

# StraitConnect

Stories, Local Updates, and Practical Insights Shaping The Northeast Bronx.

May Edition · 2026

LITERACY · CULTURE · LOCAL SPACES

## A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

*The community is in full bloom, and there's a sense of continuity everywhere.*

As we turn the page from April to May, we're continuing the conversation around building connections, creating space, and growing with intention.

In our community, "mother" is a verb. It lives in the everyday ways people care for one another, offer guidance, and show up with consistency. This month, we honor all who carry that spirit—through traditional and non-traditional forms.

We also hold space for those for whom this day brings reflection or remembrance.

Happy Mother's Day, and thank you for staying connected.

Deardire Gregg · FOUNDER, STRAITLEAP

## COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

### 3rd Annual Bronx Indie Bookstore Day

On Sunday April 26, 2026, four independent Bronx bookstores came together at the Andrew Freedman Home for the 3rd Annual Bronx Indie Bookstore Day. The community engaged, conversations flowed, and the case for local third spaces made itself. This is what it looks like when the borough shows up for its own stories.



#### PARTICIPATING BOOKSTORES

**The Bronx Is Reading**

@thebronxisreading

**Lavish Booktique**

@lavishbooktique

**Loc'd & Lit**

@locd\_and\_lit

**Bronx Bound Books**

@bronxboundbooks

## WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

### Tanesha "Coach Tea" Ingram

Leader, The Bronx Collab & Founder, Just Write

*"A lot of people have the vision. What they need is someone to walk with them through the steps and help them stay grounded in it."*



Tanesha "Coach Tea" Ingram leads with presence. As founder of Just Write and leader of The Bronx Collab, she's built a reputation for meeting people where they are — whether that's a first-time entrepreneur with an idea for a business or a family in need of essential resources.

Follow on Instagram, @thebronxcollab and @justwritecommunityproject

## THE WORK IN MOTION

### Coach Tea: One Ecosystem, Many Roots

Coach Tea connects entrepreneurs, youth, and families — mentoring hundreds of entrepreneurs while serving thousands of Bronx residents through workshops, pantry support, and resource initiatives.

- › **Training & Mentorship:** Structure and strategy for entrepreneurs & nonprofit leaders.
- › **Community Pantry:** Consistent access to essential resources for local families.
- › **Resource Hub:** Pathways for young women and emerging leaders.
- › **Collaboration & Impact:** Women-owned businesses supporting each other borough-wide.

## IN THE ROOMS

### Community Meetings

Where everyday voices meet decision-makers. Visit links below for schedule

#### COMMUNITY COUNCIL

##### 47th Precinct Community Council

Neighborhood safety, community concerns & local policing priorities. [facebook.com/47PCC](https://facebook.com/47PCC)

#### COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

##### White Plains Road Working Group

Input on housing, small businesses, transit & public space. [Voice to Vision](#)

#### BRANCH MEETING

##### NAACP Williamsbridge Branch

Civic advocacy & community equity. [facebook.com/naacpwilliamsbridge](https://facebook.com/naacpwilliamsbridge)

#### MONTHLY MEETING

##### Bronx Community Board 12

Williamsbridge, Wakefield, Woodlawn & Baychester. Instagram @bxc12connect.

FEATURED EVENT RECAP

# The Power of Her

The Power of Her reminded us what's possible when women-owned spaces show up for each other. Connection, mentorship, and visibility in the same room — that's the work. The conversations started that night are still going.

Watch the full recap [@straitleap](#) on Instagram

## LEGACY CORNER

### Green Garden Health Food Store

Williamsbridge & Wakefield · Serving the community since 1983

Green Garden has remained a steady source of wellness, education, and access for decades. Stop by the Juice Bar for cold-pressed juices and fresh sea moss — or seek expert guidance at the Herbal Apothecary.

#### WHY LEGACY MATTERS

- › **Families Who Stayed** — A living record of the community's resilience.
- › **Foundations of Health** — Prioritizing wellness before it was a trend.
- › **Stories That Survive** — Knowledge only years of presence can provide.



Follow: [@greengardenhealthfood](#) →

#### What does “Legacy” mean to you?

Whether it's a family recipe or a local shop like Green Garden that's been there since you were a kid, we want to hear about the things in our neighborhood that stand the test of time.

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### May Community Events

Spring calendars are filling up across the Northeast Bronx.

MAY 5

#### HOMEOWNERSHIP

##### First Time Home Buyer Orientation

Bronx NHS · 1451 E Gun Hill Rd · 6–8pm

MAY 8

#### COMMUNITY & CULTURE

##### Taste of the District

Hosted by State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey · Local food & vendors

MAY 9

#### YOUTH & LITERACY

##### Radiant Rebels: Read Alouds for Brave Kids

Nefer Bookcafé · 694 E. 241st St · Storytime for families

Full Calendar: [straitleapbx.com/northeast-bronx-community-calendar](http://straitleapbx.com/northeast-bronx-community-calendar) →

## STAY CONNECTED

### Share Your Story With Us

If you've recently launched a business, hosted a community event, or started a new initiative — we invite you to share your story.

Submit at [straitleapbx.com/home](http://straitleapbx.com/home) →

## SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



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Stories. Community updates. Local opportunities. Delivered monthly.

*“Stories that don't get told, don't get remembered.”*

Subscribe to StraitConnect — the monthly source of Northeast Bronx stories, events & community voices.

## STAY CONNECTED

[www.straitleapbx.com](http://www.straitleapbx.com)

Share your story: [straitleapbx.com/home](http://straitleapbx.com/home)

Podcast: “Strait Leap into Conversation”



Building Stronger Communities  
Through Storytelling & Connections

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