 11th St. meet 4th St.): one of the best brunches in the Village; great croque monsieur or pain au chocolat

Tavern on Jane (pub-style) (8th Avenue and Jane Street): good, expansive pub menu includes ostrich burgers and grilled veggie plate

Trailer Park (23rd St. btwn 7th and 8th Aves.): greasy burgers come topped with chili

Westville (American) (210 W. 10th St. btwn W. 4th and Bleecker): great farm-fresh American. No reservations but good delivery and worth the wait.

Restaurants: Brooklyn

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS/DUMBO (Down Under Manhattan Bridge Overpass)

Atlantic Bagels (bagels) (Atlantic Ave. and Clinton St.): some say these are Brooklyn's (or New York's) best bagels

Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory (ice cream) (Fulton Ferry Landing Pier btwn Old Fulton and Water Sts. – right under the Brooklyn Bridge) also worth the trip – delicious homemade ice cream

Grimaldi's Pizzeria (pizza) (19 Old Fulton St. – right under the Brooklyn Bridge on the waterfront): great pizza that is worth the trip – some say this is the best pizza in the 5 boroughs (their specialty is roasted red pepper pizza with fresh mozzarella and basil).

CARROLL GARDENS

Banania Café (American) (241 Smith St, at Douglass St): serves lunch and dinner but the real reason to come here is the stupendous brunch (starting with the bread basket featuring fresh chocolate croissants that appears at your table as soon as you sit down!). Moderate (\$7-15 entrees)

The Grocery (American) (288 Smith St, between Sackett and Union, 718-596-3335): considered one of the top restaurants in New York City (take that, Manhattan!), it's not cheap but not outrageous given the quality of the food (\$10-18 entrees).

Patois (French) (255 Smith St., 718-855-1535): an early comer to Brooklyn's French revival (\$9-17 entrees)

Robin des Bois a.k.a. Sherwood Café (French) (195 Smith St, b/w Baltic and Warren Sts, 718-596-1608): in addition to delicious French food (meat eaters should be sure to try the pate and fig appetizer), the eclectic décor and genuinely French wait staff imported directly from a Parisian café are the other half of the reason to come here. Moderate (\$8-16 entrees)

COBBLE HILL

Joya (Thai) (215 Court St. at Wyckoff St.): great, cheap Thai food; no credit cards

FORT GREENE

[Fort Greene has lots of French eating options, plus a few other cuisines (this is Brooklyn after all). Almost all restaurants of note are located within a 4 block radius easily accessed by the C (Lafayette stop) or D/Q/N/R (DeKalb stop)]

A Table (French bistro fare) (171 Lafayette Ave at Adelphi): if you're willing to venture off DeKalb, walk up Adelphi a whole block to find this charmingly decorated bistro serving solid French food at communal tables. The croissants are excellent if you can grab one in the morning before they're all gone. Rank 1 out of 3 among French options, but I'd still choose Liquors over all of them any day of the week, but especially Sunday (ie Brunchday). (Entrees \$9-16)

Black Iris (Middle Eastern) (228 DeKalb Ave, corner with Clermont): cheap, fast, but good falafel and other Middle Eastern specialties.

Chez Oskar (French) (211 DeKalb Ave, corner with Adelphi): okay French food at okay prices. Serves Brunch. I'd rank it 3 out of 3 among the French restaurants listed here. (Entrees \$6-12)

Junior's (Cheesecake) (386 Flatbush Ave, at Fulton Mall): of course they serve other things besides cheesecake (a "deli-diner-soul-food menu" like you can only find in Brooklyn), but the famous cheesecake is the main draw and with good reason. No joke. (Entrees \$5-15 including cheesecake)

Liquors (eclectic nouvelle everything!) (219 DeKalb Ave, b/w Clermont and Adelphi): delicious, inventive food with Asian, Latin American, African and European influences, and a GREAT brunch, and an incredibly nice wait staff. Garden seating in summertime.

Loulou (rustic French) (222 DeKalb Ave b/w Clermont and Adelphi): pretty good French food. Can get expensive with drinks and appetizers. Rank 2 out of 3 on the Ft. Greene French scale. (\$8-16 entrees)

Madiba (South African) (195 DeKalb Ave, between Adelphi and Carlton, 718-855-9190): somewhat overpriced South African food and the décor aims to be "authentic," which can feel a little Disney, but the wait staff is genuinely South African as are many of the patrons. The bar is fun, and there's sometimes live music. (Entrees \$8-16)

Tillie's (coffee) (248 DeKalb, corner of Vanderbilt Ave): the coffee shop to study, read, talk, or just hang out in. Quality of the coffee itself is mediocre if you're a purist.

PARK SLOPE

Al Di La Trattoria (Italian) (248 5th Avenue, at Carroll St. 718-783-4565, www.aldilatrattoria.com): this amazing Italian restaurant (think incredibly fresh handmade pasta) doesn't take reservations but if you leave your name, they'll call your cell and in the meantime you can hang out on a stoop or in one of the numerous nearby bars (Moutarde is across the street, Long Tan is just down the street). It's a little more expensive but well worth the splurge. (entrees \$9-20)

Belleville (French) (330 5th St. at 5th Ave., 718-832-9777, www.bellevillebistro.com): get better if still not cheap French food (brunch is a better deal) up the street at this equally cutesy bistro. (entrees \$6-18)

Bistro St. Mark's (American) (76 St. Mark's Ave, at Flatbush, 718-857-8600): good, slightly more expensive French-inflected American with a mellow candle-lit ambience (\$9-16)

Blue Ribbon Sushi (Sushi) (278 5th Ave, 718-840-0408): just as excellent as and easier to get into than its Manhattan counterpart, Blue Ribbon is always a splurge but always worth it.

The Chip Shop (British) (383 5th Ave at 6th St, 718-832-7701): perhaps NYC's only genuine fish-and-chips shop, while still maintaining an appropriate dose of Brooklyn hipness. They also serve other fine British comfort foods and reportedly even deep-fried candy bars. (\$5-10)

Coco Roco (South American) (392 5th Ave, 718-965-3376): decent and pretty cheap South American food. (\$6-12)

Daisey's (diner) (452 5th Ave, at 9th St): the perennial Park Slope favorite for good old-fashioned diner food. (\$4-12)

Long Tan (Thai) (194 Fifth Ave, b/w Union & Berkley): serves equally good green curry and ginger Kamikazes. Come for dinner, or hang out at the bar early or late in the evening. (entrees \$8-16)

Los Pollitos II (148 5th Ave, at DeGraw): offers really decent Mexican food at excellently low prices. (Entrees \$4-12)

Moutarde (French) (239 5th Ave, at Carroll St, www.restaurantmoutarde.com): get decent but somewhat overpriced French food in this Belle Époque-inspired corner bistro. Of note are the diverse mustards (or *moutardes*) that arrive at your table, and a good wine list. Brunch is a cheaper option, and you can also hang out at the bar while you wait for a table at Al Di La (see below). (entrees \$6-18)

Nana (Pan-Asian) (155 5th Ave, at St. John's Place, 718-230-3749): look for the neon green sign above this hip, relatively new arrival serving good Thai-, Japanese-, Chinese-influenced food, and similarly inspired mixed drinks (think Lychee cosmos). Note that it's cash-only. Garden seating in summertime (Entrees \$8-16)

Olive Vine (Middle Eastern) (54 7th Ave, near Union, 718-622-2626): cheap falafel and other Middle Eastern specialties. (\$5-10)

Rose Water (American) (787 Union St, at 6th Ave, 718-783-3800): for a splurge, try Rose Water's inventive, regularly changing menu. Super nice wait staff. They also have a great brunch. (\$9-16)

Sheep Station (Australian) (149 4th Ave, 718-857-4337, www.sheepstation.net): Pick of Time Out's Cheap Eats.

Taro Sushi (Sushi) (446 Dean St., 718-398-0872): great sushi, and cheaper than Blue Ribbon.

WILLIAMSBURG

[Check out www.freewilliamsburg.com for extensive restaurant, bar and gallery listings]

Alligator Lounge (American) (600 Metropolitan Ave. btwn Leonard St. and Lorimer): a bar with free pizza when you order a drink. (\$5-10)

Atlas Café (coffee shop) (116 Havemeyer St. btwn Hope and Grand): coffee shop and free internet.

Dumont Burger (American)(314 Bedford Ave., 718-384-6128): awesome burgers and fish sandwiches in a bistro setting. (\$8-15).

Egg (American) (135 N.5th St, near Bedford, 718-302-5151): amazing homestyle Southern breakfast. Best omelet in town, and they even have grits. Get there early.

Oasis (Middle Eastern) (161 N. 7th St, right off the subway): Great, dirt cheap falafel. (\$3-7)

Planet Thai (Thai) (133 N. 7th St, b/w Bedford and Berry): like everything else in Williamsburg, hopelessly hip, but also quality Thai food at supremely decent prices (\$6-12)

Taco Chulo (Mexican) (318 Grand St. btwn Havemeyer and Marcy, 718-302-2485): One of the best Mexican restaurants in Williamsburg. Great fish tacos. And a great brunch. (\$8-12).

Verb Cafe (Coffee shop) (218 Bedford Ave): coffee shop with pastries and sandwiches. Located in the finest hipster mall in Brooklyn.

Vera Cruz (Mexican) (195 Bedford Ave): go as much for the bar scene as for the generally solid somewhat American-adulterated Mexican food. (\$10 entrees)

BUSHWICK

Life Café (American) (983 Flushing Avenue at Central Avenue, 718-386-1133): One of the few restaurants on this mainly industrial thoroughfare, Life Café offers affordable, hearty portions in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood.

Roberta's Pizza (American) (261 Moore St., 718-417-1118): Roberta's recently opened up in Bushwick, and has delicious pizza from a wood burning oven and a great atmosphere.

ASTORIA

Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden (Czech) (2919 24th Ave., 718-274-4925): one of the last original Beer Gardens in New York City. In the summertime this is one of the best places to grab a beer and eat delicious food outdoors. Always a scene.

JJ's Grand Tofu (Japanese) (3705 31st Ave, btwn 37th and 38th Sts., 718-626-8888): JJ's has the best sushi around for reasonable prices, especially for lunch specials.

The Brick Café (French/American) (3095 33rd St. at 31st Ave., 718-267-2735): With lots of outdoor sidewalk tables and a small but appealing menu, this is a great place for brunch and/or dinner and cocktails.

Zenon Taverna (Greek) (34-10 31st Ave. between 33rd and 34th Sts., 718-956-0133): No description of Astoria restaurants would be complete without a Greek listing. Though the neighborhood is changing, it's still heavily Greek and this is where you'll find the best Greek food in the city. Order adventurously.

ENTERTAINMENT

There are endless free and cheap events in the summer in NYC, encompassing all tastes, genres and boroughs. The best way to find out about upcoming events is through *The Village Voice* (free, look for it in restaurant and movie theatre vestibules and in street dispensers, new paper every Wednesday, also at villagevoice.com/choices), the *New York Press* (free, find it in the same places you'll find the *Voice*, new paper every Tuesday, also at www.nypress.com), *Time Out NY* (approx. \$4, new magazine every Thursday, also at www.timeoutny.com - this is a particularly good option for those looking for recommendations geared towards twenty-somethings), or the Sunday Arts and Leisure section of the *New York Times*. Check out newyork.citysearch.com for information on restaurants, bars/clubs, hotels, shopping, movies, and events. Also check out freenyc.net for free and cheap events.

Clubs

Rumors of the demise of New York's club scene to the contrary, there is a club in the city to match every taste and every desire. And most clubs are open until 4 a.m. Unfortunately, they usually do not offer student discounts. Your best bet is to save up your pennies, watch the various periodicals like a hawk, and splurge on just a few big nights. Some suggestions passed down through the years include: **Naked Lunch** (www.nakedlunchnyc.com -17 Thompson St., above Canal), for fun dancing every night, lots of '80s music, and people-watching, downsides are there's a \$7 cover charge, all-guy groups are sometimes asked to "tip" the bouncer to get in, and be sure to get there before 11:00 if you don't want to wait outside for an hour; **Centro-Fly** (45 W. 21st Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues), a clubbing landmark with underground music spun by well-known DJs; **Webster Hall** (www.websterhall.com -125 East 11th Street, near 3rd Avenue), several floors with DJs spinning house, pop and a lot of trendy dance music, you must "dress to impress" (ie no sneakers); **Galapagos Art Space**, formerly in Williamsburg, Brooklyn has moved to DUMBO, (www.galapagosartspace.com -16 Main St. at the corner of Water St.), and is a great cultural space with a broad range of events.

Some of New York's best all-around clubbing experiences are to be found in establishments that serve the gay population. **Mr. Black** (www.mrblacknyc.com -251 W.30th St.), and **SBNY Splash Bar New York** (www.splashbar.com - 50 W. 17th Street) both boast large dance spaces, well-known DJs, and reasonable cover charges. For women, there's **Henrietta Hudson's**, at 438 Hudson St. in the West Village, which is known for its particularly diverse and educated scene, and **Cattysmack** (www.cattysmackbklyn.com - 249 4th Ave. between President and Carroll in Park Slope, Brooklyn) has two floors, an outdoor patio, a friendly inclusive atmosphere, and cheap drinks (cash bar only).

Live Music

If you like listening to live music, then you've chosen the right city in which to spend your summer. To begin with, there are free concert series in many parks throughout the city, from **Central Park Summerstage** (www.summerstage.org, almost always free and always an eclectic selection) to the **Hudson River Festival** (www.hudsonriverfestival.com), a series of free concerts and events at piers along the Hudson River, to concerts and movies sponsored by **Celebrate Brooklyn!** in Prospect Park and other parks in the borough

(www.celebratebrooklyn.com). Free music festivals can also be found at the Harlem Meer at the north end of Central Park (www.centralpark2000.com/database/jazz_hm.html), and at the South Street Seaport in downtown Manhattan (www.seaportmusicfestival.com). In addition, the **New York Philharmonic** and the **Metropolitan Opera House** each give free performances on the Great Lawn in Central Park every summer (www.centralpark.com/pages/attractions/great-lawn.html).

The best place to find out about upcoming concerts and live music events is in *The Voice, Time Out NY* and on the websites of individual venues. Your best bets include **The Knitting Factory** (74 Leonard St. between Church Street and Broadway, www.knittingfactory.com), offering an eclectic assortment of live music on three stages; **S.O.B.'s** (204 Varick, at the corner of Houston, www.sobs.com), for live African music, salsa (every Friday night), samba (Saturdays), and a variety of other genres of “world music,” the food is also great if a tad expensive (\$10-\$20 cover, \$10-\$15 minimum at tables); the **Mercury Lounge** (217 E. Houston, www.mercuryloungenyc.com), mostly rock from the 70s to the present with one of the best sound systems in the city; and **NorthSix** (66 North 6th Street, www.northsix.com) for solid indie rock in Williamsburg. **Pete's Candy Store** (709 Lorimer St., www.petescandystore.com) has not only live free music every night, delicious panini, and a great bar, but also fun, free game nights including trivia, bingo, and Scrabble. **Union Pool**, also in Williamsburg, also boasts great indie rock bands and a nice, albeit crowded, outdoor space (484 Union Ave.). The best up-and-coming rock music in NYC can arguably be found at **the Bowery Ballroom** (6 Delancey Street, www.boweryballroom.com), which boasts low prices, great acoustics and comfortable bar areas above and below the stage. Alternative approaches to hearing live music on a low budget include checking out bars that have live music but no cover (though they will often have food or drink minimums), like **Detour** (349 East 13th Street at First Avenue, www.jazzatdetour.com), which has a 2 drink min, and **Living Room**, 1 drink min (154 Ludlow St., b/w Stanton and Rivington, www.livingroomny.com). And for those in search of a true Lower East Side musical experience, don't miss live rock and roll karaoke every Monday night at **Arlene's Grocery** (95 Stanton St., www.arlenesgrocery.net).

For live jazz, standards include the historic **Lenox Lounge** (288 Lenox Avenue between 124th and 125th Streets, 427-0253, www.lenoxlounge.com) and **Smalls** (183 W. 10th, where it meets W. 4th, www.smallsjazzclub.com), for decent traditional jazz (sets start at 7:30 pm, and it closes at 4 a.m., get there early or really late if you don't want to wait on line because the space is really small; full bar service) at much less than you'd pay at places like **Iridium**, \$20 cover plus \$10 drink min. (1650 Broadway at 51st, student discounts and an Insiders club, www.iridiumjzzclub.com), **The Blue Note** (131 W. 3rd, www.bluenote.net) which is \$35 for a table reservation or \$25 at the bar, sets at 9 and 11:30 (but check out the \$5 cover late-night jam sessions on Friday and Saturday) and **Village Vanguard**, \$30 at the door Mon-Thurs (includes admission and \$10 drink minimum), \$35 at the door Fri and Sat, which includes admission and the \$10 drink min (sometimes has student discounts, villagevanguard.com), etc.; Finally, keep an ear out for **Jazzmobile** (www.jazzmobile.org), a program that sponsors free jazz performances throughout the city's five boroughs, though most frequently in Manhattan. Jazzmobile offers concerts at lunch and in the early evening, and actually pulls in some very big names. The concerts held at **Grant's Tomb** (Riverside Drive and about 122nd Street) are well-attended and a great place to hang out. Check out www.ny.com/clubs/jazz/ for a more extensive listing of jazz clubs.

NYC is also the place to hear live Latin music and/or do some Latin dancing (especially salsa, merengue, and bachata). In addition to **S.O.B.'s** (see above), there is the classic **Copacabana** (560 W. 34th St., www.copacabanany.com), which has live and DJ'd salsa, merengue, and house nearly every night of the week.

Free dance lessons often offered with admission which ranges from \$5-\$25; **La Rumba** (www.larumba.net) is a traveling Cuban salsa party. Check out www.salsaweb.com/ny to find a salsa party every night of the week.

For a unique NYC experience, consider checking out **Marie's Crisis**, at 59 Grove St. in the West Village. Marie's is a sing-a-long showtunes piano bar, where, for the cost of a beer and a dollar in the tip jar, you can hear some of the best voices in the city while joking around with the regulars, and belting out "My Favorite Things."

Finally, a must-see in NY for anyone with an enjoyment of jazz or slam poetry is the **Nuyorican Poets Café**, (236 E. 3rd St. between Aves. B and C, www.nuyorican.org). Thursdays are Latin Jazz and Fridays are usually the big Slam night. It is the original and ultimate in poetry slam experiences – cover is around \$10, and get there early (bring your own snacks) or brave longer waits than the trendiest Manhattan club. To explore other literary-themed entertainment, check out the **Bowery Poetry Club** and **The Moth**.

Theatre

Thanks to the last-minute desperation of some theaters and the corporate largess that underwrites much of the city's cultural events, many Broadway shows and a lot of Lincoln Center events are cheap during the summer, if not free. For those who can spare the time to track down tickets on the day of a performance, the **Theater Development Fund of the City of New York** runs **TKTS booths** that sell tickets to Broadway and off-Broadway shows at 50-75% of their original price. TKTS booths are located in the Marriott Marquis Hotel on 46th Street between Broadway and 8th Avenue, down at the South Street Seaport, and now in Downtown Brooklyn at 1 MetroTech Center. You must use cash or traveler's checks only. If you find that TKTS is too expensive, don't give up your search! Many shows sell student tickets 20 minutes before the performance at the door. You can call ahead to find out if that is possible. Alternatively, you can also call and offer to usher, which will definitely get you in for free. For other performances, including dance and various forms of music, don't hesitate to contact the theater and inquire into whether you can usher and thereby see the show for free. Keep in touch with **Lincoln Center** (www.lincolncenter.org) and **BAM** for the latest on their free concerts and performances. Also check out the **South Street Seaport** (www.southstreeseaport.com) for free outdoor events, though this little district is basically a tourist nightmare. (Better to skip the performance and just come by at 4 am to buy really cheap fish at the nearby Fulton Fish Market when the City's wholesalers come to buy).

Miscellany

For fans of free literary events and readings, **The Housing Works Used Book Café** (126 Crosby St., www.housingworks.org/usedbookcafe) holds frequent readings with well-known and interesting authors, **KGB Bar** (85 East 4th St., www.kgbbar.com) hosts a series of fiction and non-fiction readings, and **Halcyon** (57 Pearl St. in DUMBO, Brooklyn, www.halcyonline.com) features young writers, in addition to live music. **The Bowery Poetry Club** (308 Bowery, b/w Houston and Bleecker, www.bowerypoetry.com), while not always free, features regular poetry readings at varying prices.

If you enjoy pool and billiards, **Slate Plus** (used to be **Chelsea Bar & Billiards**, 21st St. between 5th and 6th Avenues) is a high-class billiard club with lots of serious tables and expensive drinks; another place to test your cues is **Soho Billiards** on Lafayette and Houston – it's a homier spot. **Fat Cat Jazz and Billiards**, at 75 Christopher St., is a great place to bring friends. There are ping pong tables, board games, billiards, and a lot of space for game-watching, drinking and shmoozing. Note: if you have younger friends visiting, FC is also a great option because it is only 18 and over. There are also a few affordable bowling spots in Brooklyn,

including the hipster haven, **The Gutter** (200 N. 14th St. btwn Wythe and Berry in Williamsburg, www.thegutterbrooklyn.com) and **Melody Lanes** in Sunset Park (461 37th St., 718-832-2695). (There is bowling in Manhattan, though for a significantly steeper price.)

If you're interested in finding a place to swim, NYC has several unique options. For a night-spot feel, try the Grace Hotel (45th between 6th avenue and Broadway), which has a swim up bar, underwater lights, and fantastic mixed drinks. Alternately, visit the Floating Pool Lady at Barretto Point Park, a seven lane pool on a barge in the Bronx. For a roomier option, try the Riverbank State Park's indoor and outdoor pool (the place also has a roller skating rink!) between 138th and 145th street on Riverside Drive.

Gyms and Exercise

One of the most expensive things to do in New York is to find a place to exercise. The neighborhood gyms and places like **New York Health and Racquet Club**, **New York Sports Club**, and **Crunch** may have summer memberships but will probably still be too expensive on a stipend. Still, they're worth checking, as are **Chelsea Piers** (with facilities for everything from rock climbing to indoor beach volleyball), **Jack LaLanne**, and **Bally's**, located throughout the city. Rumored to be the best health club bargain in town, the **Tony Dapolito Recreation Center**, formerly and more famously known as the **Carmine Street Recreation Center** (1 Clarkson Street at Seventh Avenue South, 212-242-5228) is run by the NYC Parks and Recreation Department and has free weights, an indoor track, full-court gyms, a 23-yard pool, all for the low, low price of \$75/year. The TDRC/CSRC also offers classes in salsa aerobics and kick-boxing, although classes are not free. For other really cheap gyms, the Department of Parks and Recreation runs a few others with nominal membership fees, including **Asser Levy Recreation Center** (Asser Levy Place at Ave. A and 23rd Street, 212-447-2020), which has free swimming. Probably your best option is to take advantage of the balmy weather and do your exercising free of charge outdoors. **Central Park** has miles of roads and trails for running, biking, walking or rollerblading, as well as athletic fields for pick-up games of soccer, football, softball, wiffle ball, or frisbee (though the soccer games are technically illegal). If you are into tennis, Central Park has about 25 clay courts in great condition around 95th Street. You can either purchase a tennis permit from the Parks Department, located in the park at about East 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, which entitles you to play for free according to the court sign-up procedures, or you can pay \$5 per person every time you play. Contact the Parks Department directly for precise details (nycgovparks.org).

Central Park is closed to traffic on weekends in the summer. The large loop in Central Park is about 6.5 miles, and a smaller loop between 59th Street and 72nd Street is about 2 miles. Other parks throughout the city provide room to stretch and get some exercise, including **Riverside Park**, on the Upper West Side; **East River Park**, along the East River downtown; **Battery Park**, at the southwestern tip of Manhattan; **Prospect Park** in Brooklyn; **Corona Park** in Queens; and **Van Cortland Park** in the Bronx. Smaller parks, with basketball and handball courts, rollerblading rinks, and various other facilities are literally scattered throughout the city. Stroll around and you're sure to find something. Finally, you can **Kayak** for FREE at the 72nd Street Boat Basin (72nd street and the Hudson River) all summer!

CHEAP WEEKENDS

The Friday edition of the New York Times often has great information about things to do on the weekends, but here are a few other suggestions.

CENTRAL PARK

We've extolled the virtues of Central Park in various capacities throughout this Guide, but probably one of the greatest, and definitely cheapest, ways to spend a sunny weekend day is in the Park. You can begin by throwing on your bathing suit (if you're the tanning type), packing a bag with a blanket, some sunscreen, a good book, and a frisbee and setting off for the Park. On your way, pick up the Sunday Times and a couple of bagels and you're good to go. Crowded places for maximum people-watching are in **Sheep's Meadow**, in the southwestern corner of the park, at about West 67th Street. **The Great Lawn**, located behind the Met, should be great for lounging, concerts in the park, and serious softball tournaments. There will inevitably be musicians performing, artists selling their wares or groups playing softball someplace near where you've put your blanket. In addition, you can rent rollerblades, rowboats or bikes at certain locations. This tends to be a bit pricey since it is often a very touristy activity. There are also yoga classes in the Park on Sundays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. (see www.centralparkyoga.com for more information). You can also visit **Strawberry Fields**, the memorial to Beatles singer John Lennon. Another great thing to do in the Park is to wander through the **Central Park Zoo**, a small but fun zoo located in the Park just north of the 59th Street entrance on the east side at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue. Admission to the zoo for adults is \$10.00, and you can watch seal feedings at 11:45 a.m., 2:15 p.m., and 4:15 p.m. Each summer, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and the New York Opera have free concerts in Central Park. The crowd ranges from groups sitting on sweatshirts with a couple of bags of chips to full-fledged picnickers with baskets, blankets, wine and brie. There are also classical music performances at the **Naumberg Bandshell** and special events like the **Harlem Meer Performance Festival** and **Dancing on the Plaza**. At least one Shakespeare production and one other famous play take place in Central Park every summer as well, at the outdoor theater near **Belvedere Castle**, which by itself is a great stop on any walk. Tickets for these plays are free, must be picked up the day of the performance, and are limited to two tickets per person. Waiting for the tickets with a buddy or a book on a nice day can be a fun experience, but be sure to bring a blanket or something to sit on and umbrella in case it rains. Check the **Shakespeare in the Park** section of www.publictheater.org. **Central Park SummerStage** has regular free concerts; for information, check out www.summerstage.org. Also, see the Central Park Conservancy's website at www.centralparknyc.org for information, event schedules, and a virtual tour that will tell you what the many random statues are.

BEACHES

For a day trip, **Jones Beach** can't be beat. You can reach it by taking the LIRR from Penn Station to Hicksville or Freeport and then take the connecting bus to the beach. Buy a LIRR Jones Beach Package (combined round-trip bus and train fare) for \$15. Jones Beach also hosts concerts throughout the summer (get the schedule at www.jonesbeach.com). You can also reach **Long Beach** (not as well-groomed as Jones Beach and further by train) and **Fire Island** (a beautiful and affluent island known for its hopping gay scene all summer long) by way of the LIRR, although a ferry connection is also required to reach Fire Island. Call 718-217-LIRR for information on train schedules and ticket prices, or take a look at www.mta.info/lirr. Also, be sure to find out if you can walk to the beach or ferry slip from the train or if there is a bus connection that you need to make. Check out www.fireisland.com/ferrytime.php for ferry schedules.

A few beaches are even accessible by the subway alone, including **Brighton Beach** on the Q train, **Rockaway Beach** on the A train and **Coney Island** on the D/F/N/Q trains. What you gain in convenience and price, however, you may lose in general quality. **Rockaway Beach** can get really crowded and even on its best days has a bit of rubbish in the water. **Coney Island**, also not an especially clean beach, is pure cheese, but worth a trip. You can walk the boardwalk, or bring your own volleyball and challenge some other beachgoers to a game at one of the public nets. Although the Flopper is probably no longer with us, there are

a number of other vintage amusement rides (use caution, paying special attention to whether you are secured properly when riding) and possibly the highest concentration of carnival junk food in the world. Coney Island's annual **Mermaid Parade**, when the beach is officially opened by hundreds if not thousands of mermaids and mermen strutting, or flopping, their way down the beach from the boardwalk, is scheduled for June 20, 2009 (you, too, can be a merperson, and despite what they say, registration is not strictly required: www.coneyisland.com/mermaid.shtml); **Nathan's** famous hot dog eating contest is held every year on July 4th. Also nearby is **KeySpan Park**, the home of the New York Mets minor league affiliate the **Brooklyn Cyclones**, which can be accessed by taking the D, F, N or Q train to the last stop, Coney Island/Stillwell Avenue. See www.brooklyncyclones.com for directions and ticket prices. The **Jersey Shore** is only an hour away, and a convenient bus ride on New Jersey or Academy Transit from Port Authority Bus Terminal. The closest beach areas (and the prettiest) are at Spring Lake and Point Pleasant; the former is for serious beachgoers, the latter is for a taste of the infamous boardwalk. If you drive, take the NJ Turnpike south to Exit 11, pick up the Garden State Parkway South, and look out for the Shore exits.

OTHER DAY TRIPS

You're desperate to get away from the hustle and bustle, not to mention the concrete heat, of the big city, but you're on a budget. No problem, options abound. Here are a few.

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn's neighborhoods abound with the kind of out-of-the-way gems to which no brief guide could ever do justice. One of the best ways to spend a day is by walking from one neighborhood to another, exploring it on your own. Start your journey on foot, bicycle, or rollerblades from lower Manhattan by walking over the **Brooklyn Bridge**. Take the 4, 5, or 6 train to City Hall and the Bridge is right there. (The 2, 3, A and C trains letting you off at Fulton Street/Broadway-Nassau Streets are also close enough.) The Bridge has a well-maintained walkway that is very wide and can handle a lot of pedestrian (or bicycle) traffic. The walkway proceeds at a small incline so that when you are at the middle you feel like you're on top of the world and have a great view of the Statue of Liberty, the East River, Governor's Island, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. On the other side of the bridge a tasty snack awaits at **Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory**. You will probably be able to see it from the bridge, but getting there from the end of the bridge walkway can be a little confusing. Call 718-246-3963 for directions.

Once you cross the Bridge, turn right and head into **Brooklyn Heights**. The center of this old and high-priced residential area of Brooklyn is Montague Street, where there are many great restaurants, art galleries and shops. Venture away from Montague Street in any direction and check out the beautiful old row houses, which are impeccably maintained. As you walk down Montague Street and towards the East River you will eventually hit the **Brooklyn Heights Promenade**, a beautiful walkway along the East River that has breathtaking panoramic views (particularly at sunset) of southern Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty.

Heading back on Montague the way you came, find Henry Street and take it south. Cross Atlantic Avenue (if instead you walk east on Atlantic you'll pass a lot of great antique stores and some fabulous Middle Eastern shops and restaurants –check out **Sahadi Importing Company** at 187 Atlantic Avenue between Court and Clinton Streets for Middle Eastern and other foods, including the cheapest fresh mozzarella in town) and you're in **Cobble Hill**, a famous Italian-American neighborhood. For the residential scene stay on Henry Street, but for shops and restaurants take any left and walk down Court Street instead. Soon Cobble Hill turns into its less well-heeled, but in recent years painfully hip, sister neighborhood (also Italian-American)

Carroll Gardens (the neighborhood featured in *Moonstruck*). The two main drags of Carroll Gardens are Smith Street and Court Street, both of which are literally lined with hip restaurants and bars, and cute boutiques (which, while expensive, are far less so than their equivalents in Manhattan). Restaurants of note are listed in the Food section above. If you don't feel like meandering your way here, you can take the F train directly from Manhattan to the Bergen or Carroll Street stops.

Go back to Union Street and turn right. This will take you over the Gowanus Canal, a hapless and heavily polluted body of water for the last 150 years. Once you cross Fourth Avenue, you're in **Park Slope**, which has more writers per capita than most places, even in New York. (You can also take the 2 train directly from Manhattan to Grand Army Plaza). As you ascend Union Street, you'll notice the neighborhood get increasingly chi-chi. Among other things, this means you'll find lots of little stores, bakeries, restaurants, etc., particularly along Fifth Avenue, where you can browse and sit down for a bit. Resist the urge. Instead, when you get to Seventh Avenue, turn right until you get to 9th Street then walk up the hill to Prospect Park for a picnic. If you're making an evening incursion into Brooklyn instead, or if you happen to be living out there, check out newly hip Fifth Avenue's plentiful restaurants and bars (see Food section).

Brooklyn's equivalent to Central Park, **Prospect Park** is less manicured, less crowded, and more ethnically diverse. Here you'll find fields for soccer, baseball, ultimate, croquet, cricket, you name it. If you walk down to about 9th Street and Prospect Park West then enter the park you'll be at the **Prospect Park Bandshell**, home to the **Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival** (www.briconline.org/celebrate). Suggested donation for performances, which include a variety of different art forms, is \$3. See www.prospectpark.org for a calendar of other events. Don't miss the **Caribbean Day Parade**, which happens every summer and takes the southeastern corner of the park by storm. There is also the Prospect Park Zoo, admission to which is \$7 for adults. If you're looking to get out of the sun, check out the huge **public library** on the northwestern corner of the park (at Grand Army Plaza) or the newly renovated **Brooklyn Museum**, just a quick walk east on the nearby Eastern Parkway. On the first Saturday evening of each month, the museum hosts a variety of free events, including films and all kinds of live music and other performances. Check www.brooklynmuseum.org/visit/first_saturdays.php for details. On ordinary days, student admission is a suggested donation of \$4 with valid student ID. See www.brooklynmuseum.org for hours and directions. For sanctuary, visit one of the most amazing spots in the entire city at the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**, famous for its rose garden. The Garden, offers an array of flowers, greenhouses and displays to challenge even the most sophisticated gardener, but also to satisfy anyone who just needs a little color amidst all of the city's gray. See www.bbg.org for directions and hours. Admission is usually \$4 with a valid student ID, but it's free on Saturdays from 10 am to 12pm and all day on Tuesdays.

Depending on what interests you, other neighborhoods are definitely worth exploring. **Brighton Beach** (at the end of the B/Q train), offers not only another beach option (albeit crowded and fundamentally a city beach), but it's also a great place for Russian restaurants, groceries, and nightclubs. (If you want more than pierogi, it's easiest if you go with someone who knows the scene, and preferably, speaks the language.) **Fort Greene** is an increasingly hip neighborhood, with cafes, bookstores, and restaurants. (See the Food section for suggestions.) **Williamsburg** has now turned into the new Soho—lots of warehouses converted into artists' spaces, and almost more hip boutiques (there's actually a hipster mall on Bedford Ave!) and restaurants than you can handle. The slowly-gentrifying **Bedford-Stuyvesant** area is both historic and a trend-setting center of hip-hop culture.

STATEN ISLAND

For starters, getting to Staten Island is half the fun—and maybe even more than half—because the famous **Staten Island Ferry** is free for passengers without vehicles. The ferry (leaving from the southernmost tip of Manhattan, at the South Ferry stop of the 1 train) is also a fine way to take in the briny mists of New York harbor as you survey such sights as the Verrazano Bridge (of *Saturday Night Fever* fame), the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Jersey City, New Jersey. Unfortunately the ferry doesn't stop at any of those places—for that you'll have to take the ferry that charges (see below). It does land at St. George though, which is an interesting neighborhood. You'll want to spend a few minutes appreciating this borough's importance to the Revolutionary War effort, so ask around in the port town of Snug Harbor or check out the Snug Harbor Cultural Center (www.snug-harbor.org). Within easy walking distance of the ferry on Staten Island is RCBK Ballpark, home of the **Staten Island Yankees**, a minor league affiliate of the New York Yankees. See www.siyankees.com for directions and ticket information. If you are into history, **Historic Richmondtown** (www.historicrichmondtown.org) provides a panorama of Staten Island history in a living museum environment. Admission is \$5 per person, and the museum can be reached by bus from the ferry. The **Staten Island Botanical Garden** (www.snug-harbor.org/horticulture/Horticulture.html) has a recreation of a Chinese scholar's garden, as well as a garden designed after the book *The Secret Garden*. Admission to the general grounds of the Botanical Garden is free, but a \$4 student (with ID) fee gets you into the Chinese Scholar's Garden and the "Secret Garden." Although you will unfortunately have to find a friend with a car to get to it (unless you are willing to pay cab fare from the ferry), Staten Island is also home to the unusual **Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art** (338 Lighthouse Ave, www.tibetanmuseum.org). Student admission is \$3. The **Sandy Ground Historical Society** (1538 Woodrow Road) allows you to learn about Staten Island's early African-American residents, who formed what is believed to have been the earliest free African-American settlement on the North American continent. Call 718-317-5796 for information. See www.statenislandusa.com for more events and sights.

Ellis Island is highly recommended. Check out the world-famous immigration museum (free); try to find documentation of your forebears. The grounds of **Liberty Island** are open, and the statue itself has recently been re-opened on a limited basis; passes are available at the ferry ticket office or may be reserved by calling 1-866-STATUE4 (www.nps.gov/stli). The ferry that goes to Ellis Island and Liberty Island leaves from Castle Clinton National Monument at Battery Park (take 1 to South Ferry, 4/5 to Bowling Green, or R/W to Whitehall), and tickets cost \$12 for adults.

QUEENS

Physically the largest borough, Queens is easily the most diverse as well. Don't hesitate to check out **Corona Park**, the Prospect Park of Queens, featured in *Men in Black*, which is accessible by subway. By way of the 7 train, you can take in a Mets game at the brand new **CitiField**, or see the **U.S. Open** when it comes to town in late August. The ticket price for the least expensive seats varies from \$11 to \$27, depending on the game. Check www.mets.com for details. The U.S. Open is expensive, especially if you can't get comp tickets from your friends at the corporate firms, but don't worry - by looking through the chain link fence you get almost as good a view of some of the courts as you would if you'd paid the ridiculous prices. And beware, if you do go in, be sure to bring a lunch. The prices on the food inside the stadium are obscenely high and groceries are a long walk away.

Because of its diversity, Queens comprises neighborhoods where you'll find the best foods from around the world. Try Astoria for Greek, Flushing for Korean and Chinese foods, and Corona for Italian. For the best kosher offerings, try Rego Park and Forest Hills.

Another cheap, fun escape in Queens is the **Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum** (www.noguchi.org), located at 32-37 Ventura Blvd. in Long Island City and newly reopened after extensive renovations, is \$5 for students with valid ID. Just a few blocks away is the **Socrates Sculpture Garden** (www.socratesculpturepark.org), a former landfill that has been transformed into a great outdoor museum, a particularly popular destination during the summer but never crowded because of its size. Keep an eye out for the outdoor movie series; admission is free. **Astoria Park** is a popular place to relax, run, and maybe try the public pool if you dare (west of Ditmars Blvd., get there on the N/W, tennis court information available by calling 718-626-8622). The **American Museum of the Moving Image** regularly puts on great movie series and interviews with directors. Admission is generally \$5 with a college student ID (most film screenings included); gallery admission is free from 4-8 pm on Fridays, but this does not include film screenings. The museum is at the intersection of 35th Avenue and 36th Street. See www.ammi.org for additional information. If you like contemporary art, don't miss **P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center**, an offshoot of the MOMA (located at 22-25 Jackson Ave at the intersection of 46th Ave, in Long Island City). Admission is just a \$2 suggested donation for students, and the exhibits are always cutting edge. The museum also hosts a popular summer music series called Warm Up on Saturdays (admission is \$10 from 2-9 p.m.) For more information, visit ps1.org.

THE BRONX

Sometimes underappreciated, the Bronx has much to offer. The **New York Botanical Garden** (www.nybg.org), like the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, is a stunningly beautiful place to view vegetation or just vegetate. It's located on the edge of **Van Cortlandt Park** and is accessible by public transportation. Take the D or 4 train to Bedford Park Blvd. and proceed southeast on Bedford Park Blvd. (call 718-817-8700 if you get lost or would actually like to know where you are going beforehand) or take the Bx-26 bus or Metro-North's Harlem line. The Garden's hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you are content to just see the grounds, admission will cost you \$3 with a student ID, but special exhibits will cost more. (Grounds admission is free all day Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 am-12pm). Also, adjacent to the park is the **Bronx Zoo** (www.bronxzoo.com), which has a wide range of animals hanging out in areas approximating their natural habitat. Adult admission to the zoo is \$15, but this becomes a suggested donation on Wednesdays. On regular days, there are extra fees for some attractions.

The Bronx is of course home to the **New York Yankees**, the infamous archrivals of the Boston Red Sox. **Yankee Stadium** is located in the Bronx at 161st Street and is easily accessible by the 4, B or D trains. If you want to buy tickets ahead of time, you can call 718-293-6000 or go to any of the Yankees Clubhouse Stores. See www.newyork.yankees.mlb.com for store locations, game schedules, and online ticket purchasing.

BEYOND THE BOROUGHES

If you absolutely have to leave the city limits, here are a few suggestions: 1) Bring your bike and a bag lunch onto the LIRR and head out to the **Hamptons**, the weekend destination of choice for the metropolitan hoi-polloi. A round trip off-peak ticket will cost about \$26. On a low budget you won't be able to eat, drink, or even sit down, but you will be able to cruise through the countryside, hang out on pristine beaches, and run into Paul Simon or Billy Joel squeezing the melons at the corner grocery. Please note that you now need a

permit to bring a bike on the LIRR, and they are not allowed on peak hour trains. The permit application can be found at: www.mta.info/lirr/pubs/bicyclep.htm. 2) Take the Metro-North Hudson Line to Dobbs Ferry's **Waterfront Park** on the Hudson River. 3) Pool your resources with a small group, rent a car and go hiking and/or camping upstate in **Harriman State Park**, a two-hour drive north. The park also has beaches on Lakes Tiorati and Sebago. 4) Bicycle across the **George Washington Bridge** and into New Jersey, then head in any direction and savor the rustic charms of the Garden State; 5) Take the LIRR to Bayshore and hop on the ferry to **Fire Island's Ocean Beach**, which has a public beach. It's cheap and beautiful and you won't even know you're only 45 miles from the city. Call 631-665-3600 for ferry schedules. See *Beaches* section above for other great beaches easily and cheaply reached by public transportation.

MOVIES

Movies are generally fairly expensive, at about \$10 a ticket, and that is before the overpriced popcorn and soda. In addition to the usual chain theaters, New York also boasts many old and beautiful theaters such as **The Ziegfeld** (141 W. 54th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues) home of the old Ziegfeld Follies; the **Angelika Film Center** (18 W. Houston St., b/w Broadway and Mercer); the theater of choice for major independents (along with **Lincoln Plaza Cinemas**, 1886 Broadway between 62nd and 63rd Streets); the funky new **Landmark Sunshine Cinemas** (143 E. Houston at 2nd Ave.) and the **Film Forum** (209 W. Houston Street, b/w 6th and 7th Aves), which is known for its eclectic but wonderful mix of old and new films. Most movie theaters in Manhattan do not have special matinee rates, but if you feel like a trip to another borough, the first show of the day is usually half-price, and on Tuesday nights, you can make a short jaunt across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Brooklyn Heights or Cobble Hill cinemas for the same deal. Also, pay close attention to the film festivals of various types that happen from time to time and may sometimes have lower ticket prices. The Film Society of Lincoln Center's **Walter Reade Theater** has a \$7 rate for students with ID. Check out www.filmlinc.com/buytickets.htm for more information. The Museum of Modern Art will be hosting film screenings at a number of places in Manhattan. Student admission with ID in their usual venue is \$6; check www.moma.org for information and updates.

There is also a rumor that the **Virgin Megastore** in Times Square does reduced-price screenings of first-run movies – call them for details at (212) 921-1020. Occasionally at the Angelika or the **Sony Theatre on 3rd Ave and 11th St.**, you may be offered a pass to a free screening: *take it*. You have to call ahead to reserve a spot, but you get to see an as-yet unreleased film for free, and if you're really lucky, at the screening they will ask if you want to stay for a discussion afterward: *say yes* - you get to complain about the film for 15 minutes, and then you get *another* pass to a free movie (you can go on this streak for some time if you play your cards right).

And finally, one of the best parts about being in New York in the summer, the New York Public Library shows old (but *good*) movies in **Bryant Park**, a former drug haven which has been reclaimed by the affluent midtown residents and businesses, and is now a beautifully cultivated park, just behind the library at 5th Avenue and 42nd Street. Films such as *On the Waterfront*, *Citizen Kane*, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* are show for free on Monday nights, and draw a fairly yuppie but still fun crowd with picnic blankets and bottles of wine. Films start at dusk, but get there early to spread your blanket. Check the Times or the Village Voice for the summer schedule. Bryant Park can be reached by the F, V, B, D and 7 trains. (It's also worth checking out the programs for *Celebrate Brooklyn!* which often has film screenings, as well as live performers, in Prospect

Park, where you can actually spread out and you *don't* have to protect your blanket space with your life like in Bryant Park.)

MUSEUMS

With all of New York's museums (many of which do not charge admission on selected nights) and galleries, it would be impossible to see it all. But a good place to start is by strolling down Fifth Avenue, from East 104th Street where the Museum Mile begins with **Museo del Barrio** (www.elmuseo.org, 212-831-7272, Wed-Sun 11am-5pm, \$4 admission for students) and the **Museum of the City of New York** at 103rd St. (www.mcny.org, 212-534-1672, Tues-Sun 10am-5pm, \$9 suggested for adults, \$5 for students, but free admission on Sundays between 10 am and 12 pm) down to East 82nd Street where you can toss a coin in the lighted fountain at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and visit one of the world's best museums (www.metmuseum.org, 212-535-7710, \$10 suggested for students). The Temple of Dendur, a gift from Egypt to the United States, is particularly beautiful at night. The roof is open to visitors throughout the day (great views). Be sure to check out the rooftop terrace for tasty but pricey cocktails and a fantastic view of the skyline. The Met offers many free tours of specialized areas of the Museum which are a good way to see this unmanageably large museum. Note that the museum is closed on Mondays, hours vary depending on the day of the week, and certain galleries are closed on a revolving basis. Far beyond Museum Mile, but included in the price of admission to the Met if you go on the same day is **The Cloisters** (212-923-3700). The Cloisters is worth checking out if medieval art and architecture (and a great view of the Hudson River and Jersey Palisades) is your thing. The museum was built by John D. Rockefeller, who liked monastic cloisters so much he went to Europe, picked up a few and built a museum out of them. Check the Metropolitan Museum's website for a schedule of free tours (after paying the price of admission). To get to the Cloisters, take either the M4 bus (all the way) or the A train and get off at 191st Street. Make sure you take the correct exit when you leave the subway station or you will get hopelessly lost.

The **American Museum of Natural History** at 79th Street and Central Park West (www.amnh.org, 212-313-7278, \$11 suggested for students with ID) is one of the most fun places in the city, boasting a "Naturemax" cinema as well as the stunning Rose planetarium with laser, sound and light shows. The collection of live tropical butterflies is neat, although the admission price does not cover it and certain other shows and exhibits, so you will have to pay extra to see them. A SuperSaver Package covering admission plus entrance to as many space shows, IMAX films, and special exhibitions as you would like (based on availability) is \$24.50 with student ID. Live jazz performances held on Friday nights are included in general admission. The **Frick Collection** at 1 E. 70th Street b/w Madison and 5th Ave is another of the city's best museums (www.frick.org, 212-288-0700, \$5 students, no children under 10. On Sundays, pay what you wish from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). The Frick is unique in that the museum is in a house built especially for Mr. Frick's art collection—touring the house is as interesting as looking at the impressive artwork. There is no additional charge for special exhibitions. **The Guggenheim** is located at Fifth Avenue and 89th Street (you can't miss the distinctive Frank Lloyd Wright spiral) (www.guggenheim.org, 212-423-3618, \$15 for students with ID). It's closed Thursdays, but on Friday evenings between 6pm and 8pm, the admission price is a suggested donation. **The Whitney Museum of American Art** on Madison Avenue at 75th Street (www.whitney.org, 1-800-WHITNEY, \$10 students with ID, pay what you want Fri 6-9 pm,) frequently exhibits the best modern and contemporary American art. Museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. **The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)** is located in Midtown Manhattan at 11 West 53rd St. b/w 5th and 6th Aves (www.moma.org; 212-708-9400, closed Tuesdays, \$12 with student ID). Admission is free for all visitors on Fridays from 4-8 pm. Film tickets may be obtained for same-day screenings at no charge by

presenting your Museum admission ticket stub at the film desk. MOMA admission ticket holders can visit PS1 Contemporary Art Center in Brooklyn for free within 30 days of when they purchased the ticket. (Regular price is a suggested donation of \$2 for students; Open Thursday through Monday. 22-25 Jackson Ave at the intersection of 46th Ave, Long Island City, NY. Can take 7 or G subway). <http://ps1.org/>.

Downtown museums not to be missed include the **New Museum of Contemporary Art**, located at 556 W. 22nd St at 11th Ave (212-219-1222, T-Sat 12-6, Th 12-8, closed Sun and Mon, www.newmuseum.org, \$8 students); **Exit Art**, which has recently moved from Soho to Hell's Kitchen (475 Tenth Ave at 36th St, 966-7745, www.exitart.org).

If you are planning to attend a variety of museums and other sites, you also might want to take a look at <http://citypass.net/cgi-bin/citypass>, which purports to offer discounted admission to a group of NYC attractions when you buy one of their City Passes. A City Pass to 6 attractions (Empire State Building Observatory, American Museum of Natural History & Rose Center, Guggenheim Museum, MOMA, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Circle Line Cruise OR Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island) is \$79 for adults and \$59 for kids. A City Pass is valid for 9 days from the day of first use. Apparently, you can circumvent standing in lines with a City Pass.

GALLERIES

It's also worth checking out which art galleries (mostly concentrated in Soho, in West Chelsea, and on 57th Street) are open during the summer, since they offer a great way to see the most cutting-edge art, all for free! At any given gallery you should be able to pick up a guide listing current shows at galleries throughout the city. Visit www.galleryguide.com (under NYC) for listings.

VOLUNTEER

Learn more about and contribute to your New York City neighborhood by working on a project with New York Cares (www.nycares.org)! Although some projects require substantial time commitments, there are many that require you to only sign up for a few hours on a single day. There is a wide variety of projects to choose from all over the city, but be warned that the choice projects go fast, so you should sign up for the ones that you really want to work on as soon as the monthly calendar comes out (have it emailed to you). If the project is full for the date you wanted, see if the project leader has a waiting list for the next time. An orientation session is required for volunteers before they can work on projects, but these are offered frequently. Sign up for one on the website. Projects are available both on weekends and weekdays. There are also volunteer opportunities at various parks and museums. See their individual websites for details.

CHEAP STUFF

CHEAP CUTS

"I love that suit, but your hair..." If your hairdo isn't matching your new wardrobe, head over to **Astor Place Hairstylist** (2 Astor Place between Broadway and Lafayette Streets, 212-475-9854, short cuts start at \$14, long cuts at \$18), the mammoth hairstyling salon/barbershop where numerous hairstylists work to the sounds of Hot 97 and make fun of each other continuously. Prepare to wait a bit if you go on a weekend. For other relatively inexpensive cuts, look for a **Super Cuts** (see www.supercuts.com to find the location nearest you), for cuts a step up from Super Cuts, check out **Dramatics** (see www.dramaticsnyc.com for locations and more information), **Jean Louis David** or try a neighborhood spot. Also, check out the free and drastically

reduced rate hair cuts at training classes at salons around town, including **Bumble and Bumble** (146 E. 56th St bet. 3rd and Lexington, 212-521-6500 for appointments, see their website at www.bumbleandbumble.com for information, including details on their “Model Call” program which gives you the opportunity to get a free haircut or color) and the **Aveda Institute** (233 Spring Street bet. Avenue of the Americas and Varick St, 212-807-1492 ext. 2 for appointments, see their website at www.avedainstituteny.com for information, including details about their discounted spa treatments).

CHEAP CLOTHES

For suits at good prices check out **SYMS** (42 Trinity Place, 212-797-1199, and 400 Park Avenue at 54th Street, 212-317-8200). If you're working in midtown and you can slip away at lunch, go to **Daffy's** (125 E. 57th St., 212-375-4477) which sells both men's and women's clothing at reasonable prices. Daffy's also has locations at 1311 Broadway and 34th Street (212-843-6200), the corner of Broadway and Grand Street (212-334-7444), 1775 Broadway and 57th Street (212-294-4477), 335 Madison Avenue and 34th Street (212-557-4422), and at 88-01 Queens Boulevard near 55th Street in Elmhurst, Queens. But if you still yearn for Boston, it's always a good idea to check out **Filene's Basement** (Broadway and 79th, 212-873-8000; 620 6th Avenue near 18th Street, 212-620-3100; and 4 Union Square South, 212 358-0169), although this store is not as discounted as Boston's. **Screaming Mimi's** (382 Lafayette Street, 212-677-6464) is a vintage favorite where you can pick up the not-so-latest couture. For women's clothing, try **Loehmann's** (101 7th Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets, 212-352-0856; 2807 East 21st in Brooklyn, (718) 368-1256; 5740 Broadway in the Riverdale section of the Bronx) and **Bolton's** (1180 Madison Avenue at 86th Street, 212 722-4419). **Blue**, an East Village boutique (137 Avenue A: 212-228-7744) features the designs of Christina Kara. The beautifully tailored suits and dresses are priced well for a special occasion. The biggest **Gap** in the city is at 34th and Broadway. Both Time Out and New York Magazine list sample and going out of business sales in their sale and bargain sections each week. If you know someone with a car, try to get out to Secaucus, NJ, a site for many outlets. Secaucus can also be reached by New Jersey Transit train from Penn Station or New Jersey Transit bus from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

SECOND HAND

But why pay full price when the best second hand shopping in the world is in NYC? For brand name suits and casual wear, try the **Goodwill Stuyvesant** (1704 2nd Avenue near 88th St, 212-831-1830). For \$50 you can walk out with several new outfits. The merchandise changes from day to day, so be prepared to move swiftly. Two pieces of advice: the store accepts cash only, and there are no dressing rooms. Another place to try for great second hand bargains in mint condition is the largest **Salvation Army** in town (536 W. 46th St. 212-757-2311). Not only will you find the same kind of great 2nd hand brand name bargains as at Goodwill, but the store stocks fabulous furniture, both new and antique at great prices. Another establishment worth checking out and supporting is **Housing Works Thrift Shop**, which has great second-hand clothes, furniture, and knickknacks, and which uses its profits to fund Housing Works Inc.'s AIDS charities (143 W. 17th Street, 718-838-5050; 202 E. 77th Street, 212-585-2440; 306 Columbus Ave., 212-579-7566). And don't shy away from the second-hand bargains to be found all over Brooklyn. For example, check out **Domsey's Warehouse Outlet**, (431 Broadway, 718-384-6000), a huge used clothing warehouse upstairs that sells discounted everyday household goods downstairs and **Ugly Luggage** (214 Bedford and 5th Street, 718 384-0724), which sells furniture and random items, as well as the numerous resale shops along Flatbush Ave. and the antique boutiques throughout Park Slope on and off 7th Ave. You never know what you will find!

CHEAP FIX-ITS

If you're having computer troubles, try out the **NYU Computer Service Center** (242 Greene St., 212-998-4231), which charges a \$50 initial consultation fee that is applied to labor costs. **Current Designs/Tekserve** is a company that specializes in Mac repair but offers an array of related services (119 W. 23rd St, 212-929-3645). If your clothing needs some alteration, **R&S Cleaners** (242 E. 14th St., 212-677-7757) offer a great array of garment and shoe repair services. The best way to find the cheapest "Cleaners" in your neighborhood is to check out the *Yellow Pages*. If you're looking for "NYC style" furnishings, try some sale home accessories at the wonderful **ABC Carpet and Hom** (Union Square, 16th St. side). Cheaper home necessities can be found at **Better Your Home** (103 W. 96th St., 212-866-8700). For the best and cheapest in all manner of random things check out **West Third St. Bazaar** on West Third just before 6th Avenue. Used knick-knacks and furniture can be found at weekly outdoor flea markets throughout the summer; there's a large one on Sundays in the lot on Avenue A and 10th street. Or, you can always take the free **IKEA** shuttle bus ride from Port Authority at 8th Ave. and 42nd St (800-BUS-IKEA) to the near tax-free IKEA, off of exit 13A on the New Jersey Turnpike. Buses run only on Saturdays and Sundays, leaving every half hour between 10am and 2:30pm. Return buses leave between the hours of noon and 6pm.

CHEAP BOOKS

In addition to chain bookstores, there are number of interesting independent bookstores that sell cheap and used books throughout the city. You can browse endlessly at **Strand Book Store** (828 Broadway at 12th St, 212-473-1452), which has a huge and well-organized selection, both used and new. If the main store is too overwhelming, try their other location in the financial district (95 Fulton St. near S. St. Seaport, 212-732-6070). There are thousands of titles to choose from but it is smaller and calmer than their Broadway location. A favorite, peaceful used book store is the **Housing Works Bookstore Café** (126 Crosby St. just below Houston), where you can enjoy a big cappuccino or a bowl of lentil soup while finding great bargains on books of all genres. **St. Marks Place Books** (31 Third Ave, 212-260-7853) is a great independent bookstore with an especially large collection of books relating to art and critical studies. In Park Slope, try **The Community Bookstore** (143 7th Ave at Garfield St., 718-783-3075). Some specialty bookstores include: **A Different Light** (Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian books, 151 W. 19th btw 6th and 7th Ave., 212-989-4850) and **Oscar Wilde** (15 Christopher St. between 6th and 7th Ave., www.oscarwildebooks.com, 212-255-8097); and the **Asian American Writer's Workshop** (16 W. 32nd St., Suite 10A, 212-494-0061). Mystery lovers find a paradise at **Partners and Crime** (44 Greenwich Ave near Charles, 212-243-0440). Or, if you're looking to see what the word is on the local subversives, try **Revolution Books** (9 W. 19th St. between 5th and 6th Ave., 212-691-3345). The easiest and cheapest way to find used books is just to stroll over by Astor Place (8th St.) – you can reliably find street vendors selling interesting paperbacks and used books for excellent prices.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST JOB

AND SUMMER IN NEW YORK CITY!