

# Brooklyn Heights

## COURIER

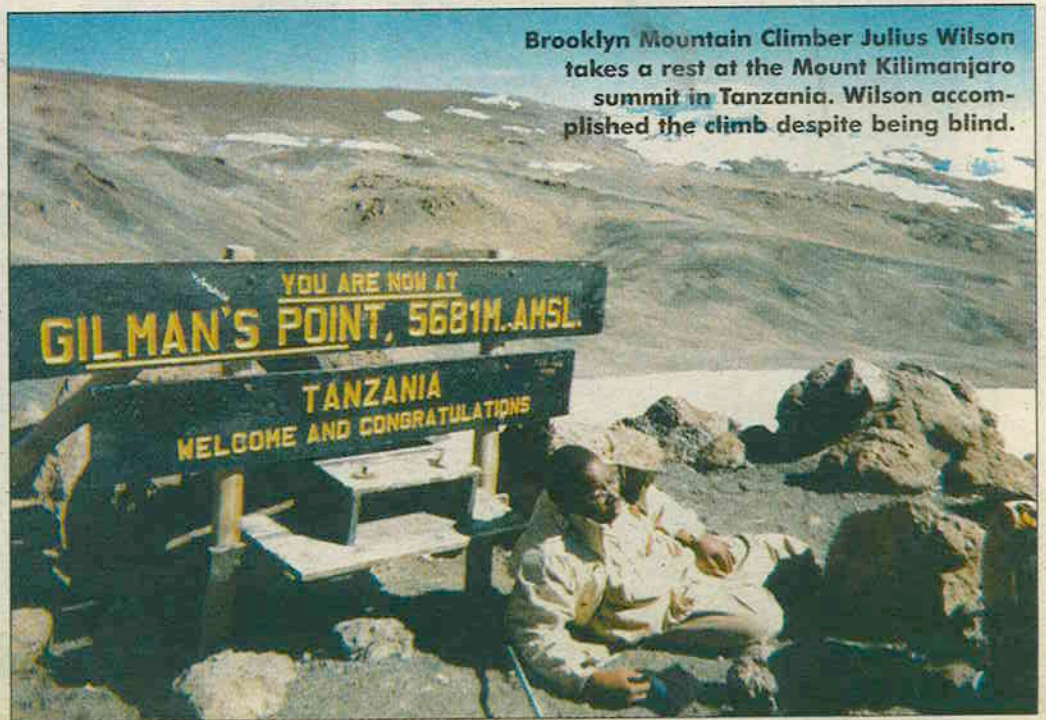
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# Blind Brooklyn Climber Conquers Mt. Kilimanjaro



Brooklyn Mountain Climber Julius Wilson takes a rest at the Mount Kilimanjaro summit in Tanzania. Wilson accomplished the climb despite being blind.

By Stephen Witt

He came, he learned, he struggled and finally he stood in awe atop the 19,243-foot Mount Kilimanjaro.

Not a bad conquest for a born and raised Brooklynite, but throw in that Julius Wilson is blind and you get a remarkable tale.

"You get a sense of the view," Wilson said of his feeling upon reaching the summit. "It was a rush and exhilarating. You're so glad it's over because it's grueling, really physically taxing."

Wilson went to Tanzania to climb Africa's highest

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## Local Officials Want to Step Into Vallone's Shoes

By Stephen Witt

After four years as city councilman in Brooklyn's 38th District, Angel Rodriguez is making a serious run at becoming the next City Council Speaker.

The position has opened up as the current speaker, Peter Vallone of Queens, is stepping down due to term limits. Vallone has been the speaker since 1986.

Rodriguez is one of three Brooklyn councilmembers seeking the position. Al Vann and Tracy Boyland are also looking to become the next speaker.

"The council speaker is the leader of the legislative body of the city of New York and a counter balance to the mayor," Rodriguez said.

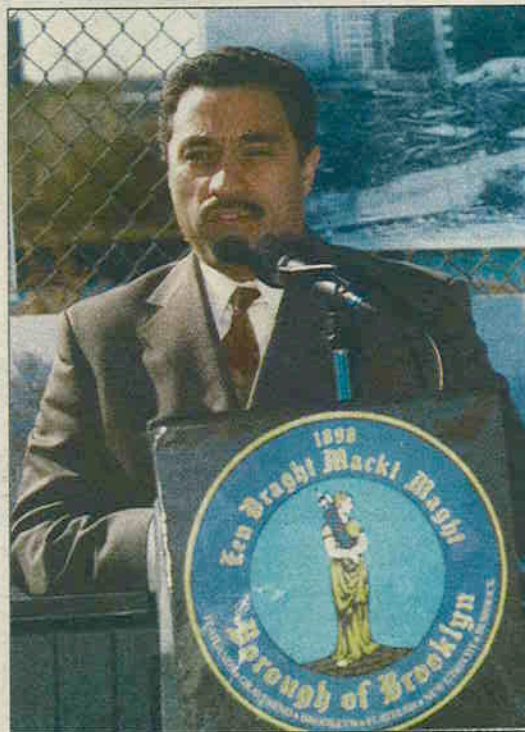
"You need someone experienced in the New York City legislative process and based on those requirements I'm probably most qualified for the job."

Rodriguez's legislative experience includes chairing the Council's Small Business and Retail and Emerging Technology Committee and serving on the budget negotiating committee. He is also the only current councilmember elected in 1997 who served on the finance committee.

Rodriguez is an accountant by profession, and he says that experience will come in handy for the speaker job as the council creates the city budget.

"We're going to take a big economic hit," Rodriguez said.

"The World Trade Center tragedy will have a \$60 billion negative impact on New York City. The federal government is promising \$20 billion and some more money might come



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## Kids In the Kitchen to Benefit 9/11 Fund

By Christy Goodman

Like many families in New York City, Brooklynites are searching for anything they can do in the wake of horrible events of September 11.

Six families whose children attend the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School at 185 Court Street, decided to hold a bake sale in Cobble Hill Park and donated the \$5,200 in proceeds to the *New York Times 9/11 Neediest Fund*.

"One of the things we do best are community events," said Helene Banks, coordinator of the event. "The community could use one right now," she said.

Banks pointed out the community has one of the largest concentrations of Arabic families in New York City and the community unification was needed.

"It was a well-received event that brought the community together," said Banks.

"I wanted my kids to feel they were doing something, to feel they were part of the process," said Alice Crandall, whose husband worked in the World Trade Center, but had gotten out safely.

All of the parents agreed with Crandall.

"It had really touched our lives and we felt so fortunate," she said. "Our idea was to help those who had a much greater need—that is why we chose the *New York Times 9/11 Neediest Fund*."

Friday, September 14, the Banks, Williams, Sherman,

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