

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS A NEW FACE TO P.S. 175

By KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

Amy Lipson, the new interim acting principal at P.S. 175, is shown at left in front of the school and at right with *Island Current School News* columnist, Virginia Dannegger.

Last year St. Mary, Star of the Sea School welcomed a new principal to ring in the academic year. This year it's P.S. 175's turn, with newly appointed interim acting principal, Amy Lipson, leading the opening exercises on Sept. 8. Ms. Lipson replaces Milagros Efre-Lopez, whose controversial three-year tenure at the school ended in June 2005.

Ms. Lipson brings both instructional and supervisory experience to the job. She was a teacher for 13 years in District 12 in New York City and an assistant principal at P.S. 178 in Co-op City from 2000 to 2004 (Co-op City and City Island are in District 11). Most recently, she was a Regional Instructional Specialist.

Ms. Lipson told *The Current* that she was delighted when she received the call from the regional superintendent, Laura Rodriguez, who said "I think I have a school for you," referring to the principal job at P.S. 175.

Although she knows both former principals, Ena Ellwanger and Mrs. Lopez, Ms. Lipson said she was "removed from the controversy," which began shortly after Mrs. Lopez took over the helm of City Island's highly ranked elementary school after the retirement of longtime principal Mrs. Ellwanger in 2002.

Some parents began to express concern about the role of the C-30 committee in the appointment of Mrs. Lopez. The committee, which reviewed applicant resumes and interviewed several candidates for the job, was made up of parents, faculty and staff. The committee ranked the candidates and submitted a list of three, from which the superintendent selected Mrs. Lopez, who was last on the list. Parents on the committee were unhappy that the district did not accept their first or second choice and felt that the system was flawed because it gave the community a false sense of participation in the selection process.

Some parents also felt that the school atmosphere was not as welcoming as it had once been and that certain rules and problems were not being handled consistently. The controversy spilled out into the commu-

nity when the regional superintendent called a public meeting on Oct. 15, 2003, at the American Legion Hall to address concerns about Mrs. Lopez expressed by a group of P.S. 175 parents.

Mrs. Lopez had supporters as well as detractors during her tenure, and they cite her accomplishments, including the opening of the trailer-style learning cottages, which accommodate a total of 112 students in grades two and three. These units help relieve overcrowding at the school, which has a current student enrollment of more than 500 students in grades K through 8. Reading and mathematics scores for many of the grades also increased under Mrs. Lopez's leadership.

Mrs. Lopez was transferred in May 2005 and will become the principal at C.S. 50, a community school in the Bronx. In her final letter to students and parents, she wrote that "P.S. 175 has experienced significant positive growth in the past three years, and I feel extremely proud to have been part of such an exciting learning community. It is my expectation that each and every one of our students will continue to excel."

Ms. Lipson takes over the helm of P.S. 175 during a period of major renovation. Work began on a new roof for the school during the spring of 2005, and the building was shrouded in scaffolding throughout the summer. The new acting principal hopes it will be completed on schedule in early September. She praised the efforts of the school custodian, Eric Guzman, who has been overseeing the roof replacement, the removal of the metal overhang around the building and the sprucing up of the interior of the school, including brightly painted yellow doors on all the classrooms and offices.

She welcomes back the highly regarded faculty and staff, including 18 classroom teachers (two classes per grade) and an additional 14 staff members responsible for art, gym, resource room, and other positions. Ms. Lipson proudly announced that she has hired

a full-time art teacher to provide instruction in painting, ceramics and art history.

Her educational philosophy follows the Schoolwide Enrichment Model, which emphasizes teaching techniques to develop the different talents of children. She looks forward to working with the returning assistant principal, Josephine Rondi, on curriculum, and with crossing guard Cindy Candelaria to ease the traffic problems around the school during arrival and dismissal.

Perhaps most important of all, given recent events, Ms. Lipson welcomes parental involvement. She told *The Current* that many parents had already welcomed her to the community and that she looks forward to meeting with more. "I will have an open-door policy so that parents can come in and bring their concerns," she said. She would like to initiate "Coffee with Amy" on a regular basis in order to get to know parents and members of the community.

On a personal note, the new interim act-

ing principal is married and has a daughter and a stepdaughter. At six feet in height, she will hold the unofficial record as the tallest woman principal in the history of the City Island School.

Ms. Lipson will begin her official relationship with the faculty on Sept. 6 and with the students on Thursday, Sept. 8, at 8:30 a.m. The new school day will last six hours and 30 minutes, so dismissal will be at 3 p.m. Ms. Lipson said that, according to a decision made by the School Leadership Team, only the eighth-grade students will initially be permitted to go outside the building for lunch.

As required by the Board of Education, a C-30 process will be initiated in the fall to select a permanent principal for P.S. 175. Ms. Lipson expects to submit her application to the committee, which will be made up of teachers, staff and parents. "I have aspired to be principal of a school of this type and should I be selected, I would make a long-term commitment," she told *The Current*.

## BUDDY IS BACK!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Buddy is back at City Island Hardware and Marine Supply, along with his wife, Lucy (at left), son, Joey; and longtime assistant Tommy Booth.

Those who drive slowly down City Island Avenue past the corner of Carroll Street cannot help but notice a small but impressive sign in the window of Buddy's Hardware Store, a.k.a. City Island Hardware and Marine Supply: BUDDY IS BACK. And not only Buddy is back, but the entire family as well, including longtime employee and clam digger Tommy Booth.

Nine years after retiring from the store, Anthony J. Pontecorvo, much better known as Buddy, decided to buy back the store, which Claudia Deich had closed down several weeks earlier for financial reasons. And joining him in the effort of restocking the shelves and attracting new (and old) business were Lucy, his wife of 47 years, and his son, Joey.

Starting in business again at the age of 81 might seem like a tough assignment for the rest of us, but Buddy is ready for it. After all, he was born on the very spot where his store is located, always known as "Buddy's," but only officially so after Claudia christened it Buddy's Hardware in 1996.

Buddy's father, Joseph, was born in Italy and moved to City Island about 1915. After working as a naval inspector at Jacob's Shipyard, he joined United Boat Yard as a carpenter and later carpenter foreman. "Everything that went into a boat was fabricated on City Island in those days," Buddy recalls, noting that the boat yard took up all of what is now the Boatyard Condominium and more.

At first the family lived behind a small ice cream and candy shop at the northeast corner

of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue, and this is where Buddy was born in 1926. Eventually the family moved to the foot of Carroll Street, at Banta Lane (now Hawkins), and by the time World War II broke out to a house on Carroll Street that Buddy figures must be at least 150 years old.

Buddy graduated from P.S. 17 in 1938 and was one of the early graduates of Christopher Columbus High School. He set himself up as a television repairman (in the days when televisions were expensive enough that people bothered to repair them), and in 1947 he moved his business to the same location where the candy store had been.

Another milestone occurred when Buddy served as best man at the wedding of Mike and Camille Scotto at the Riviera on City Island (now the new Japanese restaurant). He met a young lady named Lucy Palmeri from Queens, and within six months they were married, on Feb. 16, 1958, in the middle of a blizzard. They moved to a house on Hawkins Street, where they raised three children—Grace and Joey Pontecorvo of City Island and Theresa Piranio of Somers.

At a time when most couples enjoy putting their feet up and playing with their grandchildren, Buddy and Lucy (who have four grandchildren to play with) are having a great time bringing "Buddy's" back to life, though that is no longer its official name. We are all impressed by the legendary Pontecorvo energy, but we are also very glad to have our legendary hardware store back in business.



**BRIEFLY...**

**FREE GLAUCOMA TESTING**, sponsored by Congressman Joseph Crowley, will be available to seniors in the Bronx during September as follows: Castle Hill Senior Center, 625 Castle Hill Avenue (718-824-8910) on Thursday, Sept. 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sue Ginsburg Senior Center, 975 Waring Avenue (718-881-1758) on Monday, Sept. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m.; and at Aging in America, 1500 Pelham Parkway (718-409-7971) on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 1 to 4 p.m.

**NEW FLOOR RECEPTION:** The Community Center's new floor is in, and a reception to celebrate this will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Come and admire the Center's new floor while enjoying music, refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres. Open to all.

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS:** Are you having a problem with food? If you are interested in helping yourself, we are interested in helping you. Call Overeaters Anonymous at 966-841-9139, ext. 2229, or call Jeri at 914-760-3934. You may also e-mail us at bronxo@onebox.com. Visit the Web site www.oa.org to see what we are about. No dues or fees involved.

**BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE.** On Saturday, Sept. 10, in anticipation of the Teen Center's re-opening, the Community Center will host a dance for pre-teens (grades 6 through 8) during normal Teen Center hours, 8 to 10 p.m.

**TEEN CENTER RE-OPENS!** Beginning Saturday, Sept. 17, the Teen Center at 190 Fordham Street will be open from 8 to 10 p.m. Evening activities will include Living Rock, Movie Night and Pysanky. Watch for flyers highlighting the events of the evening.

**CIVIC ASSOCIATION FAMILY DAY:** On Saturday, Sept. 17, from noon to 4 p.m., the City Island Civic Association will sponsor its first annual Family Day at the Ambrosini Little League Field next to P.S. 175. Come one, come all! There will be free refreshments, entertainment, and the opportunity to meet your neighbors and find out what's going on in the community. For information, call 718-885-3823 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

**FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place on City Island Avenue on Saturday, Sept 10, and Sunday, Sept. 11, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This will be a juried show, in which a panel of local business owners has approved the type of merchandise to be sold at the fair, in order to assure high quality. Small businesses on City Island, as well as local artists and craftspeople, have been invited to apply. Many of the 60-plus vendors have participated in this annual event for several years, but there will be many newcomers as well. Come browse and enjoy a variety of artistic works, including painting, photography, stained glass, jewelry, woodworking, sculpture and more. On Saturday at 1 p.m., in Hawkins Park, there will be a clam chowder contest with free tastings, and on Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m., also in the park, there will be a concert featuring the Lickety Split Band. The concert will benefit the American Legion Fallen Heroes Fund, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 718-885-9100 or Paul Klein of Exotiq International Arts at 718-885-3090.

**JOIN THE BOOK CLUB** meeting every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall. Discussion of a new selection (to be announced) will begin on Thursday, Sept. 22. For more information, call the church, located at the corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, at 718-885-1080.

**PARENTS OF DROWNED TEENS TO APPEAL**

By **BARBARA DOLENSEK**

Just before four teenagers drowned off City Island on the night of Jan. 24, 2003, one of them, Henry Badillo of the Bronx, called 911 on his cell phone from the small dinghy they were rowing, but the call did not result in the notification of emergency services to attempt to rescue the boys. It was not until 14 hours after the 911 call that the police began searching the sound in response to a call from Island resident Dolphi Wertenbaker, mother of Carlo, 16, one of the four boys.

The parents of the teens subsequently filed a lawsuit against New York City, claiming that the city was liable for the drownings and citing the failure of the 911 operators to respond. On July 8, 2005, Justice Kenneth Thompson of the Civil Division of the state Supreme Court ruled that the 12-second conversation between Mr. Badillo and a 911 operator did not "meet the high threshold

needed to prove that the city had accepted responsibility for the teens' survival," according to the Bronx Times.

Mrs. Wertenbaker said that the parents were not surprised by the ruling but they were disappointed and planned to appeal the judgment. She told the Bronx Times that they were not seeking monetary damages but simply wanted to find out what happened that night and to bring attention to a flawed emergency-response system.

According to the Police Department, the city's 911 system has been capable of tracing the location of cell phone callers since the spring of 2005, thanks to the installation of equipment throughout the state. The efforts of the parents to bring attention to the circumstances of the case received a great deal of press and political attention and helped accelerate the installation of the equipment.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE**

By **FRED RAMFTL JR.**

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005, three parties are holding primaries that affect City Island: the Democrats, Conservatives and Working Families.

The Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City will include on the ballot: Christopher X. Brodeur, Fernando Ferrer, C. Virginia Fields, Gifford Miller, Arthur Piccolo and Anthony D. Weiner. Those running for Public Advocate include: Michael E. Brown, Damon L. Cabbagestalk, Jay Golub, Betsy F. Gotbaum, Andrew Rasiej and Norman Siegel. Democrats running for City Council include: Ismael Betancourt Jr., Ste-

phen B. Kaufman, Joseph McManus, Egidio Sementilli and James Vacca.

Candidates in the Conservative primary include those running for County Committee: James Barry, Kevin Barry, Anne Riordan and Richard J. Riordan.

The Working Families Party primary will have an option to ballot, meaning that voters registered in the party may select candidates to run on the party line.

Polls will be at P. S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, and will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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# SHAKESPEARE VISITS CITY ISLAND

By RACHEL LANICCI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Theater Group presented "Shakespeare Under the Stars" on Aug. 12, 2005, in Hawkins Park. Shown above is a scene from "The 15-Minute Hamlet." The presentation of the Bard was made possible by a grant from Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano.

On the weekend of Aug. 12, City Island held its second annual tribute to William Shakespeare with its presentation of "Shakespeare under the Stars." Under the wing of director Michel Flannigan, co-director Kathleen Cullen and producer Nick Sala, the show featured a tantalizing array of performances by the fabulous City Island Theater Group.

This year's event, supported by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, proved to be tremendously successful and would have impressed even the Bard himself. It was a worthy successor to last summer's "Midsummer Night's Festival."

"Shakespeare under the Stars" was a shining star indeed. Each of the segments on the bill represented a cleverly and tastefully condensed and highlighted version of a Shakespeare play. The show starred a spirited cast of extraordinary actors who passionately stirred up an aura of the Renaissance that lit up Hawkins Street Park over the weekend. With great acting and authentic garb, it inspired the good time that was had by all.

Whether you were a seasoned veteran in the realm of Shakespearean drama or someone who had never seen one of Shakespeare's plays and went just for the laughs, you could not help but be taken with updated and modernized enactments. The short one-act plays "The 15 Minute Hamlet" and "The Othello Rap" comically rendered some of Shakespeare's most powerful verses and were audience favorites.

The solo performances were equally moving. Kathleen Cullen kicked off the show with a rousing performance, a selection from "Henry V." Cori-Ann Roublick's flawless delivery of "I Hate Men" from "Kiss Me Kate" (based on Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew") was very entertaining, while Susan Rauh served up a touching portrayal of Sylvia from "Two Gentlemen of Verona." Justine Costanza performed two selections from one of Shakespeare's last plays, "The Tempest." In between these performances, Christopher McGowan gave the audience something to ponder with his beautiful readings of Shakespearean sonnets.

All the actors were dressed appropriately, thanks to costume designer and director Carol McCabe. Special thanks also go out to Susan Velcheck, who despite the sweltering heat single-handedly operated the lighting for the show, also dressed in period costume.

After a rocky start on Friday evening, Saturday evening brought a livelier crowd and a more balanced performance. The audience was encouraged to step up to the plate and participate in the show, and several brave souls accepted the challenge. It was generous of the theater group to share the spotlights as a few daring members of the crowd tried their hand at being thespians.

As the show ended and the park slowly emptied, one could not help but realize that City Island can always guarantee a great and entertaining evening.

# DEC GRANTS WETLANDS PERMIT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In spite of community opposition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has granted permits to Island resident and developer Haim Joseph to construct five two-family houses in two vacant lots between Tier and Ditmars Streets. Portions of four of the proposed houses are located within DEC-regulated tidal wetlands adjacent area.

The applications were filed on June 1, 1999, but were revised several times at the request of the City Island Civic Association and neighborhood groups who objected to the fact that the proposed development did not conform to current City Island Special District zoning. The permits were finally issued on August 16, 2005.

The proposed work includes an access

roadway and cul-de-sac to allow access to the project site from William Avenue, which is a mapped street but does not actually exist. The developer will not be able to improve the road without obtaining permission from New York City, and until he does so, the lots on which he plans to build will remain inaccessible.

A vacant lot exists on the corner of Tier Street and William Avenue, but it was sold several years ago and remains in private hands. The New York City Department of Sanitation (DOS) recently made an effort to clean up the lot, which is overgrown and is often used as a dumping ground, but the DOS vehicle went into the wetlands, beyond the boundary of the vacant lot, and was served with two violations by the DEC.

# CLEAR WATER

By PAUL MANKIEWICZ



Photo courtesy of the GAIA INSTITUTE  
Combined sewer outfall at the west end of Schofield Street.

Through much of July and August this year, the water around City Island has been clear enough to watch emerging disputes among hermit crabs under four feet of water, to track the schools of silversides everywhere in the shallows and to see the dark hordes of killies shooting in and out of the marsh grass. You can even make out your feet when the water is neck deep. Dark green sea lettuce and bright white constellations of barnacles mark rocks and pilings below the surface. What has happened to the murkier Eastchester Bay of years past?

Wet years and dry years set the bar for water quality—around New York generally and at City Island in particular. The water is clear when we don't have large rainstorms, and it is less clear when we do. Good years for the garden can be bad years for the Bay.

This simple cause and effect flows directly from our storm-water infrastructure. All dry weather flow and small storms move into the storm drains on the street. These are combined storm and sanitary sewers, which means that storm water is treated, along with our sewage, at the Hunts Point Waste Water Treatment plant, so long as the flow is not too large.

Big storms, however, produce too much water to handle. When flows are large, the excess flow is too great for the waste-water treatment plant and is discharged into the bay. Twenty seven billion gallons of untreated waste water are discharged each year from the combined sewer system into the receiving waters around New York City.

In high rain events, the combined sewer outfall at the west end of Schofield Street (see the attached photo) discharges sewage from 5,000 City Island inhabitants into Long Island Sound. Depending on wind and tides, this waste water either moves out into the Sound, through Throggs Neck to the East River, or around City Island and into Eastchester Bay. Dry summers like this one spare



Photo by DAVIDE FERRO  
This planting bed along a major street in Seattle absorbs storm water, which relieves the combined sewer outfall of overflows caused by heavy rain.

us from the negative effects of our own combined sewer system. Dry weather means no discharge. The small storms that do occur go into the combined sewer and are pumped under the bay and treated at Hunts Point. This takes water off the land but keeps the bay clear and clean.

But all technology is based on choices, and there are other solutions. The city of Seattle, for example, has constructed more than 20 acres of "sea streets." Because Puget Sound is recognized as a great resource, water is captured in planting beds right alongside streets and roadways. Coho salmon can still be caught in plain sight of downtown Seattle.

We could treat the sounds and bays around New York with the same deference. Deep planting beds along City Island Avenue and other streets connected to the combined sewer would make it possible to keep storm water out of the combined sewer, making our island greener and probably adding value to real estate in this nautical enclave. Keeping sewage out of the estuary also protects the health of those of us who wait for high tide every day in hot weather to swim off the beaches at the ends of our blocks.

Studies performed by the Gaia Institute in other parts of New York City indicate that plantings along City Island Avenue could capture as much as six inches of runoff at a cost no greater, and probably less, than standard storm sewers. Storm water kept on the land sustains trees and flower beds and would help, in perpetuity, to keep surrounding waters as clear as they were in the hot yet sparkling summer of 2005.



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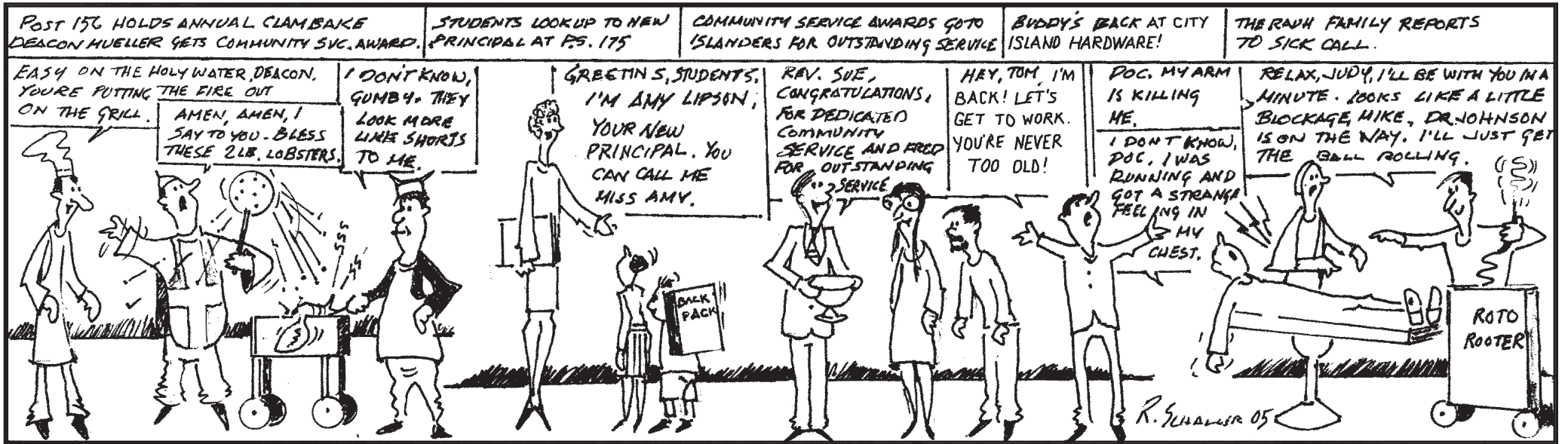


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**Shield of Thanks**

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Venturelli and Cobbin families, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped with the Venturelli Street renaming in June. Virginia Gallagher was my point person on the Island with all the politicians. Russ Schaller, with his flair for writing, did a great job covering the story and digging up some historical facts about Patrolman Pasquale Venturelli. We are also grateful to the owners of the building at the corner of City Island Avenue and Carroll Street for allowing us to place the memorial plaque on their property. Finally, I would like to thank the Touring Kayak Club for letting us use their beautiful facility for our reception. Heinz and Donna were most gracious hosts.

**Matt Murphy**

**What I Did This Summer**

To the Editor:

I have just come back from Eastern Europe and England. I had an exciting, if soul-rendering, time, and I am filled with the wonder of all we have here on our magical little island. Yet I am also troubled by everything we do not seem to have or care about in a community that is so blessed.

After years of Communist rule, Eastern Europe is still pulling loose from the yoke of repression. The younger generation seems to be the spirit rising and what dominates is a sense of desire and hope, as frustrated as it might sometimes be, rather than entitlement. There seems to be a promise for a better tomorrow.

In England a positive feeling about the future also existed. The people were gracious, patient and genuinely helpful. The underground was immaculate; seats were readily given up to anyone looking needy; directions were clearly marked and train lines easily found. And the integration of people from all over the world appeared to be working. (As I wrote this, London terrorist bombs went off in the very stations we had traveled in only six days earlier. Another city devastated by mindless, fanatical fury.)

In 10 days I stayed in three very large cities that appeared to me to be amiable, decent and respectable. (Despite anti-Bush and anti-American war policy everywhere I went, I did not feel treated like an "ugly American.") I stayed with six different families who use few paper and plastic products,

who turn the water off while brushing their teeth, who recycle and obey noise and litter regulations and who sign petitions and start letter campaigns to government representatives.

I came back wanting the United States to get with it, to start raising neighborhood consciousness, to stop littering and sending off loud and smoking fireworks, to have more festive days honoring all ages.

This vacation was one of awakening, discovery, commiseration, rejuvenation. It reminded me that we should never stop striving and moving on to a better place. It made me feel a renewed responsibility for every living creature, for our community, our country and the world. I will donate my yard sale money to someone who can use it. I will start writing letters to those in power who do not share my viewpoint. I'm going to pray for leaders everywhere to start putting the welfare of humanity first.

And that's what I did this summer.

**Carmen Mason**

**A Matter of Principal**

To the Editor:

With all due respect to Frank Ring, P.S. 175's dedicated volunteer, we must disagree with his take on the departure of the school's principal, Mrs. Lopez (see letter in July/August Current).

Unless one was an involved parent of a student, one would have no way of knowing the turmoil, divisiveness and demoralization that Mrs. Lopez caused during her three-year tenure at P.S. 175.

Yes, her removal was bitter (for all sides), but it was not un-American, as you claim. After three years of non-stop complaints from parents (many of whom transferred their children out), the school district took action only after a thorough investigation.

We are neither ashamed nor proud of our participation in having an ineffective principal removed. We care very much about the quality of education and the welcoming atmosphere that once distinguished the City Island School from all others. We are optimistic that the new principal, Ms. Amy Lipson, along with P.S. 175's team of dedicated teachers and staff, will return the school to its former glory.

**Mrs. Ann Butterworth  
Mrs. Felicia Maldari  
Mrs. Maria Swieciki**

**View of a Bridge**

(A copy of the following letter was received by The Current. As of press time, Mr. Basich had not responded to the request.)

Peter Basich  
Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Bridges  
2 Rector Street 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10006

Dear Mr. Basich:

Per our conversation on Aug. 9, I would like to seek permission from your agency to close the City Island bridge for the purpose of taking an aerial photograph. Although this is an unusual request, I hope your office will

grant this request once I have explained the full purpose.

The City Island bridge is scheduled to be replaced in the near future, and the sewer system on City Island is also scheduled to be replaced beginning this winter. With those two large projects scheduled, this is the best time to take a photograph of the bridge before all the construction begins and without all the construction equipment in place.

The bridge is over 100 years old and has a lot of meaning for many City Island residents. Time has taken its toll on the bridge, and now it must be replaced. Knowing that the clock is ticking, I thought that it might be a good civic function to get as many

interested Islanders as we can to stand on the bridge for an aerial photograph. The bridge would have to be closed for about 20 minutes to get people on and off the bridge.

The date I have selected is Sunday, Oct. 9, 2005, at about 2:30 p.m. This date is good, as the summer season will be over and traffic will be light, making the bridge closure that much more manageable.

Though there are more details to be worked out, the first step is to get the approval of your agency. I appreciate your time and look forward to working with you on this worthwhile project. I may be reached at 914-522-1026.

**Matthew Murphy**

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# MILITARY ISLANDER RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS

By RUSSELL SCHALLER



Minneford Avenue resident Joseph Goonan retired from the military after 34 years of service. Chief Warrant Officer Goonan is (top photo, shown at the right) with Brigadier General Ditmer and with his family (bottom photo, l. to r.), his sister, Kathleen O'Callaghan; daughter, Anne-Marie; wife, Eleanor; son, James; grandson, Joseph; and daughter-in-law, Susan.

Although Joe Goonan of Minneford Avenue was too young to participate in the Big Deuce, having been born on Feb. 2, 1944, he made up for it by serving in the military for more than three decades, as well as working for many years as a police officer and community volunteer on City Island.

Joe was raised in Parkchester and attended St. Helena grammar school and high school. Like many other Parkchesterites, the Goonans joined the Morris Yacht and Beach Club and spent their summers at the club, where they made many Island friends. Like most teenagers of that era, Joe found summer employment locally, working for the Duryea family's myriad enterprises, running the Morris Yacht Club launch and working in the yacht club yard.

It was about this time that Joe met Eleanor Sadler, a young Island belle, scion of a renowned Island family. Their friendship flourished when Joe enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 in 1961.

After boot camp at Great Lakes Training Station, Joe volunteered for submarine duty, the "silent service." His first assignment was to the *USS Thomas Jefferson* as a member of the commissioning crew. When the *USS*

*Thresher* sank off New London, Joe's ship took part in the search group that located the remains of the submarine. In 1963 Joe was assigned to the *USS Seawolf*, which in 1964 became part of the Navy's nuclear task force operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

Joe was discharged from the Navy in 1964, and he and Eleanor were married in Grace Episcopal Church in April 1965. They moved to Minneford Avenue, where they raised their family, James, Brian (deceased) and Ann-Marie. Joe worked for a number of local businesses on City Island, including Harold Kroepke Plumbing, Minneford Yacht Yard, Ray's Chris Craft and Key Handling Systems.

In 1966 Joe joined the New York City Police Department and was assigned to the 40th Precinct in the Bronx. Subsequent assignments were to Manhattan North Narcotics Unit and the Bronx 43rd Precinct. In 1973 he was involved in a shooting in which his partner Fred Schultz was wounded. Joe was promoted to detective and assigned to the 25th Detective Squad, where he remained until his retirement in 1987.

In the meantime, in 1976, Joe enlisted in the Army Reserve as a sergeant (E5) and was

assigned to the Company C 826th Military Intelligence (MI) battalion, where he was trained as an intelligence analyst, counter-intelligence agent and area intelligence specialist. After more training and the acquisition of more duties, he rose to the rank of Sergeant First Class (E7) and ultimately to Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2).

In 1987, after retiring from the Police Department, Joe was transferred to the military intelligence school at Fort Devens in Massachusetts, where he spent the next 11 years as security manager and instructor for counter-intelligence and other required subjects.

Joe worked as a fraud investigator in the insurance industry from 1998 to May 2000, when he became a security supervisor for Merrill Lynch and Company, a job that he still holds. He also operated a home-improvement contracting business.

In 1990 Joe was called to active duty with the 211th MI Company during Desert Shield. His assignment was team chief of the Terrorist Team in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he worked with Island resident Tony Pascassio, his senior intelligence sergeant. After returning to the United States, Joe was promoted to CW3. From 1995 to 1998, Joe performed active duty tours with the Army's joint task force that provided intelligence support to law enforcement for counter-narcotics operations. Most of the time he worked in New York City with the Police Department, U. S. Customs, the F.B.I. and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. In 1997 Joe was promoted to CW4.

In 1998 he returned to the Bronx, where he was assigned to an Army Reserve military intelligence detachment. Called again to active duty in February 2003, Joe was dispatched to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. Among his duties there was preparing information for the briefing of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense during the Iraq conflict.

Joe received 12 military decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two stars, a Meritorious Unit Award and the most prestigious of all, the Legion of Merit. His many civilian awards include the combat cross, four Meritorious Police Duty awards and four Excellent Police Duty Awards. While in the Police Department, Joe also

accumulated four certificates for courses he completed in conjunction with his employment. He also found time to pursue a college education and received an AAS degree from Westchester Community College in 1975 and a BS degree from Iona College in 1976. Over his 34-year military career, Joe attended 15 schools. Among them the Fifth Army Counterintelligence Course (COTA), INSCOM Area intelligence course, Special Security Training Course and Intelligence in Combating Terrorism.

One might think Joe would have little time to devote to community service, but he has been active in the American Legion for 36 years, 11 of which he served as an officer of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 on City Island. He served two years as commander, was Bronx County vice commander for three years and Bronx County commander from 2002 to 2003.

One of my responsibilities as third vice commander of Americanism is to see that flags are placed on more than 100 poles along City Island Avenue and at the cemetery. Volunteers perform this function, most of them taking a section of five or six posts, although some take two sections. Joe was the only one who took more than three sections. Unfortunately, while he was on active duty in Washington, Joe and his wife were struck by a cyclist. In an effort to protect Eleanor, Joe suffered a rotator cuff injury to his left shoulder and apologized profusely to me when he reported that he could no longer place flags on the poles for the Legion.

At the recent installation of officers at the Legion, my friend and fellow legionnaire Joe DeLuca was trying to make it back to his table with a cane in one hand and a heaping plate of chow in the other. Joe Goonan saw his plight and made a special effort to help him back to his table, a typical act of compassion that didn't go unnoticed.

Joe Goonan was also active in the City Island Little League for 17 years. He served as president for five years, vice president for three years and treasurer for three years, along with being a manager and a coach. He served for more than 25 years in various positions in City Island Cub Scout Pack 211 and Boy Scout Troop 211.

We salute you, citizen and soldier, Joseph Goonan, for many jobs well done!




Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Community Center Awards annual dinner took the form of a beach party on Fordham Street beach on Aug. 20, 2005. The honorees and presenters included (l. to r.): Jeri Stark, Tom Smith, Reverend Susan Chadwick, Violet Smith, Brenda Prohaska, Fred Ramftl Jr., Jay Howard, Jacinda Economas and Karen Garcia. Congratulations to all the honorees for their outstanding service to the City Island community.

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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.

New things are cooking at the **Sugar and Spice Bake Shop**, 536 City Island Avenue. Proprietor Irina Brandler announces two new activities. A Mommies and Daddies Group will be held every Wednesday at 1 p.m. starting Sept. 7. Parents of all ages are invited to bring their babies (newborn to 12 months) to the bakery to meet and greet other parents. Stroller parking is available. Kids Cook classes will be held twice a month on Sundays for ages 7 to 13. On Sept. 11, the theme is "Back to School," and kids will decorate treats to put in their lunch boxes. On Sept. 25, participants will learn the art of sushi by making three types of rolls and a dessert with bananas and chocolate sauce. October classes will feature cookie baking and pasta cooking (see next month's column). Classes have a 5-person minimum and a 12-person maximum. The cost of the classes is \$25 per mini baker. You can sign up for any of these activities at **Sugar and Spice** or call 718-885-9229 for more information.

### CLEAN STREETS

Once again Community Board 10 led the borough of the Bronx in the percentage of streets rated acceptably clean, according to a report issued by the Mayor's office of operations.

District 10, which includes City Island, Throggs Neck, Pelham Bay, Co-op City and Zerega, ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2005, with 96.7 percent of its streets and 98.3 percent of its sidewalks rated acceptably clean. This makes the district one of the four cleanest of 59 community boards in the city.

Community Board district manager James Vacca said: "Although we have led the borough for as long as I can remember, this is our highest rating yet. My office emphasizes street cleanliness, and I myself cannot begin to tell you how many people I stop when they litter or refuse to keep their property clean. I firmly believe that the cleanliness of a community contributes positively to the residents' and visitors' perception of a neighborhood."

Mr. Vacca credited property owners, store keepers and the Department of Sanitation for working together over the years to

The **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery**, 249 City Island Avenue, invites you to a fall filled with music and art, starting on Labor Day Weekend. On Saturday, Sept. 3, at 8 p.m., the Starving Artist celebrates the end of summer in music; come and see what's "on the menu" in music that night! On Sunday, Sept. 4, the City Island Jazz Quartet takes the stage, starting at 3 p.m.

The following weekend offers the art of City Islander Heike Neumeister, with an opening reception on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 3 to 6 p.m. Later that night, singer-songwriter Kenny Cunningham returns to the cafe / gallery for a performance at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 11, come listen to the jazz keyboard of City Islander Cameron Greenlee.

Jazz is the feature again on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. with the jazz-man himself, guitarist Lou Volpe. On Sunday, Sept. 18, Starving Artist welcomes back singer-songwriter Theresa Sareo at 3 p.m.

Singer-songwriters finish out the month: Sam Leopold performs on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 8 p.m. and there is an open mike for singer-songwriters on Friday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m. The open mike nights will continue at the cafe / gallery on the last Friday of every month.

For more information about the schedule, including some October dates, visit our Web site at [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com) or call 718-885-3779.

improve Board 10's ratings. He also noted that State Senator Jeff Klein's funding of the "Ready, Willing and Able" street-cleaning program in Pelham Bay, now expanded to Throggs Neck, may place us even nearer to the 100 percent mark next year.

"By taking pride in their block and working to address problem areas elsewhere," Mr. Vacca said, "residents can play a key role in keeping our streets clean. Our high rating is indicative of the high priority so many in this community attach to keeping the community and the city clean."



Photography by Ron Terner  
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# HOOPS IN THE SUN AT ORCHARD BEACH

By YOLANDA CIRULLI

Orchard Beach is usually the place for swimming and music, but this summer basketball was given a special place, starting with the Hoops in the Sun tournament on Sunday, July 17.

The Hoops in the Sun organization was started in 2000 by the late Joe Cruz Sr., whose mission in life was to help teenagers by encouraging them in basketball and other sports. Thanks to the support of James Vacca, district manager of Community Board 10, and others in the community, Mr. Cruz got his wish. His son, Joe Cruz Jr., is now executive director, and Alex Torres is operation manager, and both of them are totally dedicated to the organization.

The tournament was for high school students aged 16 and under, and they showed remarkable talent, winning the second game, against an all-star Chicago team, 105 to 95. Games were played every Sunday at Orchard Beach until the end of August, providing inspiration for all young basketball players, especially those on City Island.

Bronx Net televised the tournament on July 17, and special guests included Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and Jimmy Vacca, who said, "I am here today to honor all that Joe Cruz has done at Orchard Beach, and I'm delighted to see how his family and friends are continuing the tradition."

Also attending the game was Tim Thomas of the New York Knicks, who said that he enjoyed very much being there to support and encourage these young men, to whom he presented trophies, along with Mr. Carrión,



Islander Yolanda Cirulli joined Tim Thomas of the New York Knicks at the Hoops in the Sun tournament at Orchard Beach on Sunday, July 17, 2005.

who also managed to get some great shots into the basket, much to everyone's delight.

Mr. Carrión said that, as long as he is borough president, he will continue to promote the Hoops in the Sun tournament at Orchard Beach and that he would see that the basketball courts there were dedicated to the memory of Joe Cruz Sr.

# ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS: PART 2

Below are more of the entries that won prizes in the City Island Community Center essay contest. This year's topic was the City Island Bridge, and writers were asked to submit any original essay or poem of 500 words or fewer. Barnes & Noble gift cards were awarded in all of the youth categories, courtesy of the Drue Breen Literary Fund.

First place in the Grades 3 through 5 category went to Korinna Lane, in Grade 4 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School; the runner-up was Brenton Howell, also in Grade 4 at St. Mary's.

## Bridge

By Korinna Lane

The City Island Bridge is a bridge that connects City Island to the Bronx. How I used the City Island Bridge is by going over it to school and going over it to go home. Sometimes my class uses the bridge to go on trips, too.

The City Island Bridge is one of City Island's longest legends. Once my class walked over the bridge to plant two trees for Arbor Day. But in 2007 they are knocking down our little bridge, and they are going to build a white, modern bridge to replace the old bridge.

I am going to miss the little City Island Bridge because it is over 100 years old, and when the bus rides over it, I can feel lots of bumps on it. On the new bridge, it will be flat, I bet, but I will also remember the little City Island Bridge.

## City Island Bridge

By Brenton Howell

The City Island Bridge has been where it is for over 100 years. It has been doing its job, too. Its job is to connect the Bronx and City Island.

The bridge is very important to me because it brings me to school everyday. The bridge also gets me to some of the greatest seafood restaurants.

The City Island Bridge is special to me. I hope they don't change the bridge. My teacher, Mrs. Helen, doesn't like the new bridge, and I don't either. So when the other bridge comes in, I'll always remember the City Island Bridge as the little green bridge it is now.

The first place in the Grades 6 through 8 category was awarded to Kristina Dilorio, Grade 6, Public School 175; the runner-up was Alexander Miccoli, also in Grade 6 at P. S. 175.



## I am the Bridge

By Kristina Dilorio

I am the City Island Bridge. What is a bridge, you say? It's more than from point "A" to "B." It's back to "B" from "A." Been standing here a long, long time. The things that I have seen, From trolley cars and nautical folk. The eyes from the past were keen. The water is my closest friend, Despite the storms I've seen, Because without the Long Island Sound, There would be no need for me. I proudly stand and do my job. I'm worthy of this poem. I bring the many tourists here. I guide the Islanders home. Think about me when you leave. Let your day be your concern. I am the City Island Bridge. I'm here for your return.

## Used to Be

By Alexander Miccoli

*Used to be* the Lenape and Siwanoy lived here.

I imagine their canoes as they fished. They respected the land. They are long gone.

*Used to be* the Dutch, English and other Europeans fished, Made ships and sails, Or navigated ships safely into New York Harbor.

That was the 1600-1700s. They are long gone.

*Used to be* ferries brought people to this island. They would come to work, to picnic, to admire the beautiful views. They are long gone.

*Used to be* I was a wooden toll bridge to this island.

I could handle the trolleys and carriages that crossed the span. It was very busy. Then I was gone. Replaced.

Someday it will be... *Used to be* I was A metal Victorian-style bridge, Overburdened with too many cars, buses, trucks.

I am getting too small and old. Then I will be gone, Replaced.

Ready for another *Used to be*.

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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

#### SEPTEMBER

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, **Arts & Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue. **Chowder Contest** in Hawkins Park on Saturday at 1 p.m.; **Concert** in Hawkins Park on Sunday, 3 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Call 718-892-1161 for location.

Saturday, Sept. 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.

Tuesday, Sept. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### Chapter 318 AARP

We always meet at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street. Refreshments and cake are served after each meeting.

Our next meeting starting the new season is on Wednesday, Sept. 7. We have blood-pressure readings taken on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will also have a notary public available before and after the meetings to notarize any documents free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacono before or after the meeting.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Sept. 13. The bus leaves from 113 Bay Street at 9 a.m. For reservations, please call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Flo Bonicoro has been busy this summer lining up some great day trips. She is trying different tour companies and will advise us at our first meeting in September.

See you all soon.

Marie Tirelli

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful new year (5766).

We conduct Sabbath services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. Our doors (at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets) are open to all and holiday attendance is free.

Rabbi Shohama will lead the Sept. 9 service with Cantor Elaine assisting her. Special Slicot Service will be conducted on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

The first SHOHAM class (for spiritual healing and meditation) will be led by Rabbi Shohama on Monday, Sept. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

#### High Holy Day Services Schedule:

Rosh Hashana evenings: Monday, Oct. 3, and Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashana mornings: Tuesday, Oct. 4, and Wednesday, Oct. 5, begin at 9:30 a.m. with Torah reading at 10:15 a.m.

Tashlich will be conducted at 12 noon on Tuesday. (Great for kids!) After Tashlich a children's service will be held in the the sanctuary.

Yom Kippur Eve: Wednesday, Oct. 12, will begin with a musical prelude promptly at 6 p.m., followed by Kol Nidre at 6:15 p.m.

Yom Kippur day: Thursday, Oct. 13, morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. Torah reading starts at 10:15 a.m. and Yizkor at 11 a.m. Closing service begins promptly at 5:15 p.m. and ends at 7:15 p.m.

A Sukkot celebration will be led by Rabbi Shohama on Monday evening, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Simchat Torah will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Tai Chi -Yoga classes will resume in September. Led by Marc Kaplan, these exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. Eight sessions: \$80 for members; \$120 for non-members. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available. Visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Chapter 3303 AARP

The members of the Minneford Chapter of the 3303 have been informed that AARP is campaigning to force our federal government to make prescription drugs more accessible and affordable for all seniors. AARP is continuing its Prescription Drug Affordability Campaign, which has three major goals.

AARP is fighting for the bipartisan Dorgan-Snowe bill that will give Americans the right to legally import prescription drugs from reputable pharmacies in other countries, starting with Canada. The organization will encourage Congress to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate discounts to lower prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. AARP will also push American's drug manufacturers and distributors to quit taking advantage of seniors by limiting their price increases to no more than the rate of inflation.

Now that prescription drug coverage has been added to Medicare, further reforms must be passed to ensure that all seniors can have access to affordable prescription drugs. AARP urges all to support the Prescription Drug Affordability Campaign by writing or contacting our members in Congress and asking them to support this campaign.

On Thursday, Oct. 13, the chapter is sponsoring a Columbus Day celebration at William Lake Resort in Rosendale, New York, for a full day of enjoyment. It will include, coffee and Danish on arrival, fun and games, a complete sit-down luncheon with choice of menu, entertainment, dancing and much more. Departure time is 8:30 a.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 20, the Chapter will



Photo courtesy of THE BRONX TIMES

Rabbi Shohama Wiener leads Temple Beth-El congregants and friends in their annual Sabbath worship by the sea at the City Island Yacht Club on Friday, August 5, 2005. The service was followed by a picnic-style dinner – all in the air-conditioned comfort of the CIYC – on a very hot and humid summer evening.

sponsor its annual fair in the Trinity United Methodist Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Prices and more details for these events will be discussed at our meetings or call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

#### City Island Theater Group

Congratulations to everyone involved in our summer activities: "Shakespeare Under the Stars" and "City Rocks Concert." Performers of Shakespeare included Natalie O'Connell, Cori-Ann Roublick, Susan Rauh, Jason Fogarty, Christian DeMatteo, Kathleen Cullen-Kortleven, Nicholas Perugini, Julie White, Con Grondhal, Justine Costanza and Christopher McGowan. They all helped to create two magical and memorable evenings of fine performances, even in mid-August heat. Special thanks, as always, to our behind-the-scenes crew, who transformed Hawkins Park into an outdoor theater (complete with lights, sound and authentic costumes) for all to enjoy.

"City Rocks Concert" featured young local talent who performed at Grace Church to a standing-room-only crowd. Congratulations to these phenomenal teenagers. Who knows, they may be on MTV one day!

Forging ahead into the fall season, CITG is proud to announce the upcoming "Festival of One-Act Plays." We are currently conducting an eager search for actors, directors and backstage crew. No experience necessary!

Audition dates are Thursday, Sept. 8, and Friday, Sept. 9, at 7:45 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 10, at 12 noon. Auditions will be held at our office in Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. Performance dates will be Oct. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 and 23. If you have any questions or wish to become a

member of our fine organization, please call 718-885-3066 for details.

We are very pleased to announce that Councilwoman Madeline Provanzano has allocated \$5,000 from the City Council budget for the City Island Theater Group. This funding will go directly to programming for the 2006 season. This will make it possible for us to continue to bring the residents of City Island the high-quality theater they have enjoyed for years! We will be announcing our 2006 season very soon. In fact, we can't wait to tell you what we are doing! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and now, on with the show!

Susan Rauh

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Fall is upon us, and we at Trinity hope that all of you had a healthy, happy and fun-filled summer. Fall is a time of beginnings, and we are starting to get into gear.

Our regular Sunday school begins on Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. Our regular worship service is at the same time. All are welcome to both.

George Cavaleri, our lay leader, will begin a group Bible study for six Sundays from Oct. 23 to Dec. 4. He will do the first seven chapters of the Gospel of John. There will be a short video, and refreshments will be served. The study will begin at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There is no registration and everyone is welcome. A detailed description of this course will appear in the October issue of *The Current*.

In addition, Reverend Sue will continue to have her Healing Service every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Anne Sill



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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.

#### Announcements

**The New Floor is in!** New floor opening reception, Friday, Sept. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Come and admire the Center's new floor while enjoying music, refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres. Open to all.

**Back to School Dance:** Saturday, Sept. 10. In anticipation of the Teen Center's re-opening, the Community Center will host a dance for pre-teens (grades 6 through 8), during normal Teen Center hours, 8 to 10 p.m.

**The Teen Center is Re-opening!** Beginning Saturday, Sept. 17, the Teen Center will be open from 8 to 10 p.m. Evening activities will include Living Rock, Movie Night and Pysanky. Watch for flyers highlighting the events of the evening.

**New this Fall:** Juggling for Fun, Health, Relaxation and Focus. Shayna, the Juggling Entertainia, is a Cirque du Soleil/Cirque du Monde trainer, performer, teacher and new City Island resident. Five years ago, well into mid-life, Shayna learned to juggle after previous unsuccessful attempts. With the proper step-by-step method, Shayna can teach you to juggle if you can tie your shoelaces. This class is open to anyone 12 years and older. Call Shayna at 347-275-4980 for more information or to register. See below for schedule and fees.

#### Ongoing Events

**Monthly Meetings** of the board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the main room of the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Teen Center:** Saturday evenings beginning Sept. 17 from 8 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 for more information.

**Juggling for Fun, Health, Relaxation & Focus:** Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Class is \$10 per session with a 10 percent

discount for each additional family member. There will be a one-time equipment fee of \$15.

**Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts:** For information call Grace Nagy at 718-757-1338. Registration for fourth-grade Girl Scouts will be held in October.

**Beginner Knitting Classes** for all ages! Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

**Dance Classes, Jazz/Tap for Grades 2-6:** Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

**Millennium Babies Playgroup:** A free playgroup open to moms with babies and/or pre-school children. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040 for more information.

**Irish Dance:** Call Deirdre O'Mara at 201-947-8535.

**Adult Tap Classes:** Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

**Photography Classes:** For adults and teens. Call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue.

**Aerobics Classes:** Sunday, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 10:30 a.m., and Wednesday 7 to 8 p.m. Babysitting available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

**Chess Club:** Monday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up!

Amy Gottlieb

#### Legion News

It has been a long, hot summer, and it's not over yet. I didn't make muster for the annual clambake, but I've learned from reliable sources that it was not only a social success but a financial success as well. More than 100 attended this festive occasion. Head chef was Peter Zvara, AKA Gumby, who honed his culinary talents working with the old SAL kitchen crew, now no longer affiliated with the Post.

Laboring with Peter were Gary Bonicoro, Gene Valesio, Peter Brewer, Ray and Pat Kelly, to mention a few. Conal Schaller and Brendan Murphy tended bar and informed me that they had never seen so many people with hollow legs (those who were able to consume copious amounts of spirits with little or no side effect).

Our commander, Michael Rauh, City Island's consummate runner, was recently stricken with a blockage in an artery; he is on



On Sunday, July 31, 2005, Father Michael Challinor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and 13 volunteers attended a special Mass and reception at the POTS' (Part of the Solution) Desmond House on Decatur Avenue. The occasion marked the golden jubilee of Father Ned Murphy, founder of the POTS program, now in its 23rd year, and recognized the contributions of three groups to the program. The honorees included the Jesuit Volunteer Corps East, Holy Rosary, and St. Mary, Star of the Sea, which received the Russell Scott Community Service Award in recognition of the monthly cooking program (see Calendar this issue) and holiday gift giving. Shown above at the ceremony (l. to r.) are: Mary Carman, Tom Woods, Jennifer Carman, Rosetta Woods, Camille Ramftl, Bob Mulroy, Father Ned Murphy, Jane LaScala, Sister Mary and Father Challinor. Congratulations to everyone on City Island who contributes to POTS! To learn more about this caring program, visit their website at [www.potsbronx.org](http://www.potsbronx.org) or call one of the leaders: Jane LaScala at 718-885-2137, Rosetta Woods at 718-885-0926, Bob Mulroy at 718-885-3208 or Theresa Kurtz at 718-885-3043.

the road to full recovery after several procedures to alleviate the condition: an angiogram to identify the problem, an angioplasty to clear the blockage and the insertion of a stent to insure that the artery will remain open. Mike has always been cognizant of high cholesterol and watches his diet; like me, he adheres to a regimen prescribed by our mutual physician, Dr. Norbert Sander. Mike also told me that the recent clambake had nothing to do with his seizure, since he partakes of such delicacies in moderation.

I have also learned from various sources that Mike's spouse, Judy, fell while boarding the family's palatial yacht, resulting in a badly broken right arm that required surgery. Judy, too, is doing well, still jogging with her arm in a cast.

Awards were doled out at the clambake to those deserving Islanders who are involved in community endeavors. William Mueller, longtime deacon at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, received the coveted Community Service Award. Frank and Cathy Cepek were recipients of the Service to Youth Awards. Both have been active in the St. Mary's basketball program for a number of years. SAL member Peter Booth was presented with the Good Guy Award for his involvement in myriad Legion activities.

Captain Ed Sadler's granddaughter Mary is serving in the U.S. Army as a T-3 in small arms maintenance. Her unit is stationed along the 38th parallel in South Korea, where she is now engaged in arms inspection. Her last upgrade before being sent overseas was the result of volunteering to service a 50-cal. machine gun that had other technicians befuddled. Her commanding officer has recommended an upgrade to T-4.

At a recent assembly, she arrived to find all but one seat vacant and that between her commanding officer and the commanding general. She smiled and sat down. This chutzpah evidently so impressed the general that he subsequently carried on a lengthy conversation with her, suggesting that she apply for college credit courses. She did and will begin in November. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Michelle Healy, granddaughter of Ethel Lott, is now engaged in patrol duty with the Coast Guard in South American waters. Michelle, a gunner's mate second class, informed Grandma that aside from the local waters being a little warmer than those of Alaska, drug runners abound, adding a little spice to this tour of duty.

If you know any stories about our people in the service, call me at 2087 or drop a line to me at 410 King Avenue, City Island NY 10464.

Richy O'Keefe informed us at the last meeting that a number of activities are planned for the fall months, first among them an Oktoberfest.

Meetings for September are: Monday, Sept. 12, executive board meeting; and Monday, Sept. 19, regular meeting. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

I didn't notice any mention in the September "American Legion Magazine" of the 60th anniversary of the Japanese signing of the surrender terms aboard the "Mighty Mo" (*U.S.S. Missouri*). It's not unusual for our illustrious magazine to forget important dates and events. You might recall an emaciated Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright present that day. He had survived the Bataan death march and three years of captivity. Oddly enough, he died on Sept. 2, 1953, eight years to the day after the surrender ceremony.

And for your WWII buffs, "gobbledygook" was a slang term referring to anything verbose.

Russell Schaller

#### Rotary Club of the Bronx

The Rotary Club of the Bronx, which meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at The Harbor restaurant on City Island is excited to announce that it is sponsoring its third Gift of Life Child this fall.

The Gift of Life program identifies children from third-world countries with life-threatening heart ailments. Through fund raising and services donated by Rotarians and medical staff, these children, whose families could not otherwise afford or have access to treatment, are brought to the United States for life-saving surgeries. Rotary District 7230, which includes 45 clubs in Westchester, the Bronx, New York City, Staten Island and Bermuda, has helped more than 100 children so far.

The latest child, Nairaj Budnarine, is an eight-month-old boy from Guyana. He will be arriving on Sept. 7 for surgery at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

Many thanks go out to Susan Rios and Ron Turner who heard about the need for an infant car seat and stroller for the baby and promptly stepped up and offered to lend the items needed.

The club will also be sponsoring a Clam BakeFest at the Morris Yacht Club on City Island on Thursday, Sept. 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m. to help raise funds for the Gift of Life program. Everyone is invited to come, eat, enjoy and participate in giving the Gift of Life miracle to Nairaj Budnarine. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. This includes all the clams, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, beer, wine and soda you can eat and drink. For more information or tickets, please call Captain Mike Carew at 718-885-1588 or Caroline Pitts at 367-427-4351.

Nancy Wallace

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**Shelters**

In World War II, the British had to endure German air raids on their country, which necessitated almost nightly visits to bomb shelters, as depicted in the fine film **Hope and Glory** (1987). Produced, written and directed by John Boorman, the film draws on autobiographical memories of Boorman's youth through the eyes of Bill (Sebastian Rice Edwards), who is growing up in a London suburb. When his father leaves to fight the Germans, Bill's mother (Sarah Miles) is left alone to raise her children. The nightly bomb-shelter routine, a novelty at first, becomes an exhausting task that takes its toll on the entire family. This is an excellent coming-of-age film in which the time period is re-created in painstaking and effective detail.

Another type of shelter is a storm cellar, used in the exciting film **Twister** (1996). Given a PG-13 rating for "intense depiction of very bad weather," this film has tornados at every turn upstaging all attempts at plot and drama. Bill Harding (Bill Paxton) is a TV weatherman, estranged from Jo (Helen Hunt), with whom he used to be a storm chaser. Together, they invented "Dorothy," hundreds of little plastic spheres with sensors inside that is designed to be sucked up into a twister from which it will relay scientific information. Bill's nemesis, Jonas Miller (Cary Elwes), has stolen the idea for a machine of his own, which he calls D.O.T. 3. There is great product placement in this film, especially the Pepsi cans that solve a problem near the exciting climax. The story line

is rather thin, but the truck and the cows flying through the air are a wonder to behold.

The scientific inventions in the previous film are, of course, named after Dorothy (Judy Garland) of the childhood classic **The Wizard of Oz** (1939). If Dorothy had been able to get herself into the family storm shelter, she wouldn't have made it to Oz and a wonderful children's story wouldn't have been told. For the few who have never seen this film, a twister takes Dorothy, house and all, "over the rainbow," where she winds up in a magical land. There she meets the Tin Man (Jack Haley), who needs a heart; the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), who needs a brain; the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who needs courage; the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton); Glinda the Good Witch (Billie Burke), and a Wizard (Frank Morgan). Dorothy spends the entire movie trying to get back home to Kansas, from which she had originally tried to escape. For those who have seen it before, this film is a lovely trip back to childhood and is worth a revisit.

**Panic Room** (2002) is a film that shows us a sort of shelter we have never seen before. It stars Jodie Foster as Meg, a wealthy divorcee who has moved into a brownstone in Manhattan with her teenage daughter, Sarah (Kristen Stewart). On the third floor of the house, they discover a "panic room," which is designed to keep the occupants safe by providing independent air, water and electricity. Three robbers, Burnham (Forest Whitaker) and his partners Junior (Jared Leto) and Raoul (Dwight Yokam), thinking the house is empty, come to steal whatever they can find. Unfortunately, Sarah has a condition that requires medication that is not in the panic room with them when robbers arrive. What ensures is an exciting chess game with the robbers, making this an absorbing, intelligent thriller.

Set in November 1962, when President John F. Kennedy was involved in the Cuban missile crisis, the charming film **Matinee** (1993) is about a military brat named Gene

(Simon Fenton), who is excited when a Hitchcock-like movie maker, Lawrence Woolsey (John Goodman), comes to Key West to screen a horror film, "Mant." The movie shows how children can be fascinated by horror films while real-life horrors are happening all around them. This was a time of fallout shelters and hide-under-your-desk emergency drills, a time of lost innocence.

Another delightful comedy is **Blast from the Past** (1999). When President Kennedy announces that Soviet missiles in Cuba are aimed at the United States; eccentric scientist/inventor Calvin (Christopher Walken)

and his pregnant wife, Helen (Sissy Spacek), make their way to their amazingly well-stocked fallout shelter whose time lock won't open for 35 years. It is entertaining to watch the clever ways in which the family spends its time, but the film changes gears when the couple sends their grown but innocent son, Adam (Brendan Fraser), up to the world to get supplies. There he meets Eve (Alicia Silverstone), who cannot believe his perfect manners, his strange clothes or his amazing ability to dance. This is a wonderful film for the entire family.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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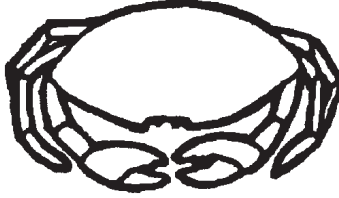
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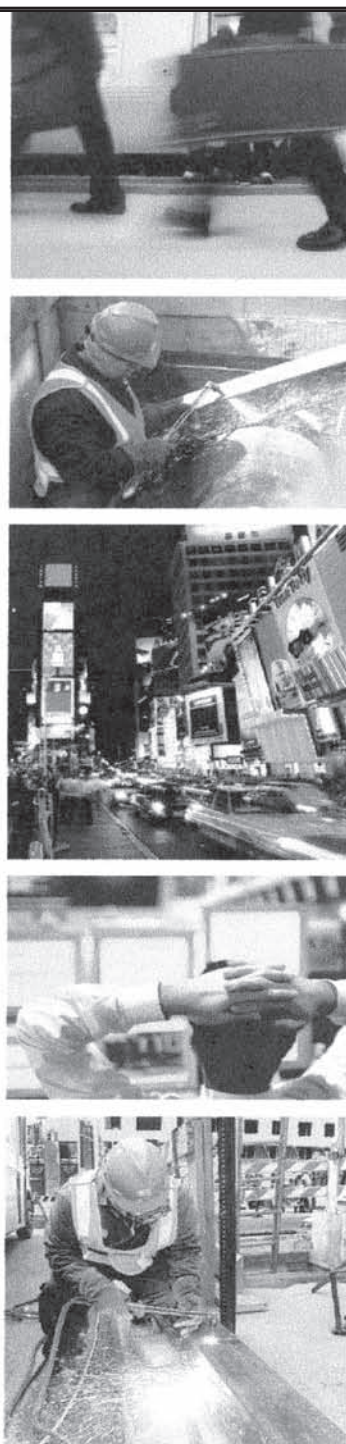
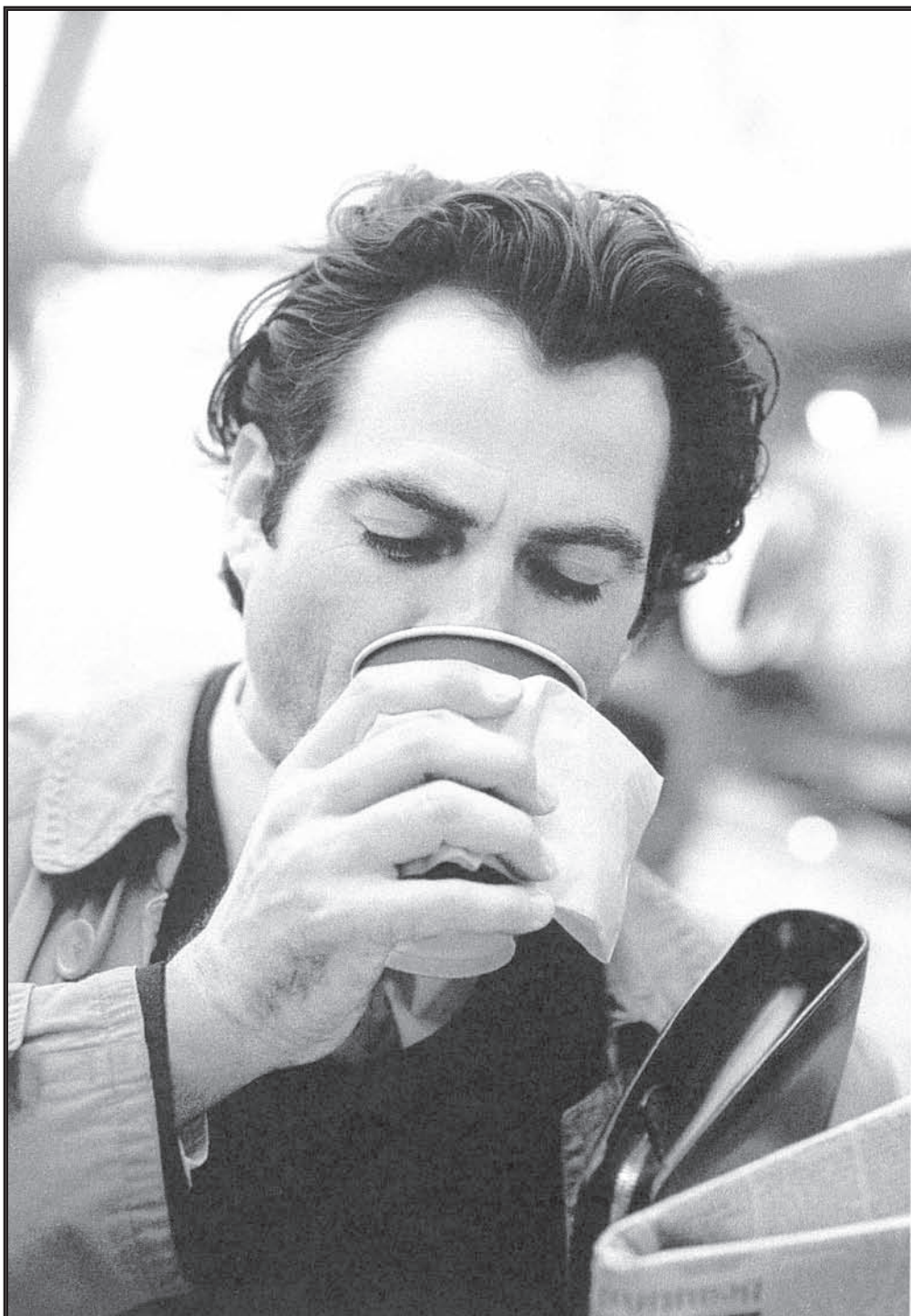
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Photo by RICK DeWITT

For the first time in many years, a Vacation Bible School was held jointly by Grace Episcopal, St. Mary's and Trinity Methodist Churches in July 2005 at Trinity church. Shown above are the proud graduates (seated, l. to r.): Hugh Joly, Gregory Fusco, Dusty Prohaska, Maeve Murphy, Jessica Lachman, William Campinsano, S. Reilly and Hailey. Standing: Zoe Sill, Angelina Soberal, Jonathan Campinsano, Nora Murphy, Aidan Joly, William Alexander and Peter Alexander. Not pictured are Benjamin Chadwick and Jeremy Folimio.

## SMELLS TO MARS AND BEYOND: P.S. 175 Kindergarten Conducts Experiment

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A husband-and-wife scientist team, who are Island residents and parents of a kindergarten student at P.S. 175, recently experienced what turned out to be one of those magical classroom moments that one always hopes will happen but never quite expects. Last spring, Dr. Patrick Gannon and Dr. Nancy Kheck attempted to integrate a space biomedicine lesson that had been written for middle and high school students into a kindergarten science fair project, and it turned out to be a great success.

Dr. Gannon, trained as an anthropologist and neurobiologist, and Dr. Kheck, a neuroscientist, are both on the faculty at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Gannon is director and Dr. Kheck associate director of "Defying Gravity: Embracing Life in Space," an educational outreach program funded by the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) and Mount Sinai. NSBRI is a nationwide consortium of research institutes and universities working under the auspices of NASA to help astronauts reach the planet Mars in a journey that is to begin within the next 20 years (see April 2003 issue of the *Current*).

In 2001 Dr. Gannon ran a summer teachers institute at Mount Sinai and brought in nine of the best high school teachers in the city to write lessons for "Defying Gravity" based on his ideas. They were assisted in the effort by other space biomedicine students and by a number of top-performing high school students, one of whom, Matthew Dusenberry is also a resident of City Island.

Together with their son Julian, Drs. Gannon and Kheck developed "Smells to Mars" out of the "Defying Gravity" program for the two kindergarten classes at the City Island School, in connection with the school's science fair. First, they presented a slide show about life in space, thinking that these chil-

dren were the right age to eventually witness or perhaps even be the first astronauts to set foot on Mars. They explained to the children how important the senses of smell and taste are to quality of life on Earth and how these senses can even protect them from danger. Then they linked these intriguing facts to an astronaut's life in space.

According to Dr. Gannon, "The kindergarten students spoke up with examples of how these senses affect their lives, and they discussed the new information with unbridled enthusiasm. They were introduced to the hypothesis that girls have a better sense of smell than boys, and that this might be just one example of the differences between boys and girls."

The children were provided with "smell kits" to take home and test by using members of their family as subjects and then collecting the results. Data was obtained from parents, grandparents, siblings and friends and then brought to school, where it was graphed and made part of a science fair poster.

One of the teachers, Ms. Carter-Spencer, used the poster to help students assess the data, which supported the hypothesis, since girls appeared to have performed better than the boys. The student body was awed when they saw the poster with all its images and graphs. The school principal, Ms. Efre-Lopez, stopped by during the presentation and spoke with the students, who responded with pride and excitement by explaining to her in great detail their astronaut's life-in-space project.


Ms. Carter-Spencer said that "the collaboration with Drs. Gannon and Kheck was a rewarding experience for all involved. The experiments that we performed in class and at home intrigued our kindergarteners. The "Smells to Mars" project took learning about our senses to another level for five-year old boys and girls. The children became the instructors and could not wait to take the materials home and conduct the experiments with family and friends. Their excitement about the results made me remember why I became a teacher in the first place. It was wonderful to see children actively engaged in learning and applying that knowledge to their own lives. Our science curriculum has truly been enriched and I look forward to trying other projects from the Defying Gravity Program Web site with my kindergarten students in the future."

Those who are interested in the subject are invited to visit the Web sites [www.defyinggravity.net](http://www.defyinggravity.net) and the education and outreach section of [www.nsbri.org](http://www.nsbri.org).

Photography by Ron Terner

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## Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.

### Axel Pedersen

Axel Pedersen, known in Denmark as Aksel Nymann, a resident of City Island for 35 years, died on June 26, 2005, at the age of 86, in Denmark, where he was born in 1918.

Aksel was the son of a farmer, and during World War II he joined the British army. After the war he was sent to Palestine in connection with establishing the state of Israel. When he was discharged from the army, in 1948, he bought a one-way ticket to New Zealand, where he worked as a technician for the International Harvester Company.

He spent 10 years in New Zealand and then decided to return to Denmark to see his parents. So he bought a 28-foot ketch, the *Marco Polo*, and on July 20, 1958, with two friends, he sailed as far as Tahiti, learning about celestial navigation as he went from the books he had brought along with him. In Tahiti his two friends returned home, and a Frenchman joined Axel for the next leg of the trip to Hawaii.

Along the way, the *Marco Polo* rammed into a coral reef and sank, but native Polynesians on a nearby island repaired the boat and took care of Axel's injuries, so that only a few weeks later they set sail for Hawaii. At this point the Frenchman left the boat, and Axel went on alone through the Panama Canal to the Caribbean. He stopped for two months in Jamaica to make some money, and then he continued across the Atlantic, where he was out of contact with anyone for 68 days.

In December 1963 he reached Land's End in England, and from there he sailed the North Sea to Skive, his parents' home town in Denmark, where he disembarked on Christmas Eve 1963. His parents were completely surprised (he hadn't wanted to worry them), but the press was waiting on the dock, since by that time, his journey had attracted a good deal of attention.

In 1964, Axel participated in the Transatlantic Single-Handed Race, sailing across the Atlantic from Plymouth, England, to Newport, Rhode Island. Because of heavy seas, he was lost track of for about two months, but eventually he was found and continued on to finish the race (he lost). He then settled in Huntington, Long Island, and in 1970 moved to Rochelle Street on City Island, where he lived and worked as a painter and carpenter until 1999. At the age of 80 he returned to Denmark, having lived a fine, adventurous life and where he belonged to the Adventurers' Club (along with John Glenn and Yuri Gagarin).

*The Island Current* published a profile of Axel Pedersen in March 1978, recounting his voyage from New Zealand to Denmark and his race back across the Atlantic. Again in October 1988, the *Current* reported how he was a member of the crew of *Cyrano*, a 70-foot staysail schooner that sailed from San Diego to Homer, Alaska. He had been hired for this trip of 2,300 nautical miles because of his reputation as an intrepid sailor, when he sailed on a catamaran to Iceland and was the only crew member not to abandon ship when the boat lost its mast.

### Frances L. Gaissl

Lifelong City Island resident Frances L. Gaissl, known to many as Franny, passed away on June 17, 2005. She was 61.

Fran was born to Frank and Marie (Mann) Gaissl on July 11, 1943. She attended St. Mary Star of the Sea elementary school and St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Best known for her wide smile and "Doris Day" looks, Fran loved her garden, the beach, her many friends and, most of all, her family. She is survived by her loving daugh-

ter, Theresa Bensaia of Yorktown Heights, New York, and her two granddaughters, Taylor and Gianna.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church at 11 a.m. She will be laid to rest in Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue.

### Robert L. Mickelson

Robert LeRoy Mickelson, 82, a longtime resident of City Island, died on July 5, 2005, in Newport, North Carolina.

He was born in Kings County, New York, on May 4, 1923, but moved to City Island at a young age and graduated from P.S. 17 and Theodore Roosevelt High School. His college education was interrupted by his entry into the U.S. Army in 1943. He served with distinction with the 36th Division, U.S. Fifth Army. He saw considerable action as a rifleman, earning a number of awards, among them the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge and a Good Conduct Medal.

Unlike the campaigns in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, where gains were measured in miles, advancing in Italy was measured in inches and feet. Robert saw action at Anzio and Monte Cassino, and he often talked about the Anzio Express, a German railway gun that bombarded the beachhead at Anzio with 562-pound shells. Robert was there when General Mark Clark took Rome, an event that received little media attention, since the capture was overshadowed by the Normandy invasion.

Robert was wounded in Tuscany in June 1944, when shrapnel from a German mortar shell struck him in the back. As a result of this injury, he spent three months in the hospital. Following his return to civilian life, Robert completed his college education and secured employment with First National City Bank in New York, where he served as a systems officer, retiring after 30 years.

He was active for many years at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island, where he served as warden, lay reader and superintendent of the Sunday school for 25 years.

Having an affinity with City Island's history, Robert was active in the City Island Historical Society. Scion of a family of boat builders and sailmakers, he bequeathed many of his artifacts to the Nautical Museum, where they may be seen in the Nautical and Community Rooms. There is a plaque with several photographs and military memorabilia. Among the founders of the museum, he

was a trustee until his death.

Robert Mickelson was a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 639. He always considered recipients of the Purple Heart a special breed and began a campaign to enable Purple Heart veterans to secure special license plates. Badgering legislators for two years finally paid off when Representative Bruce Ethridge sponsored a bill in the North Carolina General Assembly. The bill was approved in June 1990. As it should have been, Robert was issued the plate PH01.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Booth Mickelson; a daughter, Carol Mickelson Ciccarone of Malverne, New York; a son, Paul Hammond Mickelson of Sherman, Connecticut; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 639, P. O. Box 744, Morehead City, North Carolina 28557.

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**Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Savings 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 P.M. 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*

**SEPTEMBER 2005**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Thu	0516	0.7	1116	7.5	1725	1.0	2332	7.9	Thu 01
02 Fri	0553	0.6	1153	7.7	1759	0.8			Fri 02
03 Sat	0006	7.9	0622	0.6	1222	7.7	1825	0.7	Sat 03
04 Sun	0029	7.8	0640	0.6	1236	7.8	1844	0.5	Sun 04
05 Mon	0042	7.7	0652	0.5	1250	7.9	1907	0.4	Mon 05
06 Tue	0105	7.7	0717	0.4	1317	8.0	1940	0.3	Tue 06
07 Wed	0137	7.6	0750	0.4	1352	8.1	2018	0.3	Wed 07
08 Thu	0216	7.5	0828	0.5	1432	8.2	2100	0.4	Thu 08
09 Fri	0300	7.3	0911	0.7	1517	8.1	2149	0.7	Fri 09
10 Sat	0349	7.0	1000	1.0	1608	7.9	2244	0.9	Sat 10
11 Sun	0446	6.8	1055	1.3	1706	7.7	2350	1.2	Sun 11
12 Mon	0551	6.6	1200	1.5	1813	7.6			Mon 12
13 Tue	0123	1.2	0711	6.6	1321	1.5	1932	7.6	Tue 13
14 Wed	0300	0.9	0845	7.0	1506	1.1	2102	7.8	Wed 14
15 Thu	0403	0.4	0954	7.6	1618	0.5	2214	8.1	Thu 15
16 Fri	0457	-0.1	1049	8.1	1716	-0.2	2311	8.4	Fri 16
17 Sat	0546	-0.5	1137	8.5	1808	-0.7			Sat 17
18 Sun	0001	8.5	0632	-0.7	1223	8.8	1857	-0.9	Sun 18
19 Mon	0050	8.5	0716	-0.7	1307	8.8	1946	-1.0	Mon 19
20 Tue	0137	8.2	0759	-0.5	1352	8.7	2035	-0.8	Tue 20
21 Wed	0225	7.9	0842	-0.1	1438	8.4	2125	-0.4	Wed 21
22 Thu	0316	7.4	0926	0.4	1527	8.0	2220	0.2	Thu 22
23 Fri	0412	7.0	1015	0.9	1625	7.6	2319	0.7	Fri 23
24 Sat	0517	6.7	1118	1.4	1736	7.3			Sat 24
25 Sun	0022	1.1	0624	6.6	1230	1.8	1847	7.1	Sun 25
26 Mon	0124	1.3	0727	6.7	1337	1.9	1951	7.1	Mon 26
27 Tue	0221	1.3	0824	6.9	1436	1.8	2048	7.3	Tue 27
28 Wed	0313	1.3	0916	7.2	1528	1.5	2138	7.5	Wed 28
29 Thu	0358	1.1	1001	7.5	1613	1.2	2222	7.6	Thu 29
30 Fri	0438	1.0	1042	7.7	1653	0.9	2300	7.7	Fri 30

**OCTOBER 2005**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0512	0.8	1115	7.8	1726	0.7	2332	7.7	Sat 01
02 Sun	0537	0.7	1138	7.9	1753	0.4	2353	7.6	Sun 02
03 Mon	0553	0.6	1151	8.0	1815	0.2			Mon 03
04 Tue	0010	7.6	0614	0.4	1213	8.2	1842	0.0	Tue 04
05 Wed	0037	7.6	0645	0.4	1245	8.3	1916	0.0	Wed 05
06 Thu	0113	7.5	0721	0.4	1323	8.4	1956	0.1	Thu 06
07 Fri	0154	7.4	0802	0.6	1406	8.3	2040	0.3	Fri 07
08 Sat	0240	7.2	0848	0.8	1453	8.1	2131	0.6	Sat 08



Photo by YOLANDA CIRULLI

Swans and cygnets at Pilot Street beach during the summer of 2005.



**A City Island Potpourri**

We're sure somebody, somewhere had a very intelligent reason for the additional 40 feet or so of new chainlink fence on the City Island side of the bridge, but, oh boy, it sure does seem like waste from where we're sitting. Isn't the whole bridge supposed to be coming down in another year or two? Or maybe not. Maybe now that the Olympic Games will not be coming to New York in 2012, City Islanders will be spared the massive reconstruction project their bridge was to become.

Just over the bridge, a little way down Bridge Street, across from the "worm bar," strange structures have been erected. Ostensibly, they are the beginnings of foundations for new—yet again—construction on City Island. For now, though, there is something very Stonehenge about them as they just stand there, waiting. Or if yours is a more modern sensibility, how about the Gates, the Central Park Gates? Think about it the next time you pass by that way.

It was nice to see that family of swans circling City Island again this summer. Many of us held our breaths when we read about what happened to that cob and his mate across the bay, thinking we had seen the end of swans on City Island. Happily, that has not been the case. The ospreys were back again, too, this summer. Vinny knows the tree they like to catch their breath on as they maneuver their prey head on into the wind for the flight back to the nest.

Jane reports that the water was espe-

cially clear this summer, a fact which Paul attributes to the lack of rain in our area. According to Paul, big rain storms—with the emphasis on big—trip New York City's combined sewer system (i.e., one system for storm water and sewage), discharging sewage into the rivers and bays at something called a combined sewer outfall; there's one of those off west Schofield Street. And you always thought rain was sweet because it makes the flowers grow.

Finally, we wanted to clarify a thing or two about the cicadas, those locust-like insects of late summer. Number one, they are not the kind that emerge from their holes in the ground after a period of up to 17 years. Those cicadas are cousins of the ones we know. They are called periodic cicadas, the next brood of which is not scheduled to appear until 2007. There are 13-year broods, too. Scientists anticipate the next one of these to appear in 2011.

Our cicadas are called annual cicadas. Some know them as dog-day cicadas because of their July/August (i.e., the dog days of summer) appearance. The other thing is about those cicada killers, that is, those yellowjacket-like wasps, about an inch and a half long. Yes, they do sting; the females do, but rarely. The males do not; they can't because they're not equipped. But they can sure scare the heck out of you when you get too close to their hole-in-the-ground nests.

As always, we invite your input and welcome your feedback at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

The third annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza was held on June 30, 2005 off Orchard Beach. Sponsored by Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión and New York State Senator Jeffrey Klein, the show lit up the clear skies and delighted observers on both land and sea.

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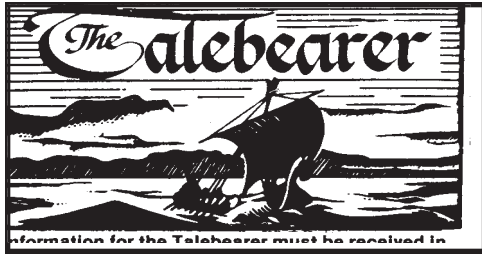
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations to Peter and Lisa Natiw on the June 18 birth of Robert Joseph. Thrilled big sister is Amanda, who turns three on Sept. 5.

Karen and Paul Mazzella welcome with love Marco Nicholas, who was born on Father's Day, June 19, much to the delight of big brother, Paul, and grandparents Roberta and Bill Collier and Diana and Sam Mazzella.

Happy birthday wishes across the miles to Stephen Swieciki, who will celebrate his 19th birthday on Sept. 2.

Happy anniversary on Sept. 5 to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio with love from your family and friends.

Belated birthday wishes to Cathy Cebek on Aug. 3 and her son Frankie on Aug. 22.

Happy birthday to Hawkins Street's Diane Carmody, who will celebrate her big day on Sept. 4.

Congratulations to Richie and Linda Ferris on the Aug. 4 birth of their son, Tyler. Thrilled big brothers are Ryan, Richard Jr., Tommy and big sister. Marissa.

Happy birthday wishes to Bay Street neighbors Ben DiGregorio, Jean Anderson and Bob Swieciki, who share a Sept. 12 birthday.

Happy birthday to Frank Cebek on Sept. 21.

Birthday greetings on Sept. 5 to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire.

Happy birthday on Sept. 21 to Hawkins Street's Charles Lacina with love from Stacy, Mommy, Nana and Pop.

Happy anniversary to Charles and Natalie Lacina on Sept. 30 with love from Stacy, Nana and Pop.

Happy birthday on Sept. 25 to Bette Lacina with love from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Happy 14th birthday on Sept. 23 to Cait Hennessy with love from Chelsea, Maria and Sue.

Graduation congratulations and good luck to Francis Christopher McGuire, who graduated from Fordham Prep in June. Francis is on his way to Sacred Heart University, where he will work toward his MBA. We will miss you and we love you very much. Remember we are all only a phone call away. The McGuire and Sena families.

Congratulations to Ellie and Joe McGuire on their Aug. 14 wedding. The wedding was magnificent and we wish you all the best. The McGuire family.

Belated July birthday greetings to Beth Rota and her sister, Susan Rauh, and a happy September birthday to their dad, Mike Rauh.

Maria Swieciki



Photos by SUSAN RAUH and RON TERNER

It was a lovely City Island wedding for Dr. Elizabeth Rauh and Matthew Rota on July 24, 2005. Beth and her parents, Mike and Judy Rauh, along with her attendants, Susan Rauh, Amy Cocuzza and Melissa Koller Byrnes rode the Stuyvesant Yacht Club launch to the City Island Yacht Club, where the ceremony was held on the lawn. Beth's sister, Susan, reprised her solo "Married" from "Cabaret," as the bride and groom waltzed their first dance. Ben Rota was best man for his brother. Matt's proud parents at the wedding were Margaret and David Rota of Waterloo, Illinois.



The girls of St. Mary, Star of the Sea softball team captured the 2005 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Division B championship during the summer. The winners are shown above (from the back l. to r.): coaches Walter Rodstrom and Wendy Walker, players Maria Swieciki, Julia Walker, Sarah Pryor, Lauren Branley, Delia Berger, Phoebe Mankewicz, Father Michael Challinor of St. Mary's, coach Mike Pryor, players Sarah Graves, Marissa Ferris, Melissa Pryor, Caitlin Engels, Cait Hennessy, Samantha Pryor, Chelsea Rodstrom and Julia Doyle. Not shown: Nicole Cody. Congratulations, sluggers!

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Photo by KAREN NANI

Dancer, choreographer and King Avenue resident Hyonok Kim is directing a new film in conjunction with the New York Film Academy. The dance film has a mythological theme and was shot on City Island during August (above) and on Union Square in Manhattan. The independent film will be shown at a festival in South Korea, Ms. Kim's birthplace, and at other independent film festivals. Trained in Paris, Ms. Kim has appeared in numerous films, including "The Fiendish Plot of Dr. Fumanchu" with Peter Sellers in 1980, and she has choreographed original works presented in over 22 countries.

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