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One Dollar

Island Churches Say Mazel Tov to Temple Beth-El

By KAREN NANI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Temple Beth-El used the occasion of their Anniversary Dinner Dance on March 28, 2009, to thank the other churches on City Island for their support and fellowship over the last 75 years. They honored the clergy and congregations from St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Grace Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist churches, along with the commander and members of the Leonard Hawkins Post #156. Shown above are members and officers of Temple Beth-El along with the honorees (l. to r.): Marc Kaplan, Stephen Slotnik, Cheryl and Bob Berent, Nan Kaplan, Dave Carman, Mother Patricia Alexander Father Michael Challinor, Pastor Susan Chadwick, Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Alan Dattner.

The congregation and officers of Temple Beth-El threw a gala party on March 28, 2009, to thank all the other churches on City Island for their support and fellowship over the last 75 years. The clergy and congregations from St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Grace Episcopal and Trinity United Methodist churches, along with the commander and members of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156, joined in the anniversary celebration held at the Lido Restaurant.

Officers of the temple, known to Islanders as "Your Shul by the Sea," opened the anniversary dinner dance by acknowledging the reason for the celebration: "Four institutions are being honored tonight for their important roles in helping establish Temple Beth-El, by providing places for worship for the Jewish community of City Island in its early years, by helping in the building of the synagogue, and by giving ongoing strong support for the congregation, its programs and its mission."

Bob Berent, a former temple president, put it simply: "There would be no Temple Beth-El without the support of the churches and the Legion. Every other brick came from our Christian friends and neighbors."

Mort Ellis gave a brief history of the temple in his remarks to the many guests who gathered to celebrate the long history of the "small house of worship in a small community." In 1934, 17 men met on Orchard Street (now Hawkins Street) for prayers in a private home. The group began to grow, so they rented space at 385 City Island Avenue.

In 1942, the first Jewish school classes were held at Trinity Methodist Church, and later that year, the expanding City Island Jewish community began fund-raising toward a permanent home. In 1947, the group purchased a parcel of land, and the organization became known officially as Temple Beth-El.

"In 1956, the dream became a reality and construction began on a building to serve as a new house of worship on City Island," Mr. Ellis reminisced to the guests, many of whom were living on the Island when the

temple was built. The new building at 480 City Island Avenue was dedicated in March 1957 as a home for Jewish worship and education.

Temple Beth-El became City Island's fourth house of worship, following Grace Episcopal Church (built in 1862), Trinity United Methodist (erected in 1878), and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (originally built in 1890 and rebuilt after a fire in 1956). The congregation, along with the current spiritual leader, Rabbi Shohama Wiener, gratefully acknowledged the fellowship of these churches by honoring their current clergy, Mother Patricia Alexander, Pastor Susan Chadwick and Father Michael Challinor, along with Commander Dave Carman from the Post.

Stephen Slotnik, the evening's emcee, introduced the honorees and announced proclamations given to Temple Beth-El by Councilman James Vacca, Congressman Joseph Crowley, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Senator Jeff Klein.

The evening began with a cocktail reception provided by Irwin Hoberman and then a Havdalah Service led by Rabbi Wiener welcoming everyone to share in the Sabbath. This was followed by the presentations to the honorees and dinner and dancing to the music of Freddie Lando. Organizers also thanked City Island's Exotiq International for donating the centerpieces.

In a poignant moment, Marc Kaplan, a trustee of the temple, presented an award to Dave Carman and acknowledged the devotion and service of City Island's veterans. Mr. Carman, a fourth-generation Islander, reminisced about when Temple Beth-El was built and how the Post had been used by the congregation before the building was completed.

Mr. Berent summed up the feelings in the room by saying that members of Temple Beth-El look forward to the next 75 years of fellowship and brotherhood on City Island. If you want to know what's coming up there in the next month, see *Organization News* in this issue.

Shalom!

PUT ME IN COACH, I'M READY TO PLAY!



Photos by DONALD KOLB

The City Island Little League baseball and softball season began on April 18, 2009, under sunny skies and on fresh grass. Bob Whelan, president of CILL, presided over the start of the season and accepted a check for \$10,000 from State Senator Jeff Klein in support of the teams. Hundreds of children eager to play baseball, numerous parents at the ready to volunteer, summer-like weather and, of course, free hot dogs made for a great day. Other members of the Little League board worked hard as well, including Larry Saulnier, George Spencer, Sally Connolly, John Valenti, John Tomsen, Kristin McConaghy, Maria Piri, Angelo Bellocchio and Ed Esposito. Frank Strazzera, director of St. Mary's softball, and coaches Marcos Negrón and John Gerato were also on hand for the first pitch. Play ball!

NOTICE

As of May 2009, the annual subscription rate for The Island Current will increase from \$10 to \$12 to cover increased postage costs. The cost of a single paper on the newsstand will continue to be \$1.

BRIEFLY...

BENEFIT: Join your neighbors on Friday, May 29, 2009, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the American Legion, Leonard Hawkins Post 156, on City Island Avenue at Cross Street, to participate in a fund-raiser to benefit the family of Steve Schmitz, who suffers from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). PePe and John of Alive N' Kickin' will sing, and refreshments will be available (cash bar). Admission: \$20.

CITY ISLAND CLEAN-UP DAY: The Civic Association is sponsoring an Island clean-up day on Saturday, May 16, 2009, starting at 9 a.m. sharp at Hawkins Park. Gloves and plastic bags will be provided; bring your own rake or broom, lots of energy, enthusiasm and your family and friends (children under 14 should be supervised, however) to help beautify our community. We will be covering the Avenue from one end to the other, cleaning up debris on our sidewalks and streets. All volunteers are invited to a free community cookout at 4 p.m. at the Little League Field. Hot dogs, burgers and sodas will be provided, but bring your own blanket or chair. Musicians are welcome, as well as high-school students who want to earn community service credits. Rain date May 17.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER INTERFAITH SERVICE: On Thursday, May 7, Grace Church will host the third interfaith prayer service marking the annual National Day of Prayer. From 7 to 8 p.m., clergy from all four City Island houses of worship and from Christ the Redeemer in Pelham will offer prayers. The service will focus on the family, our community, our military and our government. Last year, City Island's interfaith service was one of thousands of National Day of Prayer events held in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Afghanistan, and Iraq. All are warmly welcome to attend on Thursday, May 7, and remain afterwards for refreshments and fellowship. Grace Church is wheelchair accessible.

BLOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, will take place on Tuesday, May 12, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Trinity Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street at City Island Avenue. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation.

GRACE CHURCH SPRING TAG SALE: On Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Grace Church invites you to a day of quality bargain shopping, with the addition this year of our Spring Café, where you can enjoy a light lunch and a cup of coffee or tea, with selections of baked goods from our parish kitchens. Weather permitting, we will be serving up ice cream sundaes on the lawn! Also, if you have any items you would like to part with after spring cleaning, we will gladly give them a new home. Donation drop-off dates are May 7 and

19TH CITY ISLAND YOUNG ARTISTS EXHIBITION at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. There will be an opening on Friday, May 1, with a reception at 7 p.m. For further information, call 718-885-1403.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP): This program offers work experience, teaches valuable employment skills and provides young people with a summer income. SYEP is open to all New York City residents between the ages of 14 and 24, as of July 1, 2009. Each applicant may submit only one application. To apply, go to www.nyc.gov/dycd and complete the application online. Or print out the form and send it to one of the organizations listed on the Web site. The deadline for submitting the application is Friday, May 15, 2009.

BRONX RIVER FLOTILLA: Saturday, May 9, join the Bronx River Alliance for the 10th Annual Amazing Bronx River Flotilla from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Experienced paddlers age 18 and up are invited to float five miles of the river followed by a picnic. Online registration is required at www.bronxriver.org. For further information, please call the Flotilla hotline at 718-430-4636.

INDOOR TAG SALES on Sundays, May 3, 17 and 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. If you are interested in a table for \$10, call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP'S SPRING PRODUCTION is "Rumors," one of Neil Simon's most popular comedies. The play will be performed at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street on May 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and on Sundays, May 17 and 24, at 3 p.m. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve tickets or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON: This annual event will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 12:30 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, at the foot of west Pilot Street. Cost is only \$30 per person, and there will be beautiful baskets, door prizes, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Call Ruth for reservations at 718-885-1361 by May 15.

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Member

EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

ADVERTISING MANAGERS: Joan Ramftl, Margaret Lenz
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268
www.theislandcurrent.com

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb

STAFF: Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Danegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.

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THE FREE BRONX SEASIDE TROLLEY ROLLS AGAIN on Friday, May 1, leaving Pelham Bay Station every hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and running to 9:30 p.m. The first stop is at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, which will be open for tours from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at a nominal fee. The Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, will present a preview of the "Young Artists Exhibition" from 7 to 9 p.m. Lickety Split Ice Cream Parlor, 295 City Island Avenue, will be offering 20 percent off with your Trolley Card. The Black Whale restaurant, 279 City Island Avenue, offers a free bottle of wine with two dinners and your Trolley Card. The Tree House Restaurant, 273 City Island Avenue, offers a free house dessert with any dinner and your Trolley Card. Exotiq International Arts, 280 City Island Avenue, is open until 9 p.m. and offers trolley riders a free standard greeting card of your choice with any purchase over \$10 and your Trolley Card. Midtown Antiques, 310 City Island Avenue, is having a sale with 50 percent off on all antique furniture.

THEATER AT THE BARTOW-PELL MANSION will be presented by the Supporting Characters, a professional Westchester theater group dedicated to the development of new plays, on Friday, April 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. The group will present staged readings of short theatrical pieces throughout the mansion, all of them written specifically for the mansion setting or its historical time period. Audiences will see the mansion come alive as they tour the house and are entertained by different pieces throughout the house. Plays have been selected from entries submitted by writers all over New York and will be performed by the Supporting Characters' company of artists, who have appeared on and off-Broadway, regionally, and in film and television. Admission will be \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children ages 6 to 17. Registration is requested: call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2009. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

March and April

3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

1 – ROBBERY

2 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Police report the following incidents for the months of March and April 2009:

3/28 – At 6 a.m., an officer observed and took photos of graffiti on City Island Avenue near a construction site. Condition was reported for purposes of being corrected.

3/30 – Two off-Island males, ages 14 and

16, were arrested on Beach Street and City Island Avenue and charged with robbery. (See story next page.)

3/31 – An Island female, 50, was arrested and charged with DWI at 10:30 p.m. at the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue.

4/12 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating two incidents of tire slashing on City Island Avenue. In both cases, an unknown perpetrator slashed the front and rear passenger side tires, causing damage to the two vehicles.

4/13 – Police arrested a male, 33, on City Island Avenue and Winters Street at 4:15 a.m. and charged him with DWI.

4/16 – At 3:30 p.m., two off-Island males were arrested and charged with criminal possession of stolen property at 551 City Island Avenue. The defendants allegedly removed a boat from the back of the lot and towed it away. The boat was recovered and the case was closed with an arrest.



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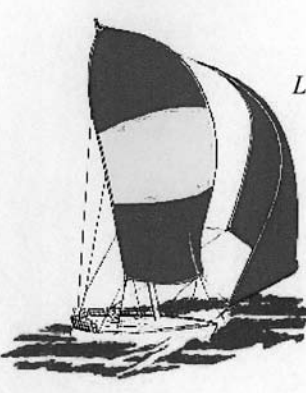
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Island Parents Catch Robbers Red-Handed

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Two Island teens on their way home from school on Monday, March 30, were robbed at gunpoint on Minneford Avenue near St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, but the perpetrators, two off-Island youths, were quickly apprehended and arrested, thanks to the quick thinking and action taken by the parents of one of the teens.

As James Gisante and Kevin Whelan boarded the No. 29 bus at Pelham Bay Park for the final leg of their trip home from school, they did not realize they were being watched by the two youths, who had noticed James's new, expensive cell phone and apparently decided that they wanted it for themselves. The two youths also boarded the bus, and when James and Kevin got off in front of the Sea Shore Restaurant, the off-Islanders disembarked as well and followed the Island boys past the church to Minneford Avenue. It was there that they took out a gun and demanded James's cell phone, which he gave them immediately.

According to the criminal complaint filed with the District Attorney's office, the youth holding the gun was then heard to say as he was walking away, "I still want to shoot my gun," and the other one allegedly said "Let's blast them!" But they did not shoot the gun and kept on walking.

Using his own cell phone, Kevin called his mother, Annamarie Whelan, a retired police sergeant, as soon as the robbers

were out of sight, and she told him to call 911 right away. She called 911 herself and then she called her husband, retired police officer Bob Whelan, who was on his way home from the Little League field. Bob also called 911 and the 45th precinct and immediately drove his car to the end of Bridge Street, where he blocked all traffic leaving the island.

Anna Whelan, in the meantime, drove down the Avenue looking for a northbound bus, the only way the robbers could leave City Island. When she got to Cross Street, she saw the two youths run out of Angelo's Deli and climb onto the bus. She stopped the bus, and by this time eight police cruisers had arrived on the scene. Kevin got into the first police car and James into the second. The robbers were immediately identified, and the stolen phone and the gun were recovered.

The two youths were arrested and arraigned in Criminal Court, and both Island boys and their parents gave testimony. One of the youths, 14, pleaded guilty to second degree robbery and will be sentenced on June 25; he was released on his own recognizance. The other youth, 16, pleaded not guilty and will be tried as an adult; he is to appear in court again on April 30, and bail was set at \$2500.

According to the parents of the Island boys, the youth who pleaded guilty admit-

ted that they had planned to sell the phone to a store in the Bronx and had apparently been arrested on two previous occasions.

Not all Islanders are former police officers, of course, and not everyone might be able to act as quickly and effectively in this situation as the Whelans did, but there are several lessons that all Islander can learn from this incident. As Bob told *The Cur-*

rent: "Be careful not to display any expensive possessions in a place where someone you don't know can see them. Call 911 more than once in order to be sure of getting a quick response. And don't be afraid to file charges and follow up by giving testimony, or else the criminals will get away with it and try again."

SPRING CLEANING ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Forham Street corner before (photo left) and after (photo right). 413 CIA before (below right) and after (bottom right).

Now that the weather has begun to warm up, the daffodils have sprung up along with the traffic, and many Islanders have begun to look more closely at the mess that is City Island Avenue. Some property owners have faithfully swept and cleaned the sidewalks and gutters in front of their buildings, but many have not, and the general condition of our main street is pretty unattractive.

Happily, there have been a number of active individuals who have taken matters into their own hands, and it will not be long before our community begins to look a lot better.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, working with the Garden Club, has already begun to refurbish Hawkins Park so that it will be more attractive to look at and easier to maintain. The plan is to finish the work in time for the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25.

The Quality of Life Committee working with the Civic Association and the Garden Club has come up with some wonderful ideas for installing works of art in empty storefronts, setting up planters on certain street corners in the "village" area and organizing a City Island Day for a clean-up of the Avenue, followed by a cookout at Ambrosini Field on Saturday, May 16 (see *Briefly*, page 2).

And State Senator Jeff Klein's graffiti task force, coordinated by John Doyle, an Island resident on the senator's staff, has been hard at work removing graffiti from many walls, fences and gates. "We must be



vigilant in the fight against graffiti," the senator told *The Current*. "That's why I've been operating my free graffiti removal service for 15 years so that Bronx residents can feel good about our streets. Spring is in the air and we'll be spending more time outside, so I want to be sure that 'outside' is a place we want to be."

Thanks to their efforts, the following locations have been cleaned or repainted: the cinderblock wall at Temple Beth-El (480 CIA); two gates at Island Outboard (413 CIA); a door at 412 City Island Avenue, the side of 240 City Island Avenue, two gates at 270 City Island Avenue; three gates at Remy's (268 CIA), the wall at Systems 2000 (258 CIA), the gates at the northwest corner of Fordham Street (315 CIA), six gates at 307 City Island Avenue, Connie's market at 313 City Island Avenue, the Masonic Temple at Schofield Street. The task force has also cleaned graffiti off the City Island Bridge and off the wall above the Chase bank.

Three cheers to all of you and to everyone else who has volunteered to help keep City Island beautiful.

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BOB WHELAN & SALLY CONNOLLY ANNOUNCE START OF CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON. JEFF KLEIN THROWS OUT FIRST BALL.	CAPTAIN SADLER VOLUNTEERS TO REMOVE ABANDONED BOAT FROM BRIDGE STREET.	UNUSUAL TRAFFIC IN APRIL CAUSES MYRIAD PROBLEMS ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE.	BOY SCOUTS PUSH UP DAISIES (ROSES, ETC.) AND HELP CEMETERY CLEANUP AT ANNUAL FLOWER SALE.	TEMPLE BETH-EL PAY HOMAGE TO LOCAL HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND POST 156 AT GALA DINNER.
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We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Grateful Masons

To the Editor:
 On behalf of the Bronx Masons, I would like to thank Michael Vivian for maintaining and putting up the Blood Drive banner in order to remind Islanders of this gift of humanity and to Buddy's Hardware for allowing the banner to be hung on their property.

Scott Meyer

Thanks for Caring

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors and our extended family, including the Kolb and Seiter families, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Brewer and daughters, and the Valesio family, for the support and kindness they showed us on the recent loss of our daughter and sister Kathy Seaman. Special thanks to Ashley Livingston for the beautiful photo collage she created.

City Island is an amazing and caring community, and we appreciate all the kindness that was extended to us.

Pat and Ray Kelly, Patty Seaman, and Robbie Seaman

A Family's Gratitude

To the Editor:
 On behalf of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends and neighbors in this wonderful City Island community for all of the support and kindness they have shown us since the passing of my mother, Bette Lacina, on March 15. It has been truly comforting to hear the wonderful stories so many of you have told us about Mom—how she delivered your babies at Westchester Square Hospital, sold your last home or surprised you with a bottle of champagne in the apartment she found for you.

Your special memories of her have helped to ease the pain we have felt at her passing. Mom loved City Island; she loved its spirit, she loved its history and most importantly she loved its people. Whether she was sitting on her porch talking with

the neighbors as they passed by, meeting up with friends at the market or at St. Mary, Star of the Sea or simply eating out at one of our local restaurants, Mom loved City Islanders.

Thank you for showing us how much City Islanders loved her as well.

Charles Lacina



Photo by KAREN NANI

As part of his Eagle Scout project, John Devlin raised funds at the Troop 211 Annual Flower Sale to make some repairs to Pelham Cemetery on City Island. With the help of other scouts and Ed Esposito, past Scoutmaster of Troop 211, John scraped and painted the fence and gates of the cemetery. He raised enough money to pay for the necessary painting materials, thanks to the generosity of City Islanders who saw his presentation at the flower sale.

Help for the Cemetery

To the Editor (and all City Islanders):
 The Pelham Cemetery is badly in need of repairs. The fences and gates are chipping and rusting, the pillars at the entrance are crumbling and the shore side is overgrown with weeds and strewn with trash. The cemetery is a special place for many City Island residents who have loved ones buried there (including myself). Every Memorial Day our annual parade, which includes Troop 211 and other City Island organizations, enters the cemetery to honor veterans who have died. I would like to honor all people interred in the cemetery by making it more presentable to visitors.

I spoke to the custodian, Mr. John Ulmer, in February to tell him that I was interested in helping the cemetery for my Eagle Scout project. Three other scouts and I cleaned up Christmas debris from

the cemetery and removed American flags from veteran's graves for proper disposal. I am trying to arrange, with our troop, to have scouts continue this good-will gesture each year and help the American Legion place flags on veterans' graves before Memorial Day. In early March, Mr. Ulmer and I asked the Department of Sanitation to have city trashcans placed outside the cemetery. One city trash receptacle was placed in late March. We arranged a second clean-up on Palm Sunday.

As part of my Eagle project I will be scraping and painting the fence and gates with the help of Troop 211 and Mr. Ed Esposito, past Scoutmaster of Troop 211. Thanks to the generosity of City Islanders who saw my presentation at our annual

flower sale, I was able to raise enough money to pay for the necessary painting materials. My hope is to complete my Eagle project so that the marchers in the parade will pass by the freshly painted fences and gates of Pelham Cemetery on Monday, May 25.

As a scout, I was only allowed to raise funds to pay for materials used by the scouts painting the fence. However, I hope to make the City Island community aware of the situation. I have privately spoken to a contractor who tells me that repairs to the pillars would cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000. I would like to hear from other City Islanders who would be interested in helping to complete these repairs.

John Devlin, Eagle Scout Candidate

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The Importance of Maintaining Your Identification

By CORMAC McENERY, ESQ.

For various reasons, it has become increasingly important for individuals to obtain and maintain proof of their identity.

Financial institutions now have more stringent identification requirements as a result of the Patriot Act. If you do not have a valid picture government identification, such as a state driver license or a U.S. passport, you may have difficulties processing your own financial transactions at banks, brokerage firms and other financial institutions.

This could be even more problematic should you become disabled. Your attorney-in-fact, the person appointed as your power of attorney to act on your behalf, may find it difficult or impossible to process some financial transactions on your behalf if you do not have valid government picture identification at a time when you may not be physically able to apply for such identification in person. Most first-time government identification applications, such as New York State driver licenses and non-driver identifications, as well as U.S. passports and some expired identifications, require you to apply in person.

An important tip: Always renew your driver license or non-driver identification and your passport before they expire. If

you have a current New York State driver license, non-driver identification or one that expired less than two years ago, you may renew your identification by mail.

If you do not have a New York State driver license, you should apply for a non-driver identification. The instructions and forms can be obtained from a New York State Department of Motor Vehicles office or from the department's Web site, www.nydmv.state.ny.us/form-pub.htm. You will need to apply in person if this is your first application or if your identification expired two or more years ago.

If you are applying for your first U.S. passport, you must apply in person at a U.S. Passport Agency Office or a designated U.S. Post Office. If you have a current or expired passport, issued when you were at least 16 years of age less than 15 years ago and your name on the passport has not changed, you may renew your passport by mail. Passport forms and instructions can be obtained from most Post Offices and from the U.S. Department of State Web site www.travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738_2.html.

Cormac McEnery, Esq., is an attorney with an office on City Island. For additional information on elder law and estate planning topics, visit www.cormacmcenery.com.

From Clam Digger to Purple Heart: Charles Brill

By FRED RAMFTL JR.

As Memorial Day approaches, it seems appropriate for City Island to recognize the achievements and extraordinary dedication of one of its own—Charlie Brill, who served in the Marines for an extraordinary three tours abroad in spite of serious injury.

Charles David Brill was born on Oct. 5, 1982, at Einstein Hospital to the late David Brill and Francine DeVeau Brill, who now resides off the Island. Charlie grew up here from the time he was born until he was a teenager.

Charlie's childhood on City Island was not much different than that of generations before him. As a kid, he used to run around in the ball field next to P.S. 175 after school and play in the tree house that was in the Tier Street lot before the Tier Street side was developed. Other activities included sitting and "riding" on the dolphin and seals in Hawkins Park and later in the playground near the school after it was built in 1992. Charlie always spent the warm weather on the Carroll Street beach, where he would swim and snorkel from lunchtime until early evening.

Charlie attended P.S. 175 from kindergarten through the eighth grade, graduating in 1996. He went on to Herbert H. Lehman High School and graduated in June 2001.

From the age of about 12 until he was 19, Charlie held many after-school jobs on the Island, such as helping out at Tony's Fisherman's Cove (now the Chinese restaurant) and delivering videos for the local video store, Pro Video (now Carmine DeDonato's accounting office). Other jobs included delivering for the City Island Diner and making pizza at the Pizza Place. He also did community service for the City Island Little League, Boy Scout Troop 211 and Temple Beth El.

After high school, Charlie carefully examined his options and decided to enlist with the United States Marine Corps at the recruitment office in Westchester Square because of the skills and opportunities that were offered him at the time. He left for Parris Island, South Carolina, in July of 2001, and it was during his three months in boot camp there that the events of Sept. 11 occurred.

After a short deployment to Camp Geiger in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Charlie went to Pensacola, Florida, for Naval Air Crew Candidates School. In 2002 he attended Mechanic School CH53E for four months and Crew Chief School for an additional five months. Then, as part of the Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 464, based in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Charlie was deployed to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003.

Charlie's responsibility in Kuwait mainly involved loading troops for the upcoming invasion of Iraq. His tour lasted six months, two of which were inside Iraq. He was sent back to Iraq for a second tour of duty in July of 2004, and on Oct. 24 of that year, he was seriously injured by a rocket attack outside Fallujah during an operation to restore order in the city. As a result of the attack, a piece of shrapnel was lodged in the side of his neck, where it missed his carotid

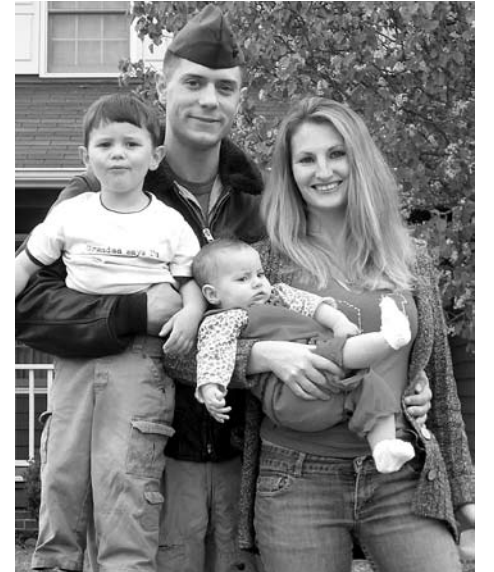


Photo by MIKE DeROSA

Charlie and Christy Brill with their children, Matthew James and Sarah Michelle.

artery by 1 millimeter. He also received a broken jaw in that attack and was awarded a Purple Heart.

After undergoing emergency surgery at a military hospital in Balad, Iraq, Charlie was moved to Ramstein Air Base in Germany for recovery. Following his hospitalization in Germany, he was sent back to the United States for further rehabilitation. He soon recovered from his injuries to continue his duties as a Marine, and in mid-2005 he was deployed for six months to the small republic of Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. While stationed there, Charlie assisted in the humanitarian efforts of building of schools and wells for the local population. During this tour, a plane crash killed some of his fellow comrades, and soon afterward Charlie came back to the United States.

He reenlisted in 2007 and became a non-deployable instructor at the CH 53 Air School in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and he works as an instructor at the helicopter maintenance shop at the New River Marine Base there, where he holds the rank of Staff Sergeant.

It was in Jacksonville that Charlie met his wife, Christy, whom he married in 2005. They have two children, Matthew James Brill, who was born in June 2006, and Sarah Michelle Brill, born in August 2008. The family currently lives in Richlands, North Carolina, just outside Jacksonville, and Charlie's hobbies include working on cars, sailing, swimming, skiing in North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains and spending time with his family.


Charlie's roots remain in City Island however, where his family lived for several generations. His maternal great-grandfather was Cootie DeVeau, and his grandfather was George DeVeau, who died in 2003. Both of these men were known and respected by many current City Island residents. Francine Brill, Charlie's mother, lives in Westchester County, but his sister, Georgette LaBate, still lives in their grandfather's house at the end of the Island with her husband and three sons, to whom Charlie is a devoted uncle. That house, one of the oldest on Horton Street, has been in the family since George DeVeau bought it soon after World War II.

Charlie believes that his grandfather, a Navy veteran of World War II, was his biggest inspiration and one of the reasons he joined the U. S. Marine Corps.

Despite his success, Charlie misses City Island and living within walking distance of the water. His plans for the future include obtaining his bachelor's degree and becoming an officer with either the New York City Police Department or the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. He is currently taking online correspondence courses with the American Military University, and his wife, who is also working toward a bachelor's degree, is taking courses at the local community college near their home.

We wish this decorated veteran and his family every success for the future and hope that they travel back to City Island soon and often.

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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

A new store, **Calico Juno Designs**, opened on April 4 at 310 City Island Avenue near Fordham Street and next to Midtown Antiques. The owner, Islander Bonnie Riconda, specializes in original, unique jewelry using 14-karat gold-filled and sterling silver, precious and semi-precious gemstones, pearls and crystals. Bonnie has owned the business for seven years, selling mostly wholesale to many boutiques and galleries across the country with a staff of three full-time employees. She has more than 750 designs with prices ranging from \$20 to about \$400. There is a studio in the back of the store where all the jewelry is handmade and where customers can have custom jewelry made while they wait. Jewelry repairs are a sideline of the business. Hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Drop by or call **Calico Juno Designs** at 718-392-4823.



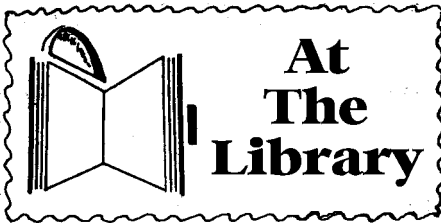
Calico Juno near Fordham Street is open for business.

Photo by Margaret Lenz



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
105 Sutherland St.	09/03/08	\$725,000	1 Family
193 Fordham St.	10/22/08	\$630,000	2 Family
69 Earley S.	12/03/08	\$490,000	1 Family
60 Tier St.	3/02/09	\$300,000	1 Family



Adult Programs

Basic Computer Instruction: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian.

Wii Bowling for adults and seniors: Friday, May 22 at 1 p.m.

Children's Activities

Mother's Day Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, May 5, at 3:30 p.m.

Reading Out Loud Picture Book

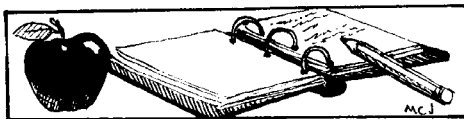
Program: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.
Mommies and Babies Story Time: Thursday, May 14, at 1 p.m.
Preschool Program: Every Thursday in May (7, 14, 21 and 28). Ages 3 to 5. Pre-registration required.

Young Adult Activities

Yu-Gi-Oh: Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Teen Time: Street Fighter Tournament, Thursday, May 7 and 14, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Street Fighter Finals, May 21 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.



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LE REFUGE CLOSED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

When in January 2009 Pierre St. Denis closed the doors of Le Refuge Inn, a restaurant and bed-and-breakfast located in the landmark building at 586 City Island Avenue, he hoped to be able to open again in April. However, because there are several Buildings Department violations against Michelle French, the building's owner, Mr. St. Denis decided not to reopen at all and surrendered his liquor license for the establishment.

Many Islanders are very sad to see Le Refuge closed down because of the high quality of its cuisine and services, but there is no question that the zoning laws do not allow the operation of a restaurant in a residential zone. Other violations are the result of changes made to the property

without the written approval of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Michelle French had presented her proposed changes to the commission, but formal approval was never granted and she proceeded to make the changes without it.

It is possible that Ms. French could obtain a variance to conduct a commercial operation in a residential (R-2A) zone, but this would involve presenting the case to the Board of Standards and Appeals, a long and complex process. Council Member recommended this option to Mr. St. Denis and Ms. French some years ago, but they did not pursue it.

The inn has been operating at this location since 2005, when it moved from 620 City Island Avenue (now the home of Adolfo Carrión Jr. and his family), which is also zoned residential but where the restaurant had operated for many years with no complaints. It is not known who complained about the illegal zoning issue after all these years, but the Buildings Department had no choice but what to file violations against the property. Interestingly, there are a number of other illegal zoning uses along City Island Avenue, but complaints have not been registered so those commercial enterprises continue to operate.

The Dolphin is Not Leaving Town

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On the weekend of April 25, a number of Islanders became very upset when rumors circulated that the dolphin in Hawkins Park was going to be destroyed. Apparently, the Parks Department staff working at the park claimed that they had been told to "get rid of it," but a group of Islanders was able to prevent them from doing so.

The dolphin was put in Hawkins Park by a number of residents in 1972, since there was no playground for children at that time, although the park had originally been established as a memorial in honor of Leonard Hawkins and City Island veterans of World War I, not as a playground. Although actual dolphins have not been sighted near City Island, the sculpture has for many residents have become, as Michael Shanley put it, "a symbol of City Island and enjoyed by families for decades."

Since the 1970s, the park became overgrown and unattractive, so the Parks Department, working with the Garden Club, came up with a plan for refurbishing and replanting the park. One aspect of the project was to move the memorial closer to the center and to remove fencing material that often causes

people to trip and fall. Last fall, the plan was approved by both Community Board 10 and the Civic Association, after lengthy discussion of the dolphin's fate, and the Parks Department assured those in attendance that the dolphin could be relocated, now that City Island has a children's playground.

Apparently, the design staff failed to pass this information along to the construction staff, but thanks to the quick thinking of various Islanders, including Virginia Gallagher and the owners of Lickety Split, the dolphin was saved from destruction. Mrs. Gallagher offered Pilot Cove as a refuge and Consolidated Shipyard was also proposed as a resting place until the final destination—preferably the children's playground in Ambrosini Field—could be readied.

The problem with leaving the dolphin in Hawkins Park is that it is considered hazardous to small children and must by law be surrounded with a large area of rubber matting, which would take up a great deal of space. The seals are staying where they are and have been incorporated into the new design, because they are not considered a danger to children.

FERAL CATS: A Perfect Solution - and It's Free!

By MAURA J. MANDRANO

Much has been said about the number of stray, or feral, cats on City Island. These cats cause many residents concern because they sneak into basements or garages for shelter and the food left for them by kindly souls manages inadvertently to attract raccoons and skunks. Residents will be happy to learn that a free program, called Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR, provides an effective and humane method of dealing with stray, or feral, cats. Thanks to funding from Mayor Bloomberg through an organization called the Mayor's Alliance for Animals, in cooperation with the ASPCA, an excellent, free TNR program is available to Bronx residents who care enough to care for feral cats.

We all know the story: a homeowner or the resident of an apartment complex starts feeding a stray cat or two on the premises. The cats do a fine job of controlling vermin, and everyone's happy. Next thing you know it's four or five cats, then some kittens, then more kittens. Soon you have what is called a "colony": a group of 10 or more cats who are too wild to ever be pets but that have come to depend upon human beings for food. Since these cats cannot be touched, they typically are not spayed or neutered, and they are never given veterinary care. They breed and breed again, and the problem gets worse and worse.

That's when the trouble starts. Neighbors and homeowner associations get angry, and the caretaker of the colony is told: "Just stop feeding them and they'll go away!" Or: "Trap them and put them in the shelter for adoption" or "Put them to sleep; they're no good to anyone." "Just get them out of here, they stink."

Now what? Refusing to feed them is not a viable solution. They cannot survive on rodents and birds, and most cats do not eat what they kill anyway. The starving cats will just continue to hang around their old neighborhood, wasting away; it's the only home they know. Furthermore, cats who have been fed on a regular basis—indoors or out—are considered pets by the ASPCA, and starving them is considered abandonment.

Abandonment of an animal is punishable by a fine and a possible jail sentence under the current New York City animal abuse law. Relocating feral cats is also considered abandonment. Adoption? Euthanasia? These cats are not adoptable, and the ASPCA will not simply euthanize them because you dump them on their doorstep; it's too expensive. So, what can you do?

Trap/neuter/return, commonly referred to as TNR, is the only method proven to be both humane and effective at controlling the growth of feral cat populations. Using this technique, all the feral cats in a colony are

trapped, neutered and then returned to their territory where caretakers provide them with regular food and shelter. Young kittens who can still be socialized, as well as friendly adults, are placed in foster care and eventually adopted out to good homes.

TNR has many advantages. It immediately stabilizes the size of the colony by eliminating new litters. The nuisance behavior often associated with feral cats is dramatically reduced, including the yowling and fighting that come with mating activity and the odor of unneutered males spraying to mark their territory. The returned colony also guards its territory, preventing unneutered cats from moving in and starting the cycle of overpopulation and problem behavior all over again. Particularly in urban areas, the cats continue to provide natural rodent control.

The Bronx has an excellent TNR program that enables interested caretakers of feral cat colonies to learn and run a TNR program for their cats. It involves a \$15 training class for one evening at the ASPCA, where the caretaker learns the method of trapping, holding the cats both before and after surgery, and releasing them back into their environment. Once certified, the caretaker is permitted to make appointments for however many cats she can trap and take them to the ASPCA's mobile clinic for free spaying, neutering and rabies vaccinations. Other vaccinations are available at a mere \$5 each.

Often, one of the city's feral cats organizations (such as www.neighborhoodcats.org) will send an experienced TNR coach to help the first-time trapper. My coach, Theresa Noto, was so good at her job that we trapped eight cats in the first hour she was here. All together I trapped 18 cats around our East Schofield street condo over four different nights. All were neutered, vaccinated for rabies, feline leukemia and rhinovirus, and two kittens were placed in homes for adoption. Even within a few weeks we noticed that the feline activity was drastically reduced.

The ASPCA's mobile veterinary clinic parks on Southern Boulevard near the Bronx Zoo, and one or two Mondays a month are set aside strictly for feral cats, by appointment. The system is effective and efficient, and it works. For those of us who love and care for these beautiful animals, it is also very rewarding to know that they will be healthier, happier, and no longer breeding more feral cats. For those who want the problem under control, with a little effort and patience, a well-run TNR program will make both cat lovers and non-cat lovers happy.

For more information, contact www.neighborhoodcats.org or <http://www.animalalliancencyc.org> or call the ASPCA at 1-877-SPAY-NYC.

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Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar

MAY

Sat., May 9, **Spring Tag Sale**, Grace Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat., May 9, **Girl Scout Plant Sale**, Trinity Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat., May 16, **City Island Clean-up Day**, meet at Hawkins Park, 9 a.m. (see Briefly this issue).

Thurs., May 21, **Garden Club Spring Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, west end of Pilot Street. Call 718-885-1361 for reservations by May 15.

Thurs., May 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Glebe Avenue Senior Citizen Center, 2125 Glebe Avenue.

Mon., May 25, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion.

Tues., May 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., May 30, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Cut up chicken with rice.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages is located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, and conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all.

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

On Thursday, May 7, we will participate in the National Day of Prayer interfaith service at Grace Episcopal Church at 7 p.m.

On Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. our Rabbi Shohama Wiener leads a Kabbalat Shabbat service, with song and dance.

Shavuoth will be celebrated with cantor Elaine and rabbinic intern Molly Karp on Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m.

They will also conduct a Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday June 12.

Visit our Web site, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by Healing Prayers on the second Sunday of the month. We also offer Evening Prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 or visit our Web site, www.gracecityisland.org. Church School is offered approximately three times a month, beginning at 10 a.m. Please call Church School Director Harlan Sexton at 718-885-9749 for dates and to enroll.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during May:

Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m.: Interfaith National Day of Prayer Service

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Spring Tag Sale. Once again we will offer quality new and used items, plus decadent baked goods from our parish kitchens. This year we also are offering a "Spring Café," where you can enjoy a light lunch and a cup of coffee or tea; weather permitting,

we will be serving up ice cream sundaes on the lawn! Also, if you have any items you have decided to part with after spring cleaning, we will gladly give them a new home. Donation drop off dates are May 7 and 8 between 6 and 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 10, 10 a.m.: Youth Sunday. Join us on Mother's Day for a special service led by the young people of the Grace Church School.

Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m.: The Feast of Pentecost ("The Birthday of the Church")

Rev. Patricia Alexander

City Island Theater Group

The rumors are true! The City Island Theater Group will be presenting Neil Simon's hit comedy *Rumors!*

CITG is excited to be able to include the crowd-pleasing Neil Simon farce "Rumors" in its 10th anniversary season! One of Neil Simon's most popular comedies, "Rumors" begins in the posh suburban residence of New York's deputy mayor Charley Brock, who is lying off-stage with a bullet hole in his earlobe. This puts a slight crimp in the 10th anniversary party plans that he has planned for himself and his equally absent wife, Myra. As the guests arrive, each couple tries to keep new arrivals from discovering Charley's injury. Chaos and hilarity ensue when the guests try to protect their hosts (and themselves) by hiding the evening's events from the outside world as they try to figure out what really happened.

Starring in what is sure to be an hilarious production under the direction of CITG president Nick Sala are Steven Bender as Lenny, a short-tempered accountant with a whiplash injury; Elizabeth Paldino as Claire, Lenny's acid-tongued wife; Susan Rauh as Chris, a tense publishing lawyer who really needs a cigarette; and Christopher Meindl as Chris's husband, Ken (Charley's lawyer), who is determined to protect him at all costs. Frank Siciliano plays Ernie, a laid-back psychologist, with Camille Kaiser as his appropriately named wife, Cookie; Ralph Puma is state senatorial candidate Glenn and Julie White is his wife, Cassie, who could be charitably described as high-maintenance. Eileen Marcus as Officer Welch and Keith Rodriguez as Officer Pudney provide much needed law and order!

"Rumors" will be held at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, located at 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performance dates are May 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 at 8 p.m. and Sundays, May 17 and 24, at 3 p.m. Please call us at 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com to reserve your tickets. Also visit us on the Web at www.cityislandtheatergroup.com to view our 10-year history.

Don't miss the theatrical fun!

Susan Rauh

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Thursday, May 7, we will join the other houses of worship on the island at Grace Episcopal Church for a prayer service to commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

Our Holy Hour this month with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on the *second* Friday of the month, May 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 10, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

Saturday, May 16, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families. Thirty-six children will receive their First Holy Communion at an 11 a.m. Mass. The following day, these children



Photo by KAREN NANI

The flowers were flying off the tables at the City Island Troop 211 Flower Sale during April 9-11, 2009. For three days, Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins and his scouts offered up beautiful blooms and smiling service to Easter shoppers. Shown above are the hard working scouts (front row, l. to r.): Brian Devlin and Daniel Green. Back row: Mr. Persteins, Liam Flynn, John Devlin, Nicholas Bellocchio and Cian Byrne.

will participate in a special procession at our Sunday 10 a.m. Mass when our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother during the month of May. We will crown the statue of Our Lady and honor her as the patroness of our parish. Following the Mass, our first communicants and their families will partake of a communion breakfast in our school gym.

The May meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, May 18, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our Religious Education Program for this year will come to an end on Wednesday, May 20. Report cards and awards will be distributed that day. We wish all our young people a happy and healthy summer.

On Thursday, May 21, we mark the celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation. Our Masses will be at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Happy Memorial Day and happy summer to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Garden Club News

It's spring spruce-up time! We have been told by the Bronx Parks Commissioner's office that the Hawkins Street Park upgrade and refurbishment should be under way as you are reading this page. The project was borne of a proposal submitted by the Garden Club two years ago and is being funded through the kind auspices of Councilman James Vacca and the New York City Council.

As you learned in the last issue of *The Island Current*, the Garden Club of City Island is supporting the Quality of Life Committee of the City Island Civic Association since their beautification goals are parallel to our goals under the Beautification Projects Committee. We have donated \$1,500 to their efforts. Headed by Susan McGowan Hayes, the group has focused on two major projects, filling the empty storefronts along City Island Avenue with works by local artists and purchasing planters. So far four artists have volunteered to fill the four storefronts that landlords have offered, thereby contributing to beautifying the Avenue and drawing interest for the artists. Additionally, the group is purchasing 10 planters for 10 corners in the "village" area of City Island Avenue, from Bay Street to Hawkins Street. The planters are permanent and will be secured and filled with appropriate plantings. Help in their maintenance is being sought from the shop owners, the community, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

The Garden Club is also supporting and promoting the Island Community Clean-up Day scheduled for Saturday, May 16. All volunteers are welcome. We

will meet at or near Hawkins Street Park.

The Garden Club is continuing its project to create tree pits in front of some of the businesses on City Island Avenue, as well as in front of the City Island Nautical Museum on Fordham Street. And speaking of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, refurbishment of the front lawn and the garden areas are well under way. We have commissioned a landscaper who has cleaned and pruned the areas, and new perennial plantings are being installed.

These projects, and more, are supported by generous donations of City Island businesses and residents to our annual Beautification Fund Drive. Letters for the 2009 campaign are in the mail, and we are hoping for as wonderful a response as we received last year.

Last, but by no means least, we invite one and all to our Garden Club Annual Luncheon. Our theme this year is "Memories: Our History, Homes and Gardens." Please join us on Thursday, May 21, at 12:30 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, at the foot of west Pilot Street. Like last year, the cost is only \$30 per person, and there will be beautiful baskets, door prizes, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Call Ruth for reservations at 718-885-1361 by May 15. See you there!

Phyllis Goodman

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 2 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church hall, 116 City Island Avenue (at Pilot Street).

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For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indoor Tag Sales: It's the return of the Springtime Indoor Tag Sale! May 3, 17 and 31. Tables available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table.

Fun Friday, Pasta Night: Last Friday of the month (through June.) May 29 at 5 p.m. \$5 per person (under 5 free) Soft drinks, salad, bread, spaghetti and meatballs. Bring a game to play! Please RSVP to pro4info@aol.com or call 718-885-1145 (leave message).

City Island Physical Therapy: Licensed physical therapist with private office space. For an appointment, call Janine Mantzaris at 917-577-1752.

Art Classes with Laury: If you are interested in Art Classes this summer, please call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 to sign up or for more information. Leave a message!

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and

lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

Sally's Playground: Ages birth to 5 years. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAM

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa. No partner necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nilsa at 917-838-6501.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

TNT (Thursday Night Tap): Adult Jazz/Tap Classes. Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. New class added: Saturday 9 a.m.

Yoga: A beginner to intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance the immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 718-885-2445.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Wilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit www.funmusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Chess Club: Monday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up! Call Bill at 718-541-3995 for more information.

Amy Gottlieb

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

The Sons of the American Legion would like to thank all of those who helped with the recent renovations. Stop by the Post and check out the wonderful job that was done to the Hall and lounge area. The downstairs bathrooms are moving forward.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Nominations will be taken for offices for the 2009-2010 term. Plans for Memorial Day and other fund-raisers will be discussed.

Dues are past due. They are still \$30. Dues help us to maintain the Post; they also helped us with the recent renovations.

Anyone interested in joining may contact Vice Commanders for Membership Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695 or Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000.

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

City Island Republicans

We would like to thank all Islanders who came out in the bad weather to vote in the special election on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. The Bronx Republican Party is currently looking for candidates for the upcoming election in November. Anyone interested may call 718-792-5800.

The club dues for 2009 will once again be \$20.

Our next meeting will be held in June. Stay tuned to the next issue of *The Island Current* for the meeting time.

Fred Ramftl, Jr., President

Legion News

I've always been partial to the month of May, with flowers bursting into bloom, trees blossoming and the grass turning green. And at the end of the month, we will celebrate Memorial Day. Tempus fugit.

Memorial Day has been celebrated since the Civil War. I was part of a group that was identified as the "Greatest Generation," I guess in part because we had little to begin with and were hardened by the times we lived through. There were no jobs. If you think that today is bad, life then was worse. I can remember bread lines and soup kitchens. Hardly anyone owned his own house, and many families lived in shacks and crowded tenements. I always considered myself among the anointed, since my father had a job and I was able to continue my schooling after high school. Pearl Harbor ended all that and Uncle Sam soon called. And I soon found myself in the ninth U.S. Army Air Corps, just a teenager.

Memorial Day is special to City Islanders, who participate in a grand parade, which begins at Belden Point and then moves along City Island's Champs Elysées to Hawkins Park. Following a short ceremony, the troops regroup and proceed to Pelham Cemetery, the final resting place of soldiers, sailors and marines. The next stop is the memorial at the bridge park, then on to the Post, where everyone who has survived the long march will enjoy beverages and hot dogs, all you can eat. The parade will step off this year at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 25. Don't be late.

On Monday April 20, we celebrated Membership Appreciation Night, paying homage to those who have served continuously in increments of five years. Thirty-seven Post members were issued pins, among them Joseph Bartell (55 years), Michael Treat (40) and Giles Bates (20). Unfortunately, heavy rain kept attendance down.

Two members are not well and could use your prayers: Jean Warner, wife of Vincent Warner, and Jim Livingston, SAL member and son of the late Mort Livingston. To the best of my knowledge, Bud Pontecorvo is still in rehab, as is comrade Joe DeLuca.

There will be a Memorial Day service at Grace Episcopal Church, Sunday, May 24, at 10 a.m. The commander requests we keep the date in mind and make every effort to attend.

The SAL will sponsor an outing to the

Mets game on Wednesday, May 6. The Post hired a 40-passenger bus, so get on board a.s.a.p. Tickets are \$40. Board the bus at 7 p.m. at the Post.

Stop by the Post and see the progress that has been made on refurbishing the hall bathroom and painting. Ed Shipp informed me that although everything is shipshape, he can always use a few more people to put up flags on the avenue.

Meetings for the month of May are: regular meetings Monday, May 4 and 18; executive board meeting, Monday May 11. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Nominations for officers will take place on Monday, May 4, and the election will be held on May 18.

As for you WWII buffs, Major Richard Ira Bong was America's top-scoring ace of all time with 40 Japanese shot down. Islander Walter Markey was his wing man and they became best friends. I recently visited Walter, who resides in Chester, New Jersey. I'll be doing a profile on him in the near future.

See you at the parade. Until then, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx has been accomplishing amazing things. This past year we provided life-saving heart surgery for our eighth, ninth and tenth Gift of Life children. They were 12-year-old Kris Janine Yu of the Philippines, 2-year-old Skerlyn Mateo Soto from the Dominican Republic and 8-month-old Marlon Johnson from Jamaica.

Gift of Life is a Rotary program that provides life-saving heart surgeries to children from other countries where the procedures are not available or in cases where the family cannot afford the surgery. Rotary clubs provide travel expenses, find host families for a parent and child, and provide the surgery at no cost to the family. In the case of the Bronx Rotary Club, surgeries are done pro bono by Dr. Samuel Weinstein of Montefiore Children's Hospital or by Dr. Suvro Sett at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. The club covers hospital fees and other costs of about \$6,000 per child.

Bill and Melinda Gates have donated \$355 million toward the eradication of polio in the world. The challenge to Rotary International is to match that dollar amount. Rotary International has been the leading entity in the eradication of polio and is in the home stretch with only four countries remaining. The Bronx Rotary Club has just pledged another \$2,000 toward the matching money goal.

This past year the club has supported R.A.I.N.; the Sisters Servants of Mercy rehabilitation of their convent in the Bronx; scholarships to students at Lehman and Monroe Colleges; St. Brendan's Senior Lunch Program; the refurbishing of a school in Owerri, Nigeria; clean-water projects in Tanzania, and more.

The Bronx Rotary Club recently held its Paul Harris Dinner Dance fund-raiser on April 28, at which the Tuskegee Airmen were honored. Prestigious Paul Harris Fellows were awarded to Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Floyd J. Carter, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Barry Fitzgerald, Past President Salvatore P. Mastrocola, David Michel CLP, Past President Jim Romeo, Ralph Scottino, Cheryl Simmons-Oliver, Mary Springman and Luis Torres for their efforts and contributions on behalf of Bronx Rotary and Rotary International.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx meets on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. at The Harbor restaurant on City Island. Come check us out if you'd like to be a part of a fantastic group that does very special work for the betterment of our local and global communities. Visit us on the Web at www.bronxrotaryclub.org.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

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Modern Redemption

An interesting premise for some fine films is the person of low character, who eventually redeems him or herself. In **True Believer** (1989), recent law school graduate Roger Baron (Robert Downey Jr.) comes to work for Eddie Dodd (James Woods), who was a famous radical lawyer in the 1960s. Baron is sadly disillusioned to find that Dodd has become a pot-smoking defender of drug dealers and all sorts of low-life characters. However, Baron's idealism catches on when they become involved in an attempt to reopen the case of Shu Kai Kim (Yuji Okumoto), a possibly innocent Korean man convicted of killing a Chinese gang leader. This thriller has an intelligent and sometimes witty script and wonderful acting by its three leads.

Director Terry Gilliam's **The Fisher King** (1991) stars Jeff Bridges as Jack Lucas, a totally self-absorbed, coarse-mouthed radio talk show host, who unwittingly incites a disturbed misfit to go on a shooting spree. His career in ruins, Jack lives with Anne Napolitano (played by Mercedes Ruehl in an Oscar-winning role), the owner of a run-down neighborhood video store. When Jack is on a drunken spree, his life is saved by Parry (Robin Williams), ironically a tragic victim of Jack's previous misfortunes. When Jack realizes Parry's identity, he desperately tries to redeem himself by helping Parry meet the girl of his dreams, Lydia (Amanda Plummer). On hand to assist in the assignation is Michael Jeter, a homeless transvestite cabaret singer who steals every scene in which he appears.

Geena Davis is TV newscaster Gale Galey in **Hero** (1992), an examination of the influence and ethics of journalism and the concept of heroism. After Gale receives a Silver Mike Journalism Award, she becomes involved in an airplane crash. On the road next to the crash site is loser and convicted felon Bernie LaPlante (Dustin Hoffman), who rather grudgingly helps to save the lives of 54 people, although true to his character, he steals from those he saves. As Bernie leaves the scene without being recognized for his role in the rescue, he is given a ride by a homeless veteran, John Bubber (Andy Garcia). When Gale's television station offers a reward for the mystery hero, it is John who comes forward to collect. What raises this film above the ordinary are its intelligent script and the concept and definition of what a hero truly is. John is a hero and a fraud. Yet he is a continuous inspiration: "We're all heroes if you catch us at the right moment. We all have something noble and decent in us trying to get out. And we're all less than heroic at other times. . . . A hero is just a symbol of what's good in all of us."

Sister Act is a very entertaining film from 1992 starring Whoopi Goldberg as Deloris Van Cartier, a Reno Lounge singer who witnesses a murder ordered by mob boss Vince LaRocca (Harvey Keitel). A police lieutenant (Bill Nunn) hides her in St. Catherine's convent while she waits to testify at the trial. There she meets her match in the formidable Mother Superior (Maggie Smith). Pretending to be a nun, Deloris is befriended by three sisters, Mary Patrick (Kathy Najimy, a total scene-stealer), Mary Robert (Wendy Makkena) and Mary Lazarus (Mary Wickes). When Deloris takes over the choir, she helps transform the convent from a reclusive house of prayer to a modern order involved in the welfare of the community. The music is joyous, the script genuinely funny and the acting really fine. This is a feel-good movie that can easily be seen more than once—so enjoy!

On a much more serious note is **Schindler's List** (1993), for which Steven Spielberg won two Academy Awards (Best Picture and Best Director). It is the World War II story of German businessman Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), who uses Jewish labor in his factory because it is cheaper than Polish labor. When he hires Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley) as his bookkeeper and office manager, Schindler begins a rather reluctant evolution into good. Schindler's counterpoint to ambivalent goodness is Nazi Amon Goeth (Ralph Fiennes), the head of a labor camp

and the very personification of evil. Goeth is one of many Nazis whom Schindler must cultivate in order to keep his business going and, ultimately, to save hundreds of lives. Schindler is a vain man ultimately seduced by the forces of good. The final scene of the movie shows each actor accompanying the actual survivor he or she played in the film. This is a moving and uplifting film, despite its difficult subject matter.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Russell Schaller

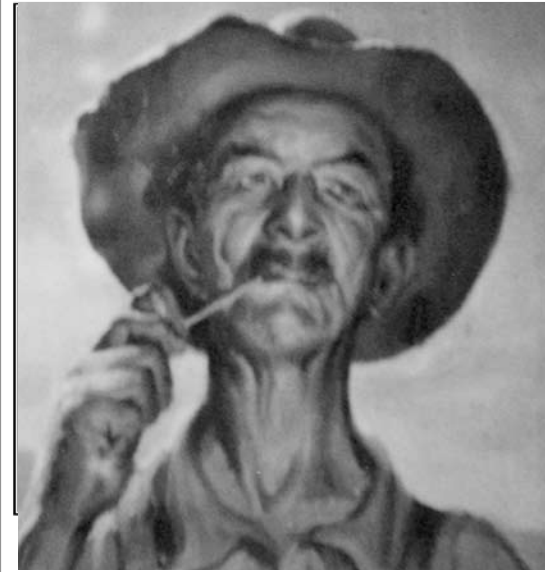
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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

The Sport of Kings

Until the late 1950s, horse racing was the most popular spectator sport in the United States. Then, race track owners made one of the most significant blunders in sports marketing history. Fearing that it would cut down on track attendance, they rejected an offer to broadcast horse racing on national television. Rebuffed by horse racing, the fledgling television industry turned to its second choice, baseball. Today however, horse racing is still the second largest spectator sport following—yep, you guessed it—baseball. What does all this have to do with the Bronx you may ask? Well, a lot, historically speaking anyway. Let me explain.

In the world of thoroughbred horse racing there is no greater achievement than winning the Triple Crown, which includes the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes. The oldest of these three races is the Belmont Stakes, which was first run on June 19, 1867. It predates the Preakness by six years and the Kentucky Derby by eight years. To date, only 11 thoroughbred race horses have won all three of the Triple Crown races, the most recent being a three-year-old stallion named Affirmed in 1978.

In 1866, the stock-market speculator Leonard Jerome, whose nickname was the “King of Wall Street,” purchased the 230-acre Bathgate estate and mansion at the northwest edge of the old village of Fordham. Today this land is situated in the western corner of the Bedford Park neighborhood in the Bronx. With additional financing from August Belmont, Jerome built the Jerome Park Racetrack with the intent of elevating horse racing to the high standard it enjoyed in England.

No expense was spared on this stunning racetrack, and from the start Jerome Park was celebrated for its opulence. The appointments were lavish, including a magnificent ballroom, a large dining room and fine restaurants on par with the best hotels in New York City. A luxurious clubhouse overlooking the racecourse was built on what was known as “The Bluff,” and the grandstand seated more than 7,000 spectators. The park even had its very own art gallery!

It was here in 1867 that the first Belmont Stakes was held. The race was named after Jerome’s good friend and racetrack financier August Belmont Sr. Jerome Park Racetrack was also home to the Champagne Stakes and the Ladies Handicap, and it was at Jerome Park, in 1876, that the first outdoor polo match in the United States was held.

Open all year, Jerome Park became a rendezvous for New York’s high society. It was here that Jenny Jerome, the second of Leonard Jerome’s three daughters, met Lord Randolph Churchill. The two eventually married and had two sons, Winston and John. Winston Churchill would eventually become the Prime Minister of Britain from 1940 to 1945, during

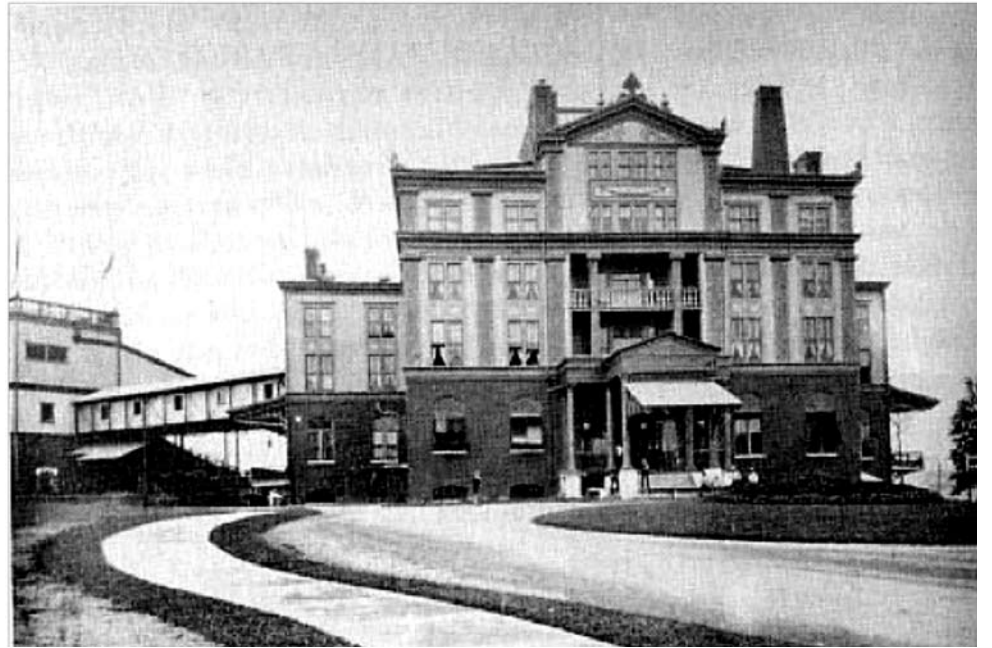
World War II, and again from 1951 to 1955. He was also a noted statesman, orator and Nobel Prize-winning author.

In 1874, a plank road was put together from the Macombs Dam Bridge to the Jerome Park Racetrack, and it became known as Jerome Avenue. In 1898, it was paved and converted into a tree-lined boulevard, and the Board of Aldermen planned to rename it after an alderman. Kate Hall Jerome, Leonard Jerome’s widow (Leonard Jerome had died a year earlier in 1891), became outraged upon learning this. With her own money, she had expensive bronze street signs cast bearing the name “Jerome Avenue,” and she hired workmen to install them at every intersection the entire length of the thoroughfare. The Board of Alderman quietly dropped the matter, leaving the unknown alderman’s name to slip between the cracks of history. Today the name of the street remains as Jerome Avenue, and it is one of the longest thoroughfares in the Bronx, stretching 5.6 miles in length. In 1894, the track was forced to close to make way for the Jerome Park Reservoir, which was needed for the metropolitan New York City water supply system.

Neither thoroughbred racing nor the Belmont Stakes left the Bronx with the closing of Jerome Park; they just changed Bronx neighborhoods. A few years before the closing of Jerome Park, another Bronx location was sought with the cooperation of Leonard Jerome. City Island was under consideration, but when local Island property owners became aware of the interest in City Island, property values were raised far above the market rate, causing the speculators to look elsewhere.

The principal investor was John A. Morris, who was originally from Jersey City but had relocated to Texas. He eventually purchased 307 acres for a total sum of \$300,000 in an area that was known at the time as Glendale. Today the footprint of this property would be bound by Pelham Parkway South, Williamsbridge Road, the Amtrak/Metro North railroad tracks and Bronxdale Avenue. Morris’ primary interest in building this racecourse was his passion for thoroughbred racing and breeding, but he also had a desire to own the finest thoroughbred racetrack in the world. More than 500 skilled and unskilled laborers were hired, and architect Thomas R. Jackson was commissioned to design Morris Park. All the buildings were constructed of iron, brick and stone in a Pompeian-villa style, and red tinted concrete was used exclusively on all the sidewalks and paths. Twelve months after construction began, the Morris Park Racecourse was completed for what at the time was a staggering cost of \$1.5 million.

On May 30, 1894, John A. Morris opened the Morris Park Racecourse with Leonard Jerome serving as president. The following day, the New York Times carried a report of the event, noting that “A great crowd was there to enjoy the sport and see the most beautiful



Photos courtesy of Michael Shanley

Morris Park racetrack.

racetrack in the world. Those who visited Morris Park found it more attractive and grand than their wildest dreams.” The Times went on to praise John Morris for making the comfort of his patrons his principle concern and to note that the seats were roomy and every section of the track was visible. The article also predicted that the racetrack would become the most popular in America.

Despite good gate attendance from the general public and rave reviews from the press, Morris Park failed to lure the “high society” of New York City as Jerome Park had done, and the beautiful clubhouse was often deserted, primarily because it was relatively inaccessible from Manhattan. By 1900, the park was a financial disaster.

Although the Belmont Stakes remained at Morris Park until May 1905, the fate of the Bronx racecourse was sealed a few years earlier when a new thoroughbred racecourse was proposed for Elmont, New York. It is here in 1905 that the Belmont Park Racetrack was built and the famed Belmont Stakes was moved.

After its closure, the Morris Park Racecourse was used for automobile racing, but a few years later the Morris heirs sold the property to real estate developers. The new owners ran into financial problems, which resulted in the track being taken over by the City of New York in 1907. The city then leased it for two years to the Aeronautic Society of New York, which hosted the first-ever public air show on the grounds. In June 1909, Glenn H. Curtiss put on a flying exhibition at Morris Park. Curtiss is considered the father of naval aviation and the founder of the American aircraft industry.

On May 9, 1910, a fire ravaged much of the stables and nearby facilities. Three years later, the property was auctioned off to developers who would subdivide the land into building lots. As late as 1921, the clubhouse was still intact when it was sold as part of a 14-lot package to a company who converted it for use as a factory to manufacture ornamental iron.

Points of Interest

Jerome Park Reservoir: The reservoir is surrounded by DeWitt Clinton High School, the Bronx High School of Science, Lehman

College and numerous apartment houses, including the Amalgamated Housing Cooperative, the first cooperative apartments in the United States. It sits between the Bedford Park neighborhood to the east and Van Cortlandt Village to the west. Frederick Law Olmsted, the co-creator of Central Park, laid out the streets of Van Cortlandt Village and designed a park whose centerpiece was to be the reservoir. When it was completed and filled with water in 1906, it was the largest body of water in the Bronx and was opened to the public as a reservoir park. It was built by Italian stone masons who handcrafted stone walls, a white pebbled path and wrought-iron fences ringing the water. During World War II, the reservoir was fenced off to the community. On Sept. 7, 2000, Jerome Park Reservoir was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Jerome Avenue: This is one of the longest thoroughfares in the Bronx stretching over five miles in length. It begins at interchange 5 off the Major Deegan Expressway near Yankee Stadium and continues north to Woodlawn.

(Leonard) Jerome Park: The park is located next to the Jerome Park Reservoir and between the Bronx High School of Science and Lehman College, two of the Bronx’s most important educational institutions. This 4.36-acre park is dominated by grass, trees and shrubs.

Jenny Jerome Playground: Located between the Jerome Avenue subway and the Cross-Bronx Expressway, Jenny Jerome Playground contains a flagpole, play equipment, swings and several London plane trees.

Morris Park: Today Morris Park refers to the neighborhood in the east Bronx that is bound to the north by Pelham Parkway, to the east and south by the Amtrak/Metro North tracks, and to the west by Bronxdale and Muliner Avenues. Morris Park has one of the highest Italian populations in New York City. It is here that the annual Bronx Columbus Day Parade is held.

Michael Shanley is a native Bronxite and long time resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City specializing in Bronx County. Comments are welcomed at BxShanley@optonline.net

A Current Review

“Irena’s Vow”: A Powerful Theatrical Experience

By ANN MCGUIRE

On stage until September at the Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway is a beautiful and moving drama that tells the true story of a young girl, Irena Gut, and her unbelievable daring and courage during the uncertainty and cruel chaos of World War II.

Born into a prominent Polish Catholic family, Irena joined the Polish underground during the war and was discovered and captured by a group of Russian soldiers. She was beaten, raped and forced to work in a medical unit, and after her subsequent capture by the Germans was forced to work in a munitions plant. She was eventually transferred to the country villa of a German SS officer, Major Rugemer, and worked as his housekeeper. It was there that she hid 12 Jews in the basement of the house to

prevent them from being put to death.

And that is only the beginning of Irena’s incredible life story as it is told in this outstanding play by Dan Gordon, winner of the 2009 Outer Critics Circle Award as the best play on Broadway. Tony Award-winning actress Tovah Feldshuh is brilliant as Irena, and Thomas Ryan is outstanding as Major Rugemer. It was Mr. Ryan (the brother of this reviewer!) and his partner, John Stanisci, who first read the play and determined to bring it to the stage as a collaboration of their newly formed Invictus Theater Productions and the Directors Company. Thanks to them, this powerful story of courage and heroism is now being told to the New York theater community.



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Obituaries

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Bette Lacina

Bette Lacina

Longtime Island resident Bette Lacina passed away on March 15, 2009. She was 85 years old.

Bette was born Elizabeth Jane Clavin and raised in the Edgewater Park section of the Bronx. Upon graduating from Villa Maria High School in 1942, she wanted to serve her country during World War II, so she joined the newly formed United States Cadet Nurse Corps. The Corps assigned her to attend the School of Nursing at Mount Vernon Hospital. While she was still a student, Bette was selected to work with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at a major recruiting drive for new nurses at Cooper Union. After her graduation, Bette worked in a Veterans' Hospital taking care of many wounded soldiers. In 1944 Bette married Army Lieutenant Charles F. Lacina when he was home on leave. They were married for 63 years until his death in 2007.

After the war, Bette went to work as a nurse at Westchester Square Hospital, where she rose to become the supervising nurse of the maternity ward. People who had their babies delivered at Westchester Square during the 1950s would approach Bette in years later to tell her that they had never forgotten her or the wonderful care she provided.

Bette and her husband moved to Buckley Street from Silver Beach in 1961. She retired from nursing to raise her two sons, but by the 1970s, she decided to return to the workforce and she obtained her license as a real estate broker. For more than three decades, Bette built a successful business on City Island. Many Islanders have fond memories of her for the assistance she provided in purchasing or selling their homes.

Bette was an active member of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish. For more than 40 years, from the time she enrolled her sons at the St. Mary's School, she did volunteer work at the church, and she continued to cook meals for the POTS program well into her 80s.

Bette is survived by her two sons and their wives, Charles and Natalie Lacina of Hawkins Street and Jim and Diane Lacina of Buckley Street, and by five grandchildren, Anastasia, Jennifer, Linda, Kevin, and Jason. She is also survived by her sister, Vera von Hagn of Pell Place, by many nieces and nephews and by a large extended family. Bette was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery following a funeral mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on March 19, 2009.

Kathleen A. Seaman

Kathleen Seaman, a resident of City Island for 25 years, lost her hard-fought two-year battle with lung and brain cancer on March 24, 2009. She was 50 years old.

She was a die-hard optimist and a local activist. She held the position of Vice



Kathleen Seaman

President of Activities for the Ladies' Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 156. In addition to coordinating and assisting with the American Legion Post 156 Christmas party for veterans, she conducted annual Christmas and Easter Parties for City Island children at the Legion. She raised funds for both the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, and she placed special emphasis on the children's hematology/ oncology department. Each year Kathy organized visits by adults in Disney holiday costumes on Easter and Christmas to children stricken with cancer. Funds were also annually raised for the Virginia Gynecologic Oncology for women's ovarian cancer research.

Not surprisingly, Kathy excelled at sales and advertising, having begun her career at N.Y. Helicopter and advancing to the position of vice president of sales at Danka/Omnifax. She eventually moved to become a manager in the photography department at National Promotions & Advertising in New York City.

Ms. Seaman is survived by her partner of 17 years, Anne Marie Rogers; her mother and stepfather, Patricia and Ray Kelly; and her sister, Patricia Seaman.

To continue Kathy's efforts, her family and friends have asked that donations be sent to St. Jude Children's Research in her memory. A memorial service will be held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, June 20.

Françoise Estève

Former City Island resident Françoise Estève died at the age of 50 in a tragic accident in her hometown of Romans-sur-Isère, France, on April 9, 2009.

For more than 10 years, Françoise lived on City Island with her husband and daughter. During that time she taught at the French nursery school, which was housed in the small cottage behind what is now the residence of Adolfo Carrión and



Françoise Estève

his family. She also served as a lifeguard at the Boatyard condominiums pool and could frequently be seen riding her blue bicycle around the Island.

Françoise and her family moved to Connecticut in the mid-1990s. A lifelong dancer and practitioner of yoga, she intensified her training in yoga and DansKinetics and became a certified yoga dance teacher. For a while, after her daughter entered

college and her marriage ended, she spent summers in Wisconsin and winters in Florida as a personal life and health coach and continued to teach her joyful classes.

In March 2008 Françoise moved back to France to care for her aging parents. She brought her inspirational, playful classes to her hometown and visited her friends and daughter in the northeast United States as often as possible. She continued to draw a crowd wherever she was teaching, even if it was only once or twice a year.

Her many friends and yoga students knew her for her radiant smile and infectious laughter, her energetic joy, her loyal friendship, her delight in nature and love of animals, her delicious sense of humor and playfulness, her tasty cooking, her creativity, and her deep and beautiful love of dance. Françoise radiated a light that brightened the life of everyone who had the good fortune to know her, a light that was extinguished too soon. She is survived by her daughter, Garance; her sister, Claire; her parents, Jean and Hélène; her former husband, and many friends.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving Time)
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).
HH = hours; MM = minutes
Tide chart by Tom Smith

MAY 2009									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Fri	0453	7.37	1212	0.41	1812	7.08			Fri 01
02 Sat	0039	0.92	0638	7.19	1321	0.40	1925	7.34	Sat 02
03 Sun	0152	0.60	0755	7.26	1422	0.27	2026	7.67	Sun 03
04 Mon	0254	0.17	0856	7.40	1518	0.11	2120	7.98	Mon 04
05 Tue	0351	-0.25	0951	7.52	1609	-0.02	2210	8.21	Tue 05
06 Wed	0442	-0.57	1040	7.57	1657	-0.08	2256	8.33	Wed 06
07 Thu	0530	-0.73	1127	7.55	1741	-0.03	2339	8.33	Thu 07
08 Fri	0615	-0.71	1210	7.46	1821	0.13			Fri 08
09 Sat	0019	8.23	0657	-0.54	1251	7.33	1857	0.36	Sat 09
10 Sun	0055	8.05	0736	-0.25	1329	7.18	1925	0.63	Sun 10
11 Mon	0126	7.85	0811	0.11	1404	7.04	1943	0.88	Mon 11
12 Tue	0152	7.64	0839	0.47	1435	6.93	2008	1.09	Tue 12
13 Wed	0220	7.46	0856	0.77	1504	6.85	2044	1.28	Wed 13
14 Thu	0255	7.28	0923	0.99	1538	6.82	2128	1.44	Thu 14
15 Fri	0337	7.10	1001	1.16	1619	6.82	2217	1.56	Fri 15
16 Sat	0424	6.92	1047	1.27	1706	6.86	2310	1.60	Sat 16
17 Sun	0516	6.77	1137	1.30	1756	6.97			Sun 17
18 Mon	0008	1.51	0613	6.69	1229	1.25	1848	7.15	Mon 18
19 Tue	0110	1.29	0712	6.69	1323	1.11	1940	7.41	Tue 19
20 Wed	0214	0.94	0810	6.77	1417	0.90	2030	7.72	Wed 20
21 Thu	0316	0.52	0906	6.92	1510	0.66	2120	8.05	Thu 21
22 Fri	0412	0.08	0959	7.10	1603	0.42	2209	8.36	Fri 22
23 Sat	0506	-0.29	1050	7.28	1655	0.22	2258	8.60	Sat 23
24 Sun	0558	-0.56	1141	7.43	1748	0.11	2348	8.72	Sun 24
25 Mon	0651	-0.69	1233	7.53	1842	0.10			Mon 25
26 Tue	0040	8.69	0745	-0.68	1328	7.57	1940	0.18	Tue 26
27 Wed	0135	8.50	0843	-0.55	1427	7.55	2044	0.33	Wed 27
28 Thu	0234	8.19	0944	-0.33	1533	7.51	2157	0.47	Thu 28
29 Fri	0342	7.81	1047	-0.10	1646	7.50	2314	0.53	Fri 29
30 Sat	0505	7.47	1152	0.09	1757	7.57			Sat 30
31 Sun	0026	0.46	0625	7.28	1254	0.22	1902	7.71	Sun 31
JUNE 2009									
01 Mon	0132	0.27	0733	7.20	1354	0.28	2001	7.87	Mon 01
02 Tue	0232	0.04	0833	7.19	1450	0.29	2056	8.02	Tue 02
03 Wed	0329	-0.18	0928	7.20	1543	0.31	2147	8.12	Wed 03
04 Thu	0421	-0.34	1018	7.21	1631	0.35	2234	8.16	Thu 04
05 Fri	0510	-0.39	1106	7.21	1717	0.43	2319	8.13	Fri 05
06 Sat	0555	-0.33	1150	7.19	1758	0.57			Sat 06



THE NEW YORK TIMES AND CITY ISLAND, PART I

continues below . . .

Regular readers of the New York Times will know that once or maybe twice a year City Island appears in the "If You're Thinking of Living..." column of the Times' Sunday Real Estate section. The most recent appearance reminded us of something that we saw a while ago on the Historic Pelham Blog (www.historicpelham.blogspot.com). It is another article about City Island from the New York Times. This one, though, comes from the Aug. 25, 1878, edition. 1878! Read it and weep. . .

About a dozen miles from the City, on the Shore Line branch of the Harlem and New-Haven Railway, is a small station called Bartow. It is where one gets off the train to go to City Island. The ride to that little station is a very pleasant one; past long gleaming arms from the Sound, that at high tide reach far up in the land among the meadows of tall, rank, dark green grass; past brooks and mills and hamlets, while the cool salt air comes breezily from the shimmering bosom of the watery expanse gleaming in the distance. It is just after the train's hollow rumble over a long, low bridge that a forest is entered, and there, beneath the shadows of the trees, nestles Bartow. Opposite the station is a pretty little house, where, through a widely-opened door, one may see a table set out with bright service on a cloth of snowy whiteness for a dinner, for which the dinner never seems to come, though alluring signs on the dwelling's front invite the public. A little back in the woods, beside the New-Rochelle road, stands the Bartow Hotel, which appears to do a composite business in beer and horse-shoeing. And those houses, with the depot, of course, are all there is of Bartow.

Editor's Note: Plans to develop Bartow into a town were real, but they never got much further off the ground than what is suggested by the article, which

From the station a road extends, nearly all the way through a shady lane, over to City Island, one of the most delightful short drives—little over a mile and a half—that can be found anywhere along the shore. Overhead arch oaks, hickories, maples and elms. On either side are rough stone walls. Cresting those walls with foliage and snowy bloom lie tangled masses of the flowering vine that people hereabouts call "Aaron's beard." Modest yellow and blue flowers nestle at the bases of the rocky piles. Here and there the golden rod uprears its yellow sprays, and on the little knolls of the road the sumac's crimson tufts flare brilliantly. The sweet breath of the new-mown hay floats up from low meadows, and at the next turning of the road gives place to the saline scent of the still lower lands, where tall grasses leave their roots in the salt tides. Inlets from the Sound flash like burnished silver in the distance, losing themselves amid masses of heavy foliage, and seem little lakes, as they appear from the road. Now and then one catches, among the grasses nourished by those waters, the ruddy glow of the marsh mallow's flower. The stubble on a far-off hill appears a sheet of dead gold. In the roadway are strewn forest leaves, already tinted by the frosty breath of autumn, and from amid the boughs above the songs of birds make sweetest melody. Now and then one gets a glimpse of a stately mansion, far back from the road, to which, from massive iron gateways, run shell or pebble walks and carriage-ways. One of the handsomest of those is the residence of ex-Judge Steers, formerly of New York, father of Henry Steers, the famous shipbuilder. . .

Because the article is too long for one column, we will continue next month. For those of you who can't wait, read the article in its entirety at <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/search/label/City%20Island>.

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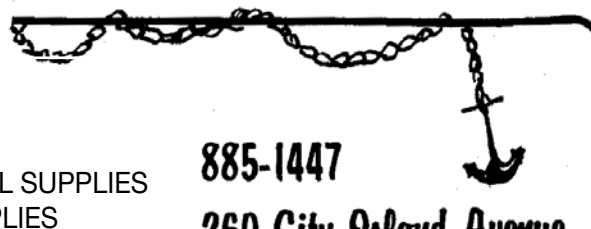

Photo by KAREN NANI

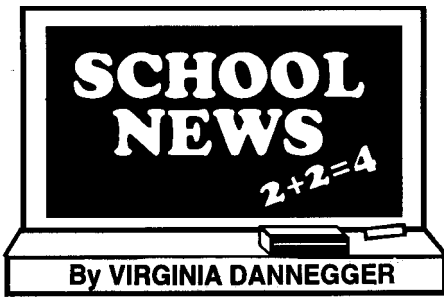
This boat was abandoned by Bridge Street and City Island Avenue late in March, impeding traffic off the Island and creating an eyesore over several weekends, including Easter. Despite the persistent efforts of the Civic Association's Traffic Committee working with Senator Jeff Klein's office, it took weeks for the boat to be tagged by the Department of Sanitation and the police. It required more than 20 phone calls and several letters to the 45th Precinct, the Department of Traffic and the Department of Sanitation to get the job done (as *The Current* went to press the boat was still there). It is illegal to dump or abandon a boat on a city street, especially in a No Parking zone, so call 311 if you spot any boats "set adrift" this way, and be persistent.

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St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Tulips are in full bloom here at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. We are excited about spring and all of its possibilities. As we approach the end of another academic year, we reflect on all that has happened. We continue to mourn the loss of our beloved Sr. Kristen Wenzel as we welcome our new administrative assistant, Mrs. Ann Wilson. A new Archbishop, Timothy Dolan, has been installed and we have a new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Timothy McNiff has replaced Dr. Catherine Hickey after a very long tenure. Dr. McNiff will honor us as our keynote speaker at our graduation exercise on June 12.

Our eighth-graders have registered for high school and Confirmation has been administered. Our students preparing for First Communion have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We are pleased to report a significant growth in our New York State Math and ELA scores as well as in our standardized ITBS tests. Thanks to our dedicated staff, our students have made significant improvements across the academic board. With the assistance of our New York Archdiocesan writing team, we have launched a new writing program that has been embraced by our students and faculty. Improvements in writing are crossing curricular boundaries, and the confidence level of the students has increased dramatically. They are really excited to write about just about anything. We are very proud of them.

The month of May will be a very busy month at St. Mary's School. We are taking part in the Archdiocese of New York Self Assessment for academics and curriculum. On Monday, May 4, a team will spend the day here to culminate this one-year process of self-assessment. This will be the team's second and final visit, which will be followed by a report of affirmations and recommendations, as well as an evaluation of our three-year strategic plan.

St. Mary's will hold our second annual Talent Show on Friday evening, May 8. Under the direction of our PTA president, Mrs. Yolanda Ortega, and with the help of our faculty, we anticipate a fun-filled evening of entertainment. If it is anything like last year, it will be a wonderful event for all.

We have several field trips and activities planned. Our eighth-graders will take a tour of the Bronx District Attorney's office in conjunction with a visit from Judge John Wilson, a Brooklyn Criminal Court judge who has been working with our students on the basic principals of law. Grade 4 will take its annual trip to Albany, and our youngest students will go to the Maritime Center in Norwalk, Connecticut. In addition, some of our students will visit the Bronx Zoo, while others will visit a local beekeeper.

On May 20, our physical education teacher, Ms. Rachel Mirabito will sponsor our second annual Jump-A-Thon for heart disease awareness. Our students will have the opportunity to make flower arrangements for their mothers and to attend an afternoon fund-raiser at Chuck E. Cheese. The sacrament of First Communion will take place on Saturday, May 16, and our parish May crowning will be celebrated on Sunday, May 17. Progress reports will be sent home. The eighth grade will take state exams in science and social studies and begin their final school exams. The month of May is always a very busy month here

at SMSS.

Registration for September is ongoing. We still have some room in a few grades. If you are interested in registering your child for the fall 2009 semester or would like more information about the school and its programs, please call Mrs. Jane Dennehy at 718-885-1527.

Public School 175

Spring has arrived and our students continue to bloom! Our eighth-graders are putting the finishing touches on their social studies and science exit projects. In addition to a visual presentation, the students are required to do an oral presentation for their teachers. Ms. Heil and Ms. Goulian have been working alongside their students to make this a most meaningful project.

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill continued this year. Our sixth-graders spent three days learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Crawford, Ms. Tighe, Ms. Fretwell and Mr. Lafreniere accompanied the students and said it was an enriching experience for both the students and themselves. We were most fortunate that Mr. Rauh accompanied our students for the 24th consecutive year!

The Sports & Arts in Schools after-school program continues to thrive. Along with the daily activities, the students also have an opportunity to partake in a variety of activities during school vacations. This month our eighth-grade students went on a double-decker bus tour of Manhattan and visited the Statue of Liberty; attended the Auto Show at the Jacob Javits Center; went bowling at Chelsea Piers; and went to Dave and Buster's in Manhattan for breakfast, the arcade and a movie. We are so lucky that Tina Gisante, the program director, plans such wonderful events for our students!

P.S. 175 is also celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the river that bears his name. Thanks to the hard work of Lisa Fine, PTA co-president, we are a registered Quadricentennial school. Parents Bob Adams and Ed Rothschild are also building a replica of the *Halfmoon*, which will be displayed in the planting area created by parent Han Yu Hung in the front of the school. Fourth-graders will be visiting the Museum of the City of New York in May to attend the Manhatta exhibit that ties in the work of parent Eric Sanderson to the Quadricentennial events. During our Arbor Day celebration, which is held in June, the staff and students will also participate in many exciting activities to commemorate this historic event. As always, we are grateful for the tremendous support we receive from the parents of our students!

P.S. 175 has also implemented a school-wide Community Service Program. Kindergarten students have been collecting soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for Schools and are also planning a trip to Pilot Cove to read to the residents. First-graders are collecting gently used books to donate to the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit. Second -graders are going to bake desserts to be donated to the POTS food drive at St. Mary's. Third-graders will be participating in Nike's "Re-Use-a-Shoe" program in which used sneakers and shoes are collected and recycled into athletic mats.

Fourth-graders will be adopting a store on City Island Avenue where they will plant two large flowerpots in an effort to beautify the Avenue. Fifth-graders are sending letters and packages to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq for Memorial Day. Sixth-graders will collect towels, sheets, blankets, and dog and cat food to distribute to animal shelters. Seventh-graders are cleaning up in the P.S. 175 schoolyard, collecting cell phones for the troops, helping at the community center and volunteering at

the Methodist Church sale. Eighth-graders will do poetry readings at Pilot Cove, clean up the P.S. 175 marsh, do graffiti clean-up on the Island, visit with children with cancer at Jacobi Medical Center, and clean up trash on the Island. We are so pleased that our students will be giving back to the community that has given so much to them!

We are very proud to report that six of our seventh-grade girls participated in the Math Olympiad at Preston High School. Our team was coached by our seventh-grade math teacher, Ms. Ramos, who did a fabulous job preparing the team. The students on this year's team were Amia Ali, Jenna Desgroseilliers, Kristin Lockwood and Sarah Stinson-Hurwitz. The two alternatives were Gwynellen Hopkins and Alana Pecorelli. We applaud the girls for both their individual and team efforts!

The staff and students of P.S. 175 want to congratulate our remarkable PTA for their very successful 2009 Card Party! They worked tirelessly to put together an evening that was not only fun but allowed the P.S. 175 community to come together in support of our school! Proceeds from the event will allow us to continue to provide our students with all of the activities that make our school a place of excellence.

Please keep in mind these important dates: ongoing kindergarten registration for City Island residents continues Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call the school to be sure you bring the required documentation. Seventh-graders will be going to Boston on May 7. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Wednesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The eighth-grade trip to Washington D.C. will take place on May 27-28. The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 23, at 10 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and clown.

The Citizens-of-the-Month for April are: Ryan Ferris, Briana Cummings and Leianne Taclibon (kindergarten), Paul

Mazzella, Kiana Cancel and Tafari Cummings (first grade), Damon Hamblin and Robert Henriquez (second grade), Anita Beqiraj and John Cebollero (third grade), Soniqua Crump and Frank Gaudio (fourth grade), Scott Cruz and Francesca Strazzera (fifth grade), Alex Rosas and Brian Buryakov (sixth grade), Nakami Hope-Felix and Alyssa Grillo (seventh grade), Ryan Fitzpatrick and Kyle Kreig (eighth grade).

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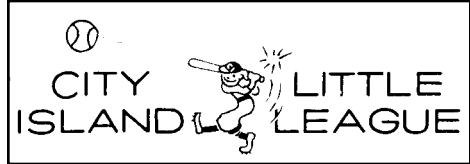


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Photos by DONALD KOLB

A couple of the eager teams that turned out for opening day.



Opening day for City Island Little League was Saturday, April 18, and it was a smashing success. The start of our 2009 baseball season was marked by hundreds of children eager to play baseball, numerous parents at the ready to volunteer, summer-like weather and, of course, free hot dogs! It was a great day.

The opening day ceremony was hosted by the president of City Island Little League, Bob Whelan. Other members of the Little League board were present; Larry Saulnier, George Spencer, Sally Connolly, John Valenti, John Tomsen, Kristin McCornaghy, Maria Piri, Angelo Bellocchio, and Ed Esposito. Frank Strazzera, the Director of St. Mary's softball, and the coaches, Marcos Negron, Bob Whelan and John Gerato, were present.

Mrs. Ambrosini, the wife of the late Mr. Ambrosini, founder of City Island Little League, was given a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her continued support of youth baseball. Robert Connolly, a little Leaguer, recited the Little League pledge to the audience.

Many politicians were present including Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, State Senator Jeff Klein, Jennifer Rivera representing Jimmy Vacca, and former Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman, all committed

friends of our league. A highlight of the ceremony was a \$10,000 contribution that Senator Klein presented to the Little League, for which we are very grateful.

Following the ceremony hot dogs and drinks were served to all, courtesy of City Island Little League. After a lively picnic where families had a chance to socialize and soak up some sun, an exhibition game was played among the players in the majors division.

Each year, the generosity of our sponsors helps us immensely. Our faithful sponsors are New Yorker Contractors, Seafood City, JP's Restaurant, IGA, American Legion, Jack's Bait and Tackle, Ruggiero and Sons Funeral Home, Sammy's Fish Box, Crab Shanty, Sea Shore Restaurant, City Island Medical Group, Dugout Sports and the Lido.

City Island Little League depends on the dedication of its volunteers. Many, many sincere thanks to this year's managers and coaches. This season there are an impressive 25 coaches in all; Bill Whelan, John Fusco, James Goonan, Mike Whelan, John Cebolero, Dino Esposito, John Tomsen, James McCaughan, Rachel Mirabito, Richard Cordaro, Mark Amos, Anthony Gonzalez, Jack Grogan, John Manna, Chris DiMarco, Fernando Gonzalez, John Valenti, John Nagy, Dan Connolly, Larry Saulnier, Maria Piri, Angelo Bellocchio, Charlie Kreig and Keith Kreig.

We are looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled 2009 season.

Sally Page Connolly



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Happy belated 40th anniversary greetings on April 12 to Kenneth and Edwina Lemke. We love you, Mom and Dad! Hugs and kisses from Don, Toni, Frank, Heather, Kesley, Justin, Joseph, Frankie and Brianna.

Birthday greetings on May 1 to Diane Duryea, with best wishes from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Happy birthday to Bay Street's Tommy and Jackie McIntyre on May 3, with love from the Butterworths.

Happy 5th birthday on May 14 to the triplets Joseph, Frankie and Brianna Calisi. We can't believe how fast the time went. With lots of love, Mommy and Daddy.

Happy birthday on May 16 to Frank Ring, from your friends at P.S. 175. Glad you are feeling better!

Happy birthday wishes on May 19 to Peter Lenz, with love from Mom and Dad, Johnny, Marisa, Rachel, Justin, Tim, Denise, Jayson and Jordan.

Happy anniversary to the Sailmaker's Judy and John Iovieno, with love from the Swieciki family.

Congratulations to Meaghan Strnad, who will celebrate her Sweet 16 on May 21.

Happy birthday on May 22 to Chuck Butterworth, with love from your family.

Happy May 26 birthday greetings to Marine Street's Matthew Butterworth.

Birthday wishes "TO GO" to Patrice Ortega, who will celebrate her big day on May 28.

Neither rain or sleet will stop Tommy Cleary, City Island's friendliest mailman, from enjoying his birthday on May 30. Best wishes from everyone at the C.I. branch and all your friends along your route.

Congratulations to Philip and Jennifer Kinford of Ditmars Street on the birth of their daughter, Sydney Grace, on March 16, 2009. Proud grandparents are Hal and Donna Kinford of Minneford Avenue and Dale and Rita Lake of Orange, Ohio. Sydney has seven great-grandparents, including Rose and Paul Buhl, formerly of Bay Street. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Congratulations to Michael Proietti, who is a contestant in season five of the Next Food Network Star competition. Michael, who joined the restaurant industry at an early age, worked his way up to become executive chef at the Radisson Hotel in New Rochelle. The New York Restaurant School graduate will bring his appreciation for global cuisine and his one-



Photo by LINDSEY KINFORD

Philip and Jennifer Kinford with their daughter, Sydney Grace

of-a-kind attitude to the competition. Good luck, Michael!

Happy birthday on June 1 to Marion Rosenfeld, with love from your friends and family.

And wishing a wonderful Mother's Day to all our hardworking mothers and grandmothers. Enjoy your special day!

Maria Swieciki

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Photo by JANICE COCO

Jacqueline Kyle Kall received the 40 Year Award from the Bronx/Manhattan Board of Realtors at a gala dinner on April 23, 2009, "for her long and distinguished career in the real estate industry." She took the occasion to speak with Mayor Bloomberg about several City Island issues, including the removal of Ladder Company 53, and he told her he would look into this and other issues facing the Island.



Photo by ANTHONY DeGRAZIA

Lina DeGrazia of City Island's Lina Petite Salon helped her granddaughter Sophia celebrate her 5th birthday in California on March 7, 2009. Notice that everyone had a special hairdo for the occasion, including the cake!

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