



Bodegas co-owners Christian Dennerly and Maria Dolores Lagdameo.

## **Grand Opening for "BODEGAS," Spa, Health Food Store, Bar and more in Clinton Hill**

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Friday, February 13 was a good luck day for Christian Dennerly, seen here with his wife-business partner Maria Dolores Lagdameo. It was the grand opening for

Dennerly's new upscale BODEGAS cafe-restaurant and soon-to-come high-end "bodega" market, at 868-870 Fulton Street (corner of Clinton Avenue) in Clinton Hill. And it was his birthday.

The couple also own LIQUORS the popular restaurant on DeKalb Avenue, Fort Greene. The artistic couple (he's a musician, she's a dancer) opened the restaurant "after the baby and the bills started coming in." Now they express their creativity in the food, the ambience and the running of their businesses. Bodegas features a full service espresso/breakfast bar open weekdays at 7 a.m. and a cafe that serves afternoon and evening meals. The cafe will soon be complemented by a catering component and a meat, fish, and produce market with limited dry goods, bread, wine and dairy selections opening Summer of 2004 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Councilwoman Letitia James attended the opening as well as community residents and a stream of curious neighbors who dropped by for the ribbon-cutting and to welcome the two young entrepreneurs to the neighborhood. Ms. Little, a tenant upstairs, has been in the neighborhood 25 years and was pleased with the way the building's new owners, the Pratt Area Community Council, had renovated and worked with existing tenants. "They moved me into a brownstone on St. James while the work was being done, and now I'm back and everything went very well."

PACC also was a big supporter of Dennerly. "Working with Pratt Area Community Council, I was able to achieve my dream -- through their Commercial Revitalization Program I'm opening my second business establishment, and bringing a very needed service to the area," said Dennerly.

PACC's Commercial Revitalization Program is hard at work in other areas of Clinton Hill. There's grand movement afoot on and around Grand Avenue and Clifton Place, with the opening of several new chi-chi businesses, including: Karrot Health Food Store, Nu Yu Spa, Grand 275 and the upcoming Dakar Restaurant.

Grand opening celebrations will take place on March 24 on Grand between Lafayette Avenue and Clifton Place. The community is welcome to meet its newest neighbors. Our Time Press will profile these businesses and their owners in the April 2004 issue.