

DAILY NEWS

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Tasteful new guide to Bx.

Nabe group rolls out Zagat-like directory of 100 local eateries

BY CORINNE LESTCH

A PIECE of the Bronx now has its very own Zagat-like guide.

A Community Restaurant Guide put together by the Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Van Cortlandt Development Corp. includes about 100 local restaurants in the northwest Bronx neighborhoods, highlighting lesser-known as well as established restaurants such as Liebman's Deli on W. 235th St.

Liebman's owner Yuval Dekel was pleasantly surprised to learn that the guide had been created and that his restaurant was featured.

Even though the deli has been around for 57 years, it's never too late to reach new customers, he said.

"We run into people that say, 'Oh wow, there's a nice deli in the area,'" said Dekel, who grew up in Riverdale. "It would be nice to sort of familiarize ourselves with what's in the area and what's new."

"Fortunately for Liebman's, it's definitely one that has been around for awhile, and hopefully we will continue to do so with the support of our great neighborhood."

The guide was funded by City Councilman Oliver Koppell (D-



Waiter Hasan Depe at Liebman's Deli, which is featured in a new restaurant guide. Photo by Katherine Finkelstein

Riverdale), a big supporter of local businesses.

"I am very pleased that the Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Van Cortlandt Development Corporation has utilized the funding I provided to produce a Community Restaurant Guide," Koppell said at the official release last Monday, at Jasper's Pizza.

"Our local 'Zagat' will introduce local residents to the variety of restaurants in our area

and serve to encourage patronage of our neighborhood establishments."

Free copies of the guide will be available starting Saturday, Aug. 21, at Citibank's Kids Day Celebration at its Kingsbridge branch, 5660 Broadway.

The KRVC also is offering an online version of the guide, which will feature pictures and more information about the restaurants.

And more guides will be released in the coming year.

Tracy Shelton, executive director of KRVC, said the community development group is planning to unveil printed and online guides for area banks, retail stores and professional services.

"All the guides we produce will have a similar purpose — to promote our community's businesses and to serve our community's consumers," she said.