

# The Island Current

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## CI STORM STORIES

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI  
A nor'easter hit City Island on March 13, 2010, with sustained winds of up to 50 miles per hour. The storm caused considerable flooding to waterfront areas, such as St. Mary's schoolyard, Consolidated Shipyard and the north end of the Island. A few boats washed ashore, but thankfully there was no loss of power on the Island, which helped keep homeowners' sump pumps running and basements fairly dry.



A fierce mid-March nor'easter hit City Island and the rest of the northeast on March 13, 2010, with sustained winds of up to 50 miles per hour. The storm caused considerable flooding and fallen branches, but thankfully there was no loss of power on the Island as there was in many neighboring areas.

The unusual duration and intensity of the unnamed storm, with gusts up to 70 m.p.h., put a damper on City Island restaurant businesses and damaged a number of waterfront areas and homes.

Island boatyard owners and operators were quick to respond to the storm. Owner Wes Rodstrom and his crew at Consolidated Shipyard on Pilot Street were forced to move one of the large yachts in the water over to Port Washington for safety. At least one dock was damaged at Consolidated, and the area around the travel lift was

flooded (see photo). Fortunately, none of the boats in dry dock storage were washed off their winter cradles or damaged.

The breakwater at the north end of City Island broke loose and washed up against a fishing boat dock. *Riptide's* boat house took a punch from the high winds (see photo p. 7), but *Riptide* itself was moved to safety during the storm.

One rowboat was flipped over a fence by the force of the waves into St. Mary's schoolyard and eventually ended up on the corner of Kilroe Street and King Avenue.

Despite the storm's ferocity, a number of planned parties went on as scheduled with a few unintended breaks in the evening's agenda. The Harlem Yacht Club and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church held their St. Patrick's Day dances as planned on Saturday evening, March 13, and despite

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## City Island Express Bus Saved — Sort of

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island residents fearful of being stranded by transit cuts were relieved to learn that the MTA agreed on March 19 that beginning in June it would extend the Pelham Bay express bus to City Island during peak commuting times rather than eliminate it altogether as had been announced.

Thanks to the efforts of Council Member James Vacca during negotiations with MTA officials, Islanders will have the same number of rides to and from Manhattan, two in the morning and two in the late afternoon, as they currently have with the City Island-specific express bus, known as the BxM7B. The Pelham Bay bus is known as the BxM7A, and it picks up and drops off at the same locations in Manhattan.

"All Islanders deserve credit for letting the MTA know how important this service is to us," Mr. Vacca said. "The express bus is the only direct link between City Island and Manhattan, and its elimination would have added an hour to residents' daily commute while saving the MTA relatively little."

State Senator Jeff Klein and Community Board 10 District Manager Ken Kearns also supported the concerns of Islanders (see Box 6 this issue).

Starting in January, Vacca led a petition drive throughout the East Bronx, including on City Island, to oppose the MTA's proposed service cuts. Several Islanders also traveled halfway across the borough on March 3 to attend the MTA's Bronx public hearing at the Paradise Theater. The result was that the BxM7B was the only express bus whose service was restored in the latest MTA plan.

However, Islander Bill Stuttig told *The Current*: "My fear with the Pelham Bay plan is that Islanders will stop using the bus after continual 90-minute to two-hour

bus rides to and from their jobs make it more difficult for them to get to work on time or return home to their families at a reasonable time at the end of the day. Then the MTA will have no choice but to kill the line which has been serving City Island since the mid-1970s. A better option I feel, it is to have the two City Island buses that leave every morning and return every night make stops along the Bruckner service road at Tremont, Castle Hill and White Plains Road. New York Bus did this when they had the City Island run years ago and nobody seemed to mind the extra two minutes and it allowed the bus company to fill the 10 to 20 empty seats after the bus leaves City Island."

Mr. Vacca confirmed that there is nothing that can be done about what he estimated to be an extra 15 minutes for City Islander riders, but he said there should not be concerns about getting a seat on the way back. "The Pelham Bay bus is apparently not very heavily used," he said. "In fact, if the MTA didn't combine the two lines, they were thinking about cutting the Pelham Bay bus too. It would be very rare for Islanders to get shut out on the way back up."

Mr. Vacca stressed that despite the restoration, the fight to oppose all MTA cuts, and even to maintain the current City Island service, will go on. "As Transportation Chair at the Council, I'm still fighting to prevent all cuts citywide, but at least the people of City Island won't be stranded," he said. And, as Mr. Stuttig points out, "Even though the vote was taken yesterday [March 24], alterations to the plan can be made because they are of a minor nature and do not require board approval. We can still continue to fight to have the plan tweaked to make it more practical for commuters."

## SHOOTING STARS!



Photo by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

It was another exciting season for the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program, especially for the Girls Junior Varsity Debs team, who were 2010 Eastern Division champions and Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) county finalists. The proud JV girls are shown above with their coaches, Frank Strazzera, Tristen Howell and George Spencer: (front row, l. to r.) Katie Moore, Nia Phillips, Lily Kolb, Christine Rice, Sydney Saulnier, Deirdre Spencer and Shannon Saulnier. Back row: Alicia Jones, Jordan DeSantis, Francesca Strazzera, Ashley Howell, Nia Drew, Ashley Goldman and Alexis Candelaria.

## BRIEFLY...

**BOATING SAFETY COURSE**, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 05 04, will take place at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue, on April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m. The test will be on April 28. The cost is \$75, which includes all materials. Contact Alan Lesser at [alanlesser@gmail.com](mailto:alanlesser@gmail.com) or 845-323-0265. The Auxiliary will give free vessel safety checks throughout the 2010 boating season; contact Norm Harris at [harris0426@aol.com](mailto:harris0426@aol.com) or call 718-312-9657.

**AUDITION FOR "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"**: The New York Kids Theatrical Alliance (NYKTA) will present William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Trinity United Methodist Fellowship Hall in late May. The company is looking to cast mostly City Island students, ages 9 to 19. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, April 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the church hall, on Bay Street. No experience is necessary, and all students are encouraged to try out. Scheduled performance dates are Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23; the performance times will be announced. NYKTA was founded in 2002 and has produced 15 plays throughout the Northeast Bronx; this will be the company's first production on City Island. For more information, please call the executive director, Maggie Ruzo, at 646-406-3322.

**SAVE THE DATE**: The geraniums will be in bloom and the annual City Island Garden Club Luncheon, Our Blooming Island, will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010. Come one, come all and join in the fun of beautiful baskets and prizes raffled and sharing wonderful company.

**2ND ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF ART BY CITY ISLAND ARTISTS** at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. Artists can submit up to two works of art featuring City Island. There are no entry fees, all media and styles are welcome, but all pieces should reference City Island in some way. Space is limited, so it will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Artists should expect to leave their work in the museum for three months. The deadline for submission is May 16. There will be an opening reception for the exhibit on Sunday, May 23, 2010. Please call Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at 718-885-0933 to submit work for the exhibit.

**JOIN THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM!** City Island's only museum, the only collection of historical information and artifacts about City Island's past, needs you. Our membership program is crucial to our ability to stay open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Families \$25, individuals \$20, seniors and students \$10. Please send a check made out to the City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, City Island NY 10464, or come visit the museum in person in the old P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street. You will be pleasantly surprised by this jewel in our community. For more information, call 718-885-0507.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER COMMEMORATION:** Since our early history, American Presidents have set apart days for prayer, thanksgiving and fasting. The Continental Congress observed the first such day in 1775. In 1952 an annual day of prayer was instituted, and in 1988 the annual day was set for the first Thursday in May. This year our country will celebrate the annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6, and once again Grace Church (116 City Island Avenue) will host an interfaith all-community prayer service that evening from 6 to 7 p.m. Clergy and lay representatives from City Island's four houses of worship will offer prayers for our families, our City Island community, our veterans and active service members, and our country. We invite everyone to join us at Grace on May 6.

**CITY ISLAND REUNION:** On Aug. 21 this year, beginning at 11 a.m., there will be a huge City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field. Come celebrate with friends you haven't seen in days or decades! Admission is \$10 per person to cover expenses (tents, bandstand, Porta-potties, permits, clean-up, and miscellaneous items). Kids 12 and under get in free. All proceeds will be donated to the City Island Little League, so even if you're not sure you can attend, please donate anyway. If you would like to use this event as a fund-raiser for your City Island organization by selling snacks or beverages or other items, please e-mail us as soon as possible to make arrangements. We will be accepting requests on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information or to pay in advance, please e-mail [cityislandreunion@yahoo.com](mailto:cityislandreunion@yahoo.com) or visit the Facebook group The 2010 City Island Reunion. Hope to see you there!

**SILVER SNEAKERS MARTIAL ARTS:** It's never too late to learn martial arts! On Tuesdays starting in April from 10 to 11 a.m., the Silver Sneakers Martial Arts program will exercise your body and mind as you learn to defend yourself. The classes, which will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, are set appropriately for ages 50 and over. For more information, call Harvey at 718-231-9618.

**CITG PRESENTS NOEL COWARD'S "BLITHE SPIRIT."** There will be only six performances of the wonderful classic comedy "Blithe Spirit," so call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com) right away to reserve your tickets. "Blithe Spirit" will be performed at the Grace Church Parish Hall, located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street. Performance dates are April 30, May 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and May 2 at 3 p.m.

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**THE 26TH ANNUAL BRONX TRIATHLON** will take place on Sunday, April 25, at Orchard Beach. Those who wish to leave City Island that morning for points north should be prepared to avoid the Hutchinson River Parkway, which will be closed to traffic in the morning. The event consists of a 2.8-mile run, a 20-mile bike race, followed by another 2.8-mile run and begins at 8 a.m., although the roads will be closed at about 6 a.m. and may not reopen until after 10. For more information, go to [www.nytri.org](http://www.nytri.org).

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2010. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF  
1 - GRAND LARCENY AUTO  
1 - UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF A WEAPON  
1 - DOA

Police report the following incidents for the period from Feb. 15 to March 15, 2010.

2/24 - Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating an incident of vandalism to a parked car on Pilot Street during the evening hours. The car was "keyed" and the tires punctured.

3/1 - On Centre Street during the overnight hours, unknown suspects stole the tires and rims from a parked car (grand larceny auto).

3/3 - The vehicle, then later the body, of Scarsdale resident Mona Shimshi was found abandoned on Range Road in Rodman's Neck at 10:30 a.m. Scarsdale Police Department had reported Mona Shimshi and her vehicle missing on February 28, 2010. The joint investigation is being handled by the 45th Precinct and Scarsdale Detective Squads.

3/6 - A report of slashed tires (criminal mischief) and broken windows on an auto was reported at 3 p.m. No arrest has been made.

3/15 - Around 8 p.m. on Earley Street, neighbors reported that several youths were shooting BB guns at a car. The unknown males fled the scene before police arrived.

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# City Island Movie Screened at Pelham Picture House

By MARSHA TREIBER and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MARSHA TREIBER

A large group of City Island residents gathered at the Pelham Picture House on March 4, 2010 for a screening of the movie "City Island," which was filmed during the summer of 2008 on Horton Street and other Island locations. The movie was released in Manhattan and Los Angeles on March 19, but Islanders were delighted that the Pelham theater previewed the film. Among the attendees was David Vetter (photo far right), who appears briefly in the film.

City Islanders came out in droves and practically filled all 383 seats at the Pelham Picture House on Thursday, March 4, 2010, for a screening of the movie filmed here during the summer of 2008. "City Island" was released on March 19 in two theaters, one in Manhattan and one in Los Angeles, but Islanders were very fortunate that the staff of the Pelham Picture House held a preview of the film, followed by a question-and-answer session with critic Rafer Guzmán of Newsday and writer/director Raymond De Felitta (top photo, right).

Thanks to a last-minute flurry of publicity on City Island, the theater quickly filled up with Islanders, many of whom were curious about the movie and somewhat skeptical about the idea of yet another dysfunctional family picture based on City Island (remember "Long Day's Journey into Night," "Love Is All There Is" and "The Royal Tenenbaums"). Sara Gold, publicity director for the Picture House, was delighted to see so many in the audience. "These are George Clooney numbers!" she told *The Current*. (Of course, this *Current* reporter was impressed but also dismayed that she had missed the actor's appearance at the Picture House in May 2008 for a screening of "Leatherheads.")

As the crowd settled down and the lights dimmed, a cheer went up when the words "City Island" appeared on the screen. Murmurs of "That's David Vetter" rippled through the audience as the camera followed him walking down to the end of Horton Street for a swim. Views of Eastchester Bay brought on remarks like "There's my boat!" and "That's the Connolly house!" But then the story began, and it didn't take long for everyone to become engrossed in the dysfunctions of the Rizzo family. And by the halfway point, the audi-

ence clearly cared a good deal about the characters even as they laughed at their misadventures. As the film ended, the general response was very positive, and when Raymond De Felitta asked the audience to help promote the opening weekend in Manhattan at the Angelika Theater, most people seemed inclined to do so.

One minor sour note was struck as Vince Rizzo's son Tony toasted his father as "the only actor on City Island," a claim that members of the City Island Theater Group in the audience knew to be at least 10 years out of date. But all was quickly forgiven, as the group agreed later to work with the film's publicity team to promote the movie.

Rafer Guzmán asked Mr. De Felitta a number of questions about the making of the film, including why it had taken so long for the script, which was written nearly a decade ago, to become a movie. It was difficult to find funding, but the director's persistence paid off. He said that he always tells his investors, "I can't tell you if you'll make any money doing this, but I know you'll be proud of what I do." And judging from the response of this audience and the one at the Tribeca Film Festival last year, where the movie won the Audience Award, he and his cast and crew deserve to be very proud indeed. He also spoke of the dedication of Andy Garcia, the lead actor and a producer of the film, who loved the humanity of the story and was a happy collaborator. "Andy wanted to re-frame people's idea of him as the first modern Latino film star. The love the public has for him is bigger than any single role he's done," Mr. De Felitta said.

Actress Marcia Gay Harden was originally cast to play Andy's wife in the film but was replaced at the last minute by Julianna Margulies (TV's "The Good Wife").



Andy and Julianna had acted together in "The Man from the Elysian Fields" and were pleased to have the opportunity to work together again.

After the interview, the audience was invited to ask questions, and, not surprisingly, several of them were about City Island: "How did you cope with the traffic?" "Did you know that another great director, Sidney Lumet, worked on City Island in the 1960s?" Mr. De Felitta was happy to report that although 20 of the 27 days allotted for shooting the film took place on City Island, they worked during the week and didn't have to struggle getting on and off the Island. And as for the Lumet film, "Long Day's Journey into Night," Mr. De Felitta was well aware of his predecessor and had taken his crew to see the house at one point during the filming.

That house, which is on Tier Street and was also the location for a couple of scenes in "The Royal Tenenbaums" in 2000, was featured in a New York Times article on Sunday, March 14. The reporter focused on the subject of City Island as a movie location, noting that "City Island" was one of a very few in which the island actually



played itself.

Raymond De Felitta also answered a number of other questions about technique and specific aspects of film making, including the importance of music. The score is the last piece added to a movie, he explained, "to keep the integrity of the director's vision." However, from the beginning, the director "needs to have a strong notion of the music; otherwise others can mess with the film."

Judging from the enthusiastic response of the audience on March 4, this film

## Michael Clancy Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel



Lt. Col. Michael Clancy

Major Michael N. Clancy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District – better known as #2 son of clam digger Bill Clancy (see New York Boat Show, page 11) – was promoted in March to the rank of lieutenant colonel in a ceremony in Lower Manhattan. Lt. Col. Clancy, who grew up on City Island, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1993 with a BS degree in engineering management. He joined the New York District in July 2009 and serves as the deputy district commander. In that position, he is second in command of the district responsible for the Corps' water resource development, navigation and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south central New York State, including the New York Harbor and Long Island, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

The district is also responsible for design and construction at Army and Air Force installations in New Jersey, New York, Virginia and overseas in Green-

land. The district has various missions in and around the Bronx, including ecosystem restoration work in Soundview Park, which recently moved forward toward completion, and plans to add sand to Orchard Beach to fight erosion and provide flood protection.

Prior to his present leadership assignment at the New York District, Lt. Col. Clancy served in a variety of units throughout the United States and the world. These have included three assignments in Iraq, one as a combat engineer with the 1st Armored Division, one constructing support facilities as the 3rd Corps Support Command Engineer and one serving as the resident engineer for South Baghdad with the Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District, which is part of the Corps' massive reconstruction effort there.

"I am grateful for all of the experiences I've had and the people I've met throughout my military career, and I look forward to serving the Army and the nation at the next rank," Lt. Col. Clancy said.

His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (third award), Meritorious Service Medal (fourth award), Army Commendation Medal (second award), Army Achievement Medal (second award), National Defense Service Medal (second award), the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze de Fluery Medal. Along with his degree from West Point, Lt. Col. Clancy also has an MS degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla and one from Columbia University.

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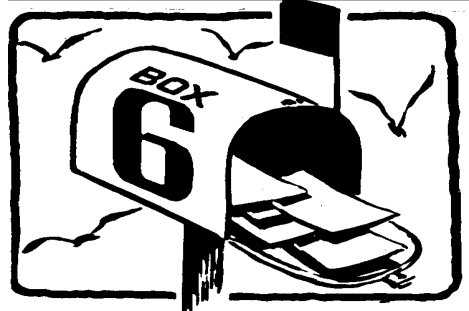
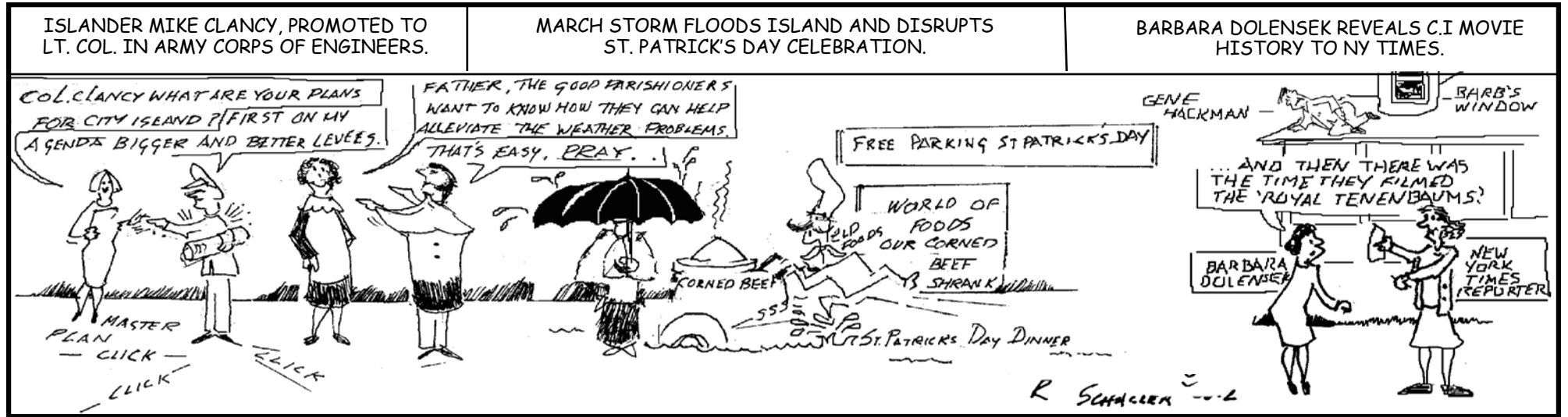



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**Express Bus Concerns**

The following are excerpts from letters received by The Current:

Presented at the MTA Hearing, March 3, 2010:

The MTA's proposal calls for the complete elimination of the BxM7B express bus service on City Island. This is a geographically isolated community with access to the IRT #6 Train at Pelham Bay. The agency claims that commuters could access the train and the BxM7A Bus at Pelham Bay. On paper this appears to be an effortless transfer from local bus service to the subway and express bus service. However, the agency has not commented on the need for an increased number of BX # 29 buses arriving and leaving City Island to catch the express trains and buses leaving Pelham Bay. . . .

The MTA is a large regional transportation organization that has been assembled from formerly private rail and bus lines and state-owned transportation entities. It is a model that is over 40 years old. It is replete with duplicative services, three separate bus companies and three commuter rail lines, each with its own procurement, administrative and personnel structures. Bronx Community Board #10 respectfully requests that the agency look to an internal analysis of its operations before it enacts these changes.

**Kenneth Kearns  
District Manager, Community Board 10**

To the Editor:

Regarding an ill-advised proposal by the MTA to eliminate the BX14 and BX-M7B daily bus services, the BX34 weekend bus service and vital MTA Student Metro-cards, I know how vital these services are to thousands of Bronx residents and will do everything I can to prevent these cuts from happening.

I have met with MTA Chairman Jay Walder personally to convey my concern and to outline the devastating impact these cuts would have on our communities. Since January, my office has collected nearly a thousand petitions from residents demanding that the MTA find alternative solutions before cutting vital services of residents who have limited access to public transportation.

The possible elimination of the BXM7B service and BX34 weekend and overnight routes would put a heavy burden on the residents of the Woodlawn and City Island communities. While the BX34 weekday service would be spared, many of my constituents work weekend and overnight shifts, including union workers who make up a large part of the Woodlawn community. The BX34 also provides a direct route to Montefiore

Medical Center, which is relied upon for vital medical services. For City Island residents, the BXM7B is the only direct service that can get them to and from Manhattan for work. It also provides a vital economic service by carrying Manhattan residents, who bring in much needed revenue to area restaurants and shops, on a weekend trip to beautiful City Island. These cuts would not only impact transportation, the ability for residents to keep their jobs and receive vital healthcare, but will directly impact the economic vitality and potential for future job creation in these communities.

**Jeff Klein  
State Senate Deputy Majority Leader**

Mr. Jay Walder, Chairman MTA  
347 Madison Ave.  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Walder:

Out of the 830 express bus runs that serve the Bronx on a daily, weekday basis, the only community that will have its express bus service cut completely is City Island, the most isolated community in the city. City Island is served by only four runs a day—two Manhattan-bound in the morning and two Bronx-bound in the evening. This means that Co-op City, Parkchester, Pelham Bay, Throgs Neck, Morris Park, Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Riverdale and the majority of express buses serving Bedford Park will have virtually unaffected, nearly around-the clock service for seven days a week. But, City Island will now have no service for the first time in 35 years.

I wonder if you can make public the number of riders for the 5 a.m. bus leaving Co-op City on Saturday mornings or the 5:15 a.m. bus leaving Throgs Neck. I am sure it is only a handful of people. But there is no talk of cutting these runs or even adding a minute or two to the intervals between buses during certain hours on each of these lines. I am sure you can save more than a dozen runs by doing just that and nobody would really notice an extra two-minute wait.

But instead of doing that, you single out one small isolated community for which you only provide two rush-hour buses each way and you cut them altogether, forcing approximately 80 working men and women to find alternate and more time-consuming means of transportation to their jobs each day. This hardly seems just or fair. If these cuts are necessary, they should be shared across the board so each community feels a minor inconvenience. As it stands now, one community is sharing the brunt of everything when it comes to cuts in express bus service in the Bronx.

**William J Stuttgart**

To the Editor:

As many of your readers know, the MTA has proposed eliminating the City Island express bus as part of a whole host of service cuts that will help the agency balance a budget deficit of at least \$400 million. I want you to know that as Chairman of the City Council's Transportation Committee, I have been fighting nonstop to prevent all service cuts citywide, but especially those that will impact my community.

The BXM7B bus is City Island's only

direct link to Manhattan, saving the average commuter over 40 minutes a day and at a relatively low cost. It's an extremely limited service that, by the MTA's own admission, only costs the agency \$200,000 a year to run. I have spoken directly to MTA officials, including New York City Transit President Tom Prendergast, to devise a plan that will preserve express bus service for City Island, and I am hopeful that they have heard Islanders loud and clear and are taking our issues to heart.

I want to thank the many City Islanders who signed on to my office's petition opposing this irrational cut and urge you to continue reaching out to the MTA to let them know that you want City Island service preserved. You can also call Governor Paterson's office at 212-681-4580 to let him know the State needs to pay its fair share for mass transit services. Please feel free to reach out to my office at any time to find out how else you can help in this fight.

**Councilman James Vacca**

**Thank You**

To the Editor:

As many of you know, 2010 for us began with grieving and sadness stemming from the loss of the cornerstone of our family, Dolores Mazzella. Although time can help bring some relief and healing, our family and friends truly proved their support in our time of need. Words cannot express the thanks we feel toward each one of you for being there. In fact, we find it difficult to list everyone formally, as we are blessed with so many caring people in our lives. So to everyone that prayed, hoped, supported, cooked, visited, sent cards, brought gifts, hugged, kissed, held, cried for our mom/wife, thank you and God bless you.

**The Mazzella family—  
Anthony, Michael, Matthew, Jeannine  
and John**

**Finding Thanks**

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the people who found Olivia's iPod. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Dominick and Grammy. You have restored our faith in humanity. It's people like you who make a community like City Island such a wonderful place.

**Maryanne Albertelli**

# St. Mary's Basketball Scores!

By KAREN NANI

The 2009–2010 St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball season was filled with many winning moments. Program directors Annamarie and Bob Whelan reported enthusiastically that three of their six teams went to Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) championship games: Boys Bantams, Boys Junior Varsity and Girls Junior Varsity. In addition, the Girls Varsity made it to the semifinals.

At their season closing ceremony on March 28, team coaches proudly gave out trophies to all the hard-working players. Annamarie and Bob also announced that for the first time in program history, there will be a mascot for next season. "We had a contest in which the children of our program submitted mascot ideas," they told *The Current*. Shannon Saulnier was the winner, and she received an iPod at the trophy ceremony. "Next season, we will call ourselves the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Sharks," a title with a seafaring flare appropriate for a group of City Island students. The players will have warm-up jerseys with a shark on them.

The Whelans also presented all the dedicated coaches with sweatshirts as a token of appreciation for volunteering their time to the children.

And the games will go on! The Girls Gidget coaches, Bob Whelan and Marcos Negrón, will be offering free basketball clinics throughout the spring for girls ages 6 to 9. If you are interested please inquire at [SMSSBB@yahoo.com](mailto:SMSSBB@yahoo.com).

A summary of each team's season follows.

## Boys Bantams

The 2009–2010 Boys Bantam team was very competitive. They faced talented opponents throughout the season, and all players contributed to the team's success. The Bantams advanced through the playoffs, defeating a team they had lost to twice during the regular season, paving the way to the CYO Division B championship game. The boys played very hard against a tough opponent in the championship game but came up short of the title. Coaches Mike Whelan and Mark Amos extend their appreciation to all of the parents who committed their time volunteering at games and making sure the boys made it to practice.

Congratulations on a successful season for the Bantam players: Steven Rice, Joseph Cruz, Michael Amos, Christopher Tomsen, Aiden Saulnier, Mateo Tomlinson, Andrew Whelan and Deion Rodriguez.

## Girls Junior Varsity

The JV Debs team had a championship season, led by co-MVPs Ashley Howell and Francesca Strazzera. They were Eastern Division champions and county

finalists. All the girls contributed to their successful season. The girls won first place at the Xavier Wildcat Tournament and second place at the Villa Holiday tournament. Coaches Frank Strazzera, Tristen Howell and George Spencer would like to thank the parents for their help and support throughout the season. Coaches' awards went to Jordan Desantis and Christine Rice. A special thanks to all the fans who came to cheer them on at Mount Carmel. It was an incredible turnout and made the team proud to be from St. Mary's.

The Eastern Division champs were Katie Moore, Nia Phillips, Lily Kolb, Christine Rice, Sydney Saulnier, Deirdre Spencer, Shannon Saulnier, Alicia Jones, Jordan DeSantis, Francesca Strazzera, Ashley Howell, Nia Drew, Ashley Goldman and Alexis Candelaria.

## Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

St. Mary's Boys JV had a fantastic year. The team played hard all season and the coaches, Tommy Orzo and Jabari Weste watched the boys mature into young men. The team went undefeated at home (10–0) and finished the season with a total of 30 wins in all. They made it to the semifinals of the CYO playoffs, losing to the eventual A Division Bronx Champions. Always resilient, they proceeded to finish in first place at the season ending St. Brendan's school tournament the following week. With all 12 players scoring points in the same game on multiple occasions throughout the year, this group epitomized the word "Team."

Congratulations to the high scoring JV team members: Lavon Nelson, Anthony Gonzalez, Jonathan Nagy, Louie Gonzalez, Jabari Weste, Nick La Briola, Michael La Briola, Mikey Pirraglia, Damien, Daniel Johnson, Emmett Shanley, Scott Cruz, Diego Elias Mercado and Gabi Angel Cabrera.

## Girls Varsity

St. Mary's Girls Varsity, coached by Bob Whelan and Marcos Negrón, had a great year. The team had one returning player and eight new girls at the varsity level. The team played hard all season compiling a record of 14–13 and losing six games by three points or less. They made it to the semifinals of the CYO B playoffs, losing to a tough St. Clare's team.

Congratulations on a job well done to Erin Schlottman, Brittany Phillips, Samantha Fontana, Brianna Saunders, Catherine Graves, Kaylin Fitzpatrick, Chelsea Negrón, Emily DeJimenez and Briana Whelan.

## Boys Varsity

Congratulations to the Boys Varsity team, coached by Johnny Valenti. The

*Continued on page 14*



Photos by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Boys Bantams. Top row (l. to r.): coach Mark Amos, Aiden Saulnier, Mateo Tomlinson, Andrew Whelan, Deion Rodriguez and coach Mike Whelan. Bottom row: Steven Rice, Joseph Cruz, Michael Amos and Christopher Tomsen.



Girls Varsity. Top row: coach Bob Whelan, Erin Schlottman, Brittany Phillips, Samantha Fontana, Brianna Saunders and assistant coach, Marcos Negrón. Bottom row: Catherine Graves, Kaylin Fitzpatrick, Chelsea Negrón and Briana Whelan. Not shown: Emily DeJimenez.



Boys Varsity. Top row: Vincent Forman, Isaac Rowser, Joshua Garcia, Walter Brennan, Alexei Xhokxhiu, Cian Byrne and coach Johnny Valenti. Bottom row: Conner Saulnier, Dante Rodriguez, John Eric Valenti, Michael O'Conner and John Branley. Not shown: Brandon Rosenblatt.



Boys Junior Varsity. Top row: coach Jabari Weste, Lavon Nelson, Anthony Gonzalez, Jonathan Nagy, Louie Gonzalez, Jabari Weste, Nick La Briola and coach Tommy Orzo. Bottom row: Michael La Briola, Mikey Pirraglia, Damien, Daniel Johnson, Emmett Shanley and Scott Cruz. Not shown: Diego Elias Mercado and Gabi Angel Cabrera.



Girls Gidgets. Top row: coach Bob Whelan, Destiny White Foster, Sabrina Fontana, Jessica Hines, Claudia Angel Tapler and assistant coach Marcos Negrón. Bottom row: Rebecca Scott, Christine Whelan, Dava-Lee Candelaria and Samantha Negrón.



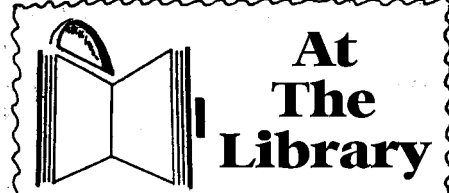
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

Join in the celebration of **Papa John's Deli's** 10-year anniversary on Saturday, April 3, at 2 p.m. Come have cake and coffee. There will be face painting for the kids. The celebration will be at the store, which is located at 325 City Island Avenue. Hope to see you there!

**Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) starts the month with "rock band"—and art. On Thursday, April 1, there's no fooling around with Fred Kimmel's Rock Band 101, a continuing first Thursday of the month music series, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, April 3, Nicola rocks the house, starting at 8 p.m. Earlier that day, Debbie Gioello brings her butterfly and other paintings to our walls. The rest of April's Saturdays are, all at 8 p.m.: April 10 (Two Guitars), April 17 (Pleasant Bud and a "Circle of Friends"), and April 24 (Project Mercury). Sundays offer Freddie Lando (April 11, 3 p.m.) and the debut of Toni Brandt (April 18, 3 p.m.). Also in April, our Thursday music series continues with performances at 8 p.m. For a more complete schedule, visit [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com).

Mark Ploch, owner of City Island's **Doyle Ploch Sails** at 225 Fordham Street, has become a dealer for Bic Sport and will be offering the O'Pen Bic high-performance sailing dinghy, as well as Bic paddle boards and kayaks. The launch of the Bic line is the first step in the creation of Island Nautical's Outdoor Center. The Bic sailing dinghies are designed for children and teenagers. In addition, paddle boarding is becoming an increasingly more popular sport because it is "not only fun, but it's also great exercise. The boards are fairly stable and ideal for the waters we have here on Long Island Sound," says Mark. Island Nautical also carries name-brand sailing apparel, including Slam, Puma, Gill and Atlantis. Call them at 718-885-2295 or visit their website at [www.IslandNautical.com](http://www.IslandNautical.com).

The April exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, is "Artist's Choice," featuring paintings, drawings, photographs and sculpture selected by each artist. There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. For information, call 718-885-1403.



**Important Message:** Because of major budget cuts, the library has been forced to reduce hours, as follows: Mondays and Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 1 to 6 p.m., Fridays: 12 noon to 5 p.m., Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**April Children's Programs**

**Baby Lapsit Program:** Wednesdays, April 7 and 21, 10:30 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

**Pre-School Program:** Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Ages 3 to 5.

**Parents Workshop:** "How to help your child succeed in doing research." Come join us on Wednesday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m.

**Picture Book Program:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 11.

**Spring Arts and Crafts:** Tuesday, April 6, at 3:30 p.m.

**Young Adult Programs**

**Graphic Novel Rewrite:** Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Manga Overdrive:** Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Yu-Gi-Oh:** Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Teen Time Game On:** Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Special Program:** Game Strike. Friday, April 30, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Adult Programs**

**Basic Computer Instruction:** Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian. Pre-registration is required.

**Resumé Writing Workshop:** Need help in writing or updating your resumé? Come to our workshop. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance.

**Special Program:** Health Education Workshops. Eli Lilly Company will present four monthly workshops. Friday, April 23, from 12 to 5 p.m. Led by Laurie Szumigala.

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

**Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Events**

On the first Friday of the month, April 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Bronx Trolley returns from its winter break. Hop on the Bronx Seaside Trolley for a free ride to the museum, tour the mansion, listen to live music and enjoy light refreshments. Then take the trolley on to City Island. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Admission \$8 adults, \$5 seniors & children.

Children ages 7 to 9 on spring break are invited to gather around the museum's wigwam and learn about the culture and experiences of the original Bronx natives—the Siwanoy Indians. Design crafts from natural materials, enjoy stories and take mini-hikes to explore our natural surroundings. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Monday, April 5, through Wednesday, April 7. Registration is required; cost per child \$100 (members \$80), but scholarships are available. Call 718-885-1461.

**Spring Owl Program**

Owl enthusiasts of all ages are welcome to enjoy an afternoon that is sure to delight! Urban Park Rangers and guest speaker Bobby Horvath, founder of Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation (WINORR), offer fascinating information and rescued owls for all to see. Registration required. Cost \$10 (members \$8).

Volunteer Garden Clean-up Day takes place on Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help keep the garden and grounds of the museum looking beautiful. Roll up your sleeves and don your gardening gloves; please wear sturdy shoes also. Light breakfast will be available. Registration requested. Free.

On Sunday, April 25, at 3 p.m., the Bronx Arts Ensemble presents a wonder-

ful afternoon of chamber music in the beautiful Greek Revival interior of the mansion. Musicians Elaine Comparone and Mona Zarina perform selections from Bach, Mozart and Scarlatti. Space is limited, and tickets are required. Call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718-601-7399 for tickets and information. Tickets \$25.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
232 City Island Ave.	1/15/10	\$350,000	Commercial
163 Tier Street	1/20/10	\$385,000	1 Family
299 Fordham Pl.	2/20/10	\$590,000	3 Family

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## STORM

*Continued from page 1*

howling winds and crashing waves, both parties were well attended.

"The weather-hardy City Islanders showed up at St. Mary's and danced the night away," commented Buckley Street resident Judy Fitzmaurice DiMaio, one of the revelers. "There was corned beef and cabbage, homemade Irish soda bread, a great band, and a grand time was had by all." The only break in the festivities came when party-goers were asked to move their cars from the schoolyard as it started to flood.

Merriment was mixed with concern at the Harlem Yacht Club. About 40 partygoers were temporarily stranded in the club until after midnight, because they didn't realize the enormity of the storm. "They never had flooding that bad before. The water came over the sea wall and down into the parking lot," said Mary Dannegger, part of the wait staff at the club.

Many of the Islanders who attended

knew of the flooding that often accompanies such storms and parked on City Island Avenue or moved their cars out of the parking lot before high tide, which was at 10:38 p.m. Others weren't so lucky and tried to move their cars when the water was about a foot and a half deep. Some climbed into their cars through the windows only to find that the water right outside the entrance was about three feet deep and rendered most of the vehicles "out of commission" as they say in yacht club circles.

There were also reports of damaged fences and broken beach steps from waterfront homes on the Island. Many residents' sump pumps worked overtime to keep basements fairly dry, and most street flooding subsided by the next day. Given that many surrounding neighborhoods in the Bronx, Westchester and Connecticut were without power for several days, many Islanders were relieved that this storm was not nearly as bad as the "Storm of the Century," that other unnamed nor'easter in 1992.

# DIAZ OUTLINES PLANS FOR THE BRONX

By FRED RAMFTL JR.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. gave his first State of the Borough address to a packed audience at the Evander Childs Educational Campus (formerly Evander Childs High School). He began by commending the Bronx for its wonderful response to the recent earthquake in Haiti and then gave a brief history of the Bronx, including the fact that Gouverneur Morris of the Bronx wrote the preamble to the Constitution.

He then went on to discuss many issues of great importance to residents of the Bronx, such as housing. He reported that a dismal 28 percent of Bronxites own their own houses compared to 55 percent of New York residents and two-thirds of Americans. He feels that new development should allow for home ownership. He wants waterfront properties to be used for housing and economic development, along with recreation, and he has reached out to banks to lend the capital needed to increase development across the borough. He believes that developers who receive tax dollars to create jobs should be required to create real living wage jobs with benefits.

The Borough President then spoke about how the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) held its first annual economic summit, which consisted of leaders from businesses, communities and not-for profit organizations. At the summit, leaders discussed the economic issues of the borough, such as creating new jobs, growing the economy, expanding the film industry in the Bronx and bringing a first class hotel to the borough. He noted that we have an excellent zoo and plenty of great restaurants, but that visitors leave the Bronx for the evening because of the lack of hotel space. As a result, millions of dollars leave the county that should be spent here.

Improving communities across the Bronx was another subject that he covered. He reported that he gave \$21 million to schools, cultural institutions and senior groups and told the crowd how the Bronx has to fight for its fair share of dollars from the Bloomberg administration. Additionally, his office created the African Advisory Council, since many of the Borough's new immigrants are from Africa. Indeed, 31 percent of borough residents are foreign-born. In speaking of the census, he warned that if we are not counted, we will miss out on

funding for important programs.

Improving education was another major topic Mr. Diaz outlined. He wants the oldest school buildings to be kept free of toxic chemicals and has demanded that the Department of Education test for PCBs in every classroom. Despite the Department of Education claims of student performance increases, the figures across the Bronx have remained about the same. The Bronx has two exclusive public high schools, Bronx High School of Science and the American Studies Academy at Lehman College, but only 334 of the 13,500 eighth-graders in the borough attended these schools. He focused on the need for more after-school programs and the lack of art and music in the curriculum. City Islanders are all too familiar with lack of art and music in our local public school.

Health was another item on the agenda. The Bronx has been rated as the least healthy county of the 62 counties in New York State. The Borough President is sponsoring a food summit during the month of May and has called for healthier foods to be served in the schools. He has also pushed for more supermarkets and farmers' markets across the borough. He noted that EBT cards (food stamps) can now be used at most farmers' markets.

In speaking of crime, Mr. Diaz reported that the Bronx received a \$1 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to rally teens, parents and community leaders around the fact that violence and abuse should never be tolerated. He admitted that he and Mayor Bloomberg do not agree on everything but said that he would stand side-by-side with the Mayor on gun control. Mr. Diaz worked with Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson to take 1,186 guns off the street in a gun buy-back program.

The Borough President addressed many of the major issues facing our borough today and said that he looked forward to working with all of the Bronx communities to make this borough a better place. Assemblyman Mike Benedetto, who attended the address, supported the Borough President by telling *The Current*: "This is an exciting day. This is our Borough President's first State of the Borough address. I am looking forward to seeing his plans for pulling the Bronx out of the recession and helping us move forward."

## Grace Church Knits for Calvary



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

The busy Grace Episcopal Church knitters show off their works of love: (l. to r.) seated, Barbara Dennis, Joanne Brogan and Lori Travers; standing: Marilyn Martin and June Haymon.

A group of parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church has begun a crafts project called "Hearts and Hands," which will be creating comfort items for patients at Calvary Hospital. The group, which meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at Grace Church, invites other crafters who might be interested to join them in this project.

Among the items being made are "chemo caps" for patients who have lost their hair because of treatments or in preparation for surgery. The caps are made of very soft acrylic yarn and are a comfort to patients who find that wearing

wigs can be very irritating to their scalps. The caps are made in a variety of colors and with prayers and good wishes for the patients who will wear them. Easy patterns can be found online; copies are also available at Grace Episcopal Church during meetings of the group.

Shawls and lap robes are also being made to bring a little warmth to those who need it. Patients who have received these gifts from other groups report they are encouraged by the fact that people spend both time and effort to create these items, which gives them a great deal of comfort.

Knitters or crocheters who find that they have made all the scarves, hats and afghans that their friends and family can use are welcome to join the project. Contributions of yarn or funds to purchase supplies would also be greatly appreciated.

Those who cannot make the Tuesday evening sessions are welcome to work at home. For further information, please call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713.

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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

#### APRIL

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., April 1, 2 and 3, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Thurs., April 8, **P. S. 175 Kindergarten Registration**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 200 City Island Avenue.

Thurs., April 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. at Villa Barone Restaurant, 3284 Westchester Avenue (at Pelham Bay Station).

Sat., April 17, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Sat., April 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

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

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. with child care available on the first Sunday of the month. We also offer Evening Prayer in the Church every Monday at 7 p.m., and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or [RevPPA@aol.com](mailto:RevPPA@aol.com).

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

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.: Maundy Thursday – Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, and "Nightwatch".

Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.: Good Friday – Ecumenical Service at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Sunday, April 4, 10 a.m.: Easter Sunday – Holy Eucharist, with child care.

Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke and "Hearts and Hands" knitting ministry (both in Parish Hall).

Tuesday, April 13, 7 p.m.: Bible Study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Sunday, April 18, 12 noon: Adult Education Inquirers' Class, "Getting Involved with the Church" (Parish Hall).

Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m.: Bible Study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Sunday, April 25, 10 a.m.: Episcopal Visitation by the Rt. Rev. Herbert A. Donovan, Jr., the Retired Bishop of Arkansas and Assisting Bishop of New York. Please plan to be present as Bishop Donovan administers the rites of Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

Thursday, May 6, 6 p.m.: City Island National Day of Prayer Observance (Church).

**Rev. Patricia Alexander**

#### Garden Club of City Island

The cold and snowy winter is over, and we are thinking about spring, and bulbs, and flowers, and gardening, and planters, as well as beautification projects for our lovely City Island.

I know all those things are on their way and, who knows, by the time you read this in April, those harbingers of spring—lovely crocuses and daffodils—may just be peeking their greenery through the soil and we'll start thinking about putting in the geraniums.

There are two other important harbingers of spring for the Garden Club of City Island:

our annual beautification fund-raiser and our annual spring luncheon. This year's luncheon, "Our Blooming Island," will be held on Thursday, June 17, at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. The cost for the gala is a mere \$35, and there will be the usual fabulous baskets of prizes, raffles and 50/50 tickets, along with fine food and a wonderful view of Eastchester Bay. We hope you can make it and help us celebrate our numerous achievements and successes that were made possible by the generosity of City Island's residents and businesses.

These achievements include the following:

Planters along City Island Avenue, a joint effort with the City Island Civic Association, will bloom again this year, and we hope to add to their number during the summer of 2010.

We completely renovated the area around the Bridge Park Brotherhood Tree and the "Welcome to City Island" sign; we also planted a new garden at the north end of the Catherine Scott Promenade.

The path to City Island's Legion Memorial Park was given a face-lift as were the plantings around the monuments.

The City Island Nautical Museum, which welcomes visitors from all over the world, was beautified with extensive pruning and cleaning, as well as new plantings along the stairway, under the sign and along the fencing.

We have received so many compliments for these efforts, which your funds have allowed us to accomplish. With your help, we want to maintain these areas and to work on projects to make City Island Avenue even more attractive. Look for our annual solicitation letter. We hope that you'll be just as generous to us this year as you were last year. Thank you, City Island, for helping us make our Island bloom.

**Barbara Harrison Kaye**

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, "Your Shul by the Sea," is a welcoming Jewish Renewal Congregation that conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue between Beach and Bowne Streets.

On Sunday, April 11, Holocaust Memorial Day will be observed. For the exact starting time, call Nan Kaplan, president, at 718-885-2445.

On Friday, April 16, Reb David Markus will lead the evening service beginning at 7:30 and celebrate Israel Independence Day.

On Saturday, May 22, the synagogue will hold its 76th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Lido Restaurant on City Island Avenue at 7 p.m. The price is \$75 per person, which includes an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and a full-course dinner. The night's honorees will be New York City Councilman James Vacca, City Island Chamber of Commerce vice-president Paul Klein and longtime resident Connie Cantor.

For additional details, call 718-885-2820. You can also visit our website at [www.your-shulbythesea.org](http://www.your-shulbythesea.org) or call 718-885-3098.

**Violet and Mort Ellis**

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Prayer service is held every weekday at 9:15 a.m. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

Holy Thursday worship service is on April 1 at 7:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of LARRY SAULNIER

These Cub Scouts in Pack 211 earned religious awards on Sunday, March 21, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Back row (l. to r.): cubmaster Larry Saulnier, Father Michael Chalinor, assistant cubmaster Jim McGaughan; front row: John Tomsen, Jonathan Mazzella, Jordan Rodriguez, Gerard Mazzella, Jaden Tarrado, Aran Glynn, Christopher Tomsen, Nicholas Badillo and Joseph Kramer.

Good Friday worship service is on April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

An informal ecumenical gathering for the annual outdoor Sunrise Resurrection Celebration will meet on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 6:30 a.m. The meeting gathers inside the Pelham Cemetery beneath the "big tree" facing east, near the water's edge on King Avenue. This celebration will consist of prayer, poetry, praise and singing, with scripture readings by interested members of the community. A meditation entitled "Baptism, A Death and Resurrection into Christ's New Life" will be led by George Cavalieri. All are welcome to participate. If the weather is severely inclement, the celebration will be held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to join us for our Easter Service at 10 a.m. on April 4.

There will be a Trustees' Communion Breakfast at 11:15 a.m. after the worship service on April 11. The focus will be on Holocaust Remembrance. Please call Carol Stewart at 718-885-1445 to reserve a seat and get a ticket (\$8).

There is a new discussion group for adults only. Jay Howard will moderate. Look for an announcement and fliers for the next group. A possible theme for discussion is anger. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained by written submission of questions.

Our annual Spring Fair will be May 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. For \$8, adults will have a choice of vegetable lasagna or chicken marsala; for \$4 children can have macaroni and cheese or pigs in a blanket. Drinks and dessert will also be served.

The Budget Shop will be open April 6, 10, 20 and 24, as well as May 4, 8, 18 and 22. Will someone out there please volunteer to lead Budget behind the scenes? Myra Martin will work right along with you to help and train you for this responsibility. It is basically contacting the established crew for work dates and help with the gleaning and pricing. We need your help; call Myra at 718-885-1049.

**Ellen G. Hebard**

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The month of April begins with the commemoration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. On April 4, we celebrate with great joy and the singing of alleluias the triumphant rising of Jesus from the dead. All at St. Mary's wish everyone a very happy, joyful Easter!

Because of the celebration of Easter Week, there will be no religious education classes on Wednesday, April 7.

Our monthly Hospitality Hour will be held on Sunday, April 11, after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are invited to join us for coffee and light refreshments.

The April meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

His Excellency, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro, will be here at St. Mary's on Tuesday afternoon, April 27, to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to the eighth-graders in our religious education program and in St. Mary's School. The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. We congratulate our young people on this special event in their lives.

**Sr. Bernadette, osu**

#### PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

We are so lucky to live so close to beautiful Orchard Beach. Think about putting our Wednesday Beach Walk on your calendar for April. The program schedule is as follows: Zumba with Stephanie: Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Sittercise with Patty: Tuesday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall. Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday leave Pilot Street at 9:30. Yoga Stretch with Michael: Thursday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall. Arthritis Exercise with Patty: Thursday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to programs and for a schedule of afternoon shopping trips. For further information, call Patty at 718-885-1891. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Arthritis Foundation.

**Pat Grondahl**



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

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

**NEW CLASSES**

**Gentle Yoga-Qi Gong class with Norma:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Get into shape, relax the body and mind and have some fun doing it! This class is a combination of low impact Hatha Yoga and Qi-Gong (free-form Tai Chi) and mild stretches. Although this class is geared toward those of you who have not exercised in a while, all levels are welcome. Price per class is \$7. Please bring a yoga mat, yoga strap and yoga blocks. Most of these items are available at Barnes & Noble, Modell's, Target or K-Mart. Straps and blocks will be available for purchase on the day of the class. For more information, please call 718-730-3442. Namaste.

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

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

**Tae Kwon Do:** Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

**Sally's Playground:** Where children ages 1 to 5 enjoy indoor play. Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 with questions. \$7 per child (\$4 for each additional sibling.) Come and join the fun!

**Mommy and Me Fitness:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m. A high-energy aerobics class that allows you to bring your children along up to the age of 6. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

**Vilma's Music Together.** Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and the adults who love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.funmusictogether.com](http://www.funmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

**Art Classes by Laury: Storytime Art,** for preschoolers accompanied by an adult; Monday or Thursday, 12:45 to 2

p.m., through May 10; \$10 for individual classes (you must call ahead). *Exploring Sculpture* in a variety of materials for kindergarten through third grade, Mondays, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. through May 10; \$10 per class (call ahead). **Drawing and Painting,** with inspiration from modern sources, for grades 4 through 8; Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m., through May 4; \$10 per class (call ahead). **Drama and Theater Arts** for ages 7 to 11, Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Masks, costume design, improvisation, stage make-up, creative movement and more. \$10 per class, through April 29. There will be no classes during spring and winter breaks. For more information or to sign up, call Laury at 718-885-3202.

**ADULT PROGRAM**

**Fit for Life with Sarah:** Hi-Lo impact aerobics, strength training/toning, kick-boxing and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

**Rhythmic Movement Exercise Class:** A fun way to combine exercise with various styles of dance. Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. \$15 per person. If you have any questions, please contact: Judy Farnum, group fitness instructor, at 914-548-4184 or [judyfarnum@aol.com](mailto:judyfarnum@aol.com).

**Yoga With Emily:** Yoga class now being offered on Wednesday at 10 a.m. All levels welcome. Call Emily Wilson at 347-886-4546 with any questions.

**Ashtanga Yoga with Vincenza:** Yoga Instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of Miami. Tuesday nights 7:30 for 1 hour. Please bring a yoga mat. Contact [Vmadonia59@aol.com](mailto:Vmadonia59@aol.com) or 917-440-3618.

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

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

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

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

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Amy Gottlieb



**City Island Theater Group**

Comedy is in the air this spring with the City Island Theater Group's upcoming production of Noel Coward's hit play "Blithe Spirit." This classic comedy is set in the charming country home of Charles Condomine, a remarried widower who decides to host a casual dinner party that will include a séance as research for his new book. He invites the eccentric medium Madame Arcarti to conduct the séance, with the hope that he will be able to expose her as a fraud. When Madame Arcarti mistakenly summons Charles's first wife, Elvira, back from the beyond, things get thoroughly out of hand.

Leading this talented cast is CITG regular Matt Regney, as the haunted husband, Charles Condomine. City Islander Susan Rauh, who is no stranger to the CITG stage or to Noel Coward, plays Ruth, Charles's current wife. Nicolas Perugini returns to the CITG stage as Dr. Bradman, with CITG favorite Carol Dooner playing his wife, Mrs. Bradman. Newcomers Emily McSpadden, who plays the mischievous back-from-the-dead Elvira, and Michelle Gonzalez as Ruth, the loyal maid, will be making their CITG debut. The always funny Camille Kaiser rounds out the cast as the Madame Arcarti. City Islander Maria Provenzano directs this classy and funny play.

There will be only six performances of "Blithe Spirit" so call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com) right away to reserve your tickets. "Blithe Spirit" will be performed at the Grace Church Parish Hall, located at 116 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Pilot Street. Performance dates are April 30, May 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and May 2 at 3 p.m. Don't miss this haunting comedy!

Nick Sala

**AARP Chapter #318**

The chapter will meet on Wednesday, April 7 and April 21, at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church.

The First Annual Bronx Food Summit will be held on Saturday, May 1, at Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event is about eating well and offers hands-on workshops about where to find fresh local foods, how to prepare these foods and even how to grow your own fruits and vegetables.

Carmela Ramftl

**City Island Republicans**

Our party is moving forward. Around the country we have lined up great candidates who will bring us to victory this November.

Now that our county headquarters is up and running, the party will be much more visible across the Bronx.

We need to continue giving City Islanders another option. We are always looking for good members. Considering the current sad state of affairs across both our state and nation, we need to bounce all the incumbents responsible. We can make a difference right here on City Island. Come join the club and speak your mind. Our dues are still \$20.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue. Assembly candidate Mike Rendino will speak.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

**Legion News**

Michael Clancy has been promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Army Corps of Engineers. Following his graduation from West Point, Michael served three tours of duty in Iraq. He is also a 19-year member of Post 156 (see article this issue).

Keeping pace with Michael is Lt. Col. Haley, Michael's wife, who is also a lieutenant colonel. In quest of her doctorate, she is now on temporary duty.

Regarding sick call, I'm told that

Dicky Knapp is now in a rehab facility on Williamsbridge Road in the Bronx. The commander has also talked to Bill Robinson, who continues to make progress. Comrade Hess is also on the mend following a little blockage problem. Should you know of anyone not up to par, let us know. You can call me on extension 2087.

Let's hope the weather takes a turn for the better. Meetings for April are Monday, April 5, our regular monthly meeting, and Monday April 19, executive board meeting. Both start at 7:30 p.m.

The Post St. Patrick's Day party was catered by World of Foods and a good time was had by all.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

**Cub Scout Pack 211**

Cub Scout Pack 211 has had a busy spring. On Sunday, March 21, nine scouts received their religious awards at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The scouts Christopher Tomsen, Gerard Mazzella, Jonathan Mazzella, Jaden Torrado, Nicholas Badillo, Jordan Rodriguez and Aran Glynn were presented with the Light of Christ. Webelos Joseph Kramer and John Tomsen earned the Pavuli Dei medal. In addition, Cub Scout Anthony Mazzella earned his God and Me medal, which will be presented to him at the Village Lutheran Church in Bronxville in the near future. Three other scouts are currently working toward religious medals at their houses of worship. When they complete their requirements, we will be sure to update *The Current*. Congratulations to all the scouts on their accomplishments.

On Feb. 7, more than 40 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts celebrated National Scout Sunday at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The scouts participated in all parts of the Mass, serving on the altar or as readers and presenting the gifts. The scouts also presented the colors before a wonderful rendition of our National Anthem by our church cantor, George. As always, the scouts presented themselves in the finest traditions of scouting. We could not be more proud of them.

We will be attending the annual Cub-or-Ree at Alpine Scout Camp in New Jersey on May 8 and 9. For many of our scouts, it will be their first overnight camping experience. We will be practicing outdoor skills during our April meetings. We will take a day hike on April 25 through Pelham Bay Park to practice our skills.

On May 23 we will hold our annual Blue and Gold Dinner when we present the scouts with their badges and awards and recognize them for their accomplishments this year. Because of the continuous growth of the pack, we will hold the event at the City Island Yacht Club. Special thanks go to Billy Kenney, proprietor of the Black Whale and steward at the club, for his continued support of Pack 211.

As a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Susan Chadwick of Trinity United Methodist Church for hosting the pack at Fellowship Hall. Reverend Sue's support of scouting on City Island has been invaluable. Thanks, Reverend Sue!

Larry Saulnier

**Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156**

The Pig's-knuckle Party was great, as usual. Everyone had a ball. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a great success once again.

Our dues are \$30. Any member not paid up is now late. Dues can be dropped off at the post. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8, at 8 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr. Vice Commander, Membership

Russell Schaller 885-3089

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### A Selected Filmography of George Clooney

George Clooney is one of the most likable actors I've ever encountered on the screen. No matter what role he takes, there seems to be a genuine decency at the core of each character. Making a successful transition from television (ER, 1994-99), Clooney appeared as Seth Gecko in Quentin Tarantino's very bloody vampire Western **From Dusk Till Dawn** (1996). As hoodlums on the run, Seth and his brother, Richard (Tarantino), go to Mexico where they kidnap the Fuller family (Harvey Keitel, Juliette Lewis and Ernest Liu). They wind up in a bar in a showdown with some very disgusting creatures and gore galore.

Clooney plays reporter Jack Taylor in the romantic comedy **One Fine Day** (1996). When Jack's ex-wife leaves their daughter, Maggie (Mae Whitman), in his care, his life becomes intertwined with that of Maggie's classmate Sammy Parker (Alex D. Linz) and his ambitious architect mother, Melanie (Michelle Pfeiffer).

In the spy thriller **The Peacemaker** (1997), Clooney is U.S. Intelligence Officer Lt. Col. Thomas Devoe, who is reluctant to work with the acting head of a White House task force on nuclear smuggling, Dr. Julia Kelley (Nicole Kidman). But together they must save the world.

The Elmore Leonard novel **Out of Sight** (1998) is a vehicle in which charming criminal Jack Foley (Clooney) spars with Federal Marshal Karen Sisco (Jennifer Lopez). Ving Rhames is on hand as Buddy, Foley's partner in crime.

**Three Kings** (1999) is the story of three soldiers: Major Archie Gates (Clooney), Sgt. Troy Barlow (Mark Wahlberg) and Chief Elgin (Ice Cube), who conspire to "liberate" a cache of gold that Saddam Hussein's army stole from Kuwait. However, they have a crisis of conscience when they realize that they want to help the people of Iraq.

**The Perfect Storm** (2000) is based on the true story of the fishing boat *Andrea Gail*, which encounters three offshore storms in the North Atlantic. Clooney is Captain Billy Tyne, and his crew is Bobby Shatford (Mark Wahlberg), who is deeply in love with Christina Cotter (Diane Lane). Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is Linda Greenlaw, captain of a rival fishing boat.

Another film from 2000, **O Brother, Where Art Thou?**, is a horse of a completely different color, to be expected from the writer-director-producer team of Joel and Ethan Coen. Clooney plays a dashing, fast-talking escaped convict in this adventure/comedy/musical loosely based on Homer's "Odyssey" and set in the Depression-era South. The soundtrack won the Grammy Best Album of the Year in 2001.

I had a swell time watching *Ocean's Eleven* (2001), *Twelve* (2004) and *Thirteen* (2007) in one weekend. The endearing cast includes Danny Ocean (Clooney) and his gang, played by Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Don Cheadle, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Carl Reiner, Elliott Gould, Bernie Mac, Eddie Jemison and Shaobo Qin. In *Eleven*, they pull the ultimate heist on a casino run by Andy Garcia whose girlfriend is Julia Roberts. In *Twelve* they have a new recruit, Catherine

Zeta-Jones, the setting is Europe and their adversary is Vincent Cassel. In *Thirteen*, back in Vegas, their adversaries are played by Al Pacino and Ellen Barkin.

In the sci-fi film *Solaris* (2002), Clooney is psychiatrist Dr. Chris Kelvin, who is sent to investigate the increasingly odd behavior of the crew of a distant space station. Still grieving the tragic loss of his wife (Natascha McElhone), Kelvin comes to understand what plagues the surviving crew played by Jeremy Davis and Viola Davis. It is an interesting setting in which Clooney gives the most emotionally moving performance of his career.

Clooney directed and co-authored **Good Night and Good Luck** (2005), an absorbing docudrama that captures the black-and-white style and McCarthy-era paranoia of the 1950s. He plays the role of Fred Friendly, partner and producer of Edward R. Murrow's (David Strathairn) CBS news show. McCarthy plays himself through news clips interwoven with new footage. Frank Langella is CBS president William Paley, who balks at Murrow's challenge of McCarthy. This is an intelligent, thought-provoking film.

**Syriana** (2005) is a geopolitical thriller in which Clooney plays CIA operative Bob Barnes. Subplots abound in which oil companies, law firms and Middle Eastern royal family rivalries are interwoven with themes of greed, ambition and idealism. The excellent supporting cast includes Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Christopher Plummer, Chris Cooper and Amanda Peet. Multiple viewings are almost required to comprehend the film's complexity.

In a film-noir, geopolitical thriller **The Good German** (2006), Clooney is American war correspondent Jake Geismer, who returns to Germany after World War II and comes across his lost love, Lena (Cate Blanchett). Struggling to survive, she has been kept by a sadistic soldier, Tully (Tobey Maguire). Geismer becomes entwined in a murder mystery and a search by both Soviet and American forces for the missing former SS Officer Emil Brandt (Christian Oliver).

Both **Burn after Reading** (2008) and **The Men Who Stare at Goats** (2009) are very odd black comedies that might not be to everyone's taste. In the former film, another Coen production, Clooney is Harry Pfarrer, who is caught up in the machinations of Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt), two health club employees who have come into possession of a CD containing CIA secrets that belonged to the disgruntled CIA employee Osborne Cox (John Malkovich). In the latter film, Clooney is Lyn Cassady, a member of the New Earth Army of "psychic spies." He and journalist Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor) make a weird pair traveling together in Iraq. Both films are exceedingly goofy.

**Up in the Air** (2009) is the critically acclaimed film starring Clooney as Ryan Bingham, a seemingly soulless and disconnected global traveler whose grim task is informing scores of people that they have lost their jobs. What is awesome about his performance is the decency and humanity that underlies his character, especially when he meets his female equivalent in fellow business traveler Alex Goran (Vera Farmiga).

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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### Public School 175

A lot went on at P.S. 175 in March! Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during Parent Teacher Conferences on Tuesday, March 16. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. The students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Students have also been busy working on their Women's History Month projects, which were on display at the City Island Women's Herstory Month Celebration on Sunday, March 21. Many students and teachers attended the event and had a fabulous time sharing their projects with the community! Kindergarten students created class quilts depicting the roles of Algonquin women, the first women on City Island. First-graders were fortunate to have Natalie Lacina visit their classrooms to talk about what life was like on City Island during the depression, and a beautiful scrapbook was created by both classes that incorporated all that the students learned.

The second grade was also fortunate to be able to tap into more City Island expertise when they were visited by Barbara Dolensek, who talked with them about the importance of the wetlands on City Island and her role in their conservation. The students and teachers were also excited about the walking tour she took them on to the wetlands at the end of Ditmars Street!

The third grade studied women during Colonial times and created dioramas to depict what they learned. The fourth grade studied influential women of the Bronx; the fifth grade learned about Anne Hutchinson's contributions to our area and the sixth grade created PowerPoint presentations of powerful women in business.

Seventh-grade students invited the women of Retumba to perform and to talk about how the group started and how to use dance to be healthy. Students then created display boards of all they learned. Eighth-grade students studied the women of the 1920s, and the project culminated in a classroom "bash." Research projects were displayed at the celebration.

Believe it or not, with all of this going on this month our students still had time to attend several exciting trips! First-grade students visited the Swedish Cottage in Central Park for a marionette show. The second grade visited the New York Botanical Garden, where they studied the history of chocolate and vanilla, the plants from which they come and the products they produce. They also went to York College for a science

show called "Objects in Motion." The third grade attended a performance of "Roots, Cultures & Rhythms" at Hostos Center for the Performing Arts. The fourth grade made its annual visit to the Bartow Pell Mansion Museum to learn about life in Colonial times.

Seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historical sites and visited the Franklin Institute Science Museum to explore the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits. They also saw a performance of "Meet the Franklins," which introduced students to the "conflicting documentary record of Benjamin Franklin as an apologist for slaveholding and as a champion of abolition."

Our phenomenal Parent Teacher Association held its annual Card Party at the Lido Caterers, and thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success! Many thanks to all the parents who spent countless hours preparing for the event! We are very pleased that the funds raised will enable the PTA to continue to assist us in providing exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks also to the businesses in our community that supported the party!

The Eighth Grade Graduation Committee has been busy planning for all of the end of year events that will be taking place. Parent meetings are being held in preparation for graduation and senior activities. We look forward to seeing all of the eighth-grade parents at these meetings.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 25, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Seashore Restaurant. The eighth-grade trip to Washington DC will take place from May 25 to 26. Please note that the date of the Kindergarten Moving-up Ceremony has been changed. It will now take place on Wednesday, June 23, at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a family celebration in the gymnasium, complete with a DJ and Sunny the Clown!

March Citizens of the Month were: Kindergarten: Jennifer Ghonaj and Skylar Powers; first grade: Frankie Lubelli and Joseph Goonan; second grade: Michael Fragola and Amanda Campbell; third grade: Matthew Valentine and Harry Banham; fourth grade: Gianna Cambria and Michael Bauso; fifth grade: William Willis and Julia Ejli; sixth grade: Shaban Paljevic and Briana Powers; seventh grade: Nileyris Sosa and Bianca Valenti; eighth grade: Michael Caldelaria and Nicholas Cambria.



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# New York Boat Show 2010

By BILL CLANCY



Some members of the Clancy family traveled 7,540 miles to see the New York Boat Show this year. Here (l. to r.) Uncle Tom Clancy from North Carolina, Mike Clancy from Iraq, Bill Sr. and Bill Jr. from City Island greet Islander Mary Dannegger at the show.

The ever-evolving New York Boat Show, which we always love to attend, had a new twist this year. We had heard before Christmas that it was going to be only five days long and would take place the second week of January. It was good news that it was not going to start a week before Christmas and end just before New Year's Eve as it did last year. But it was bad news that it was going to be only five days long, not enough time for a lot of Islanders to get past the double change. I had some *agita* myself when I didn't hear anything by the time the second week was almost over. OMG, I thought, I missed it! I'll never live this down. Editor Barbara would say "he only has to cover one event a year and he blows it." I can hear her now. She probably would give me back the copper nails that I gave her last year. I imagined the worst until I saw a television ad for the show which announced that it was opening on the 20th. Whew! What was all the angst about?

I arrived at the Javits around 3 p.m. on a nice springlike day. We had an all-Clancy crew assembled for the first time ever, and while waiting for them, I had an hour by myself to look through the program. I went up to the press room and discovered it was bare bones: two receptionists instead of three,

no coat room and not as much hand-out material as in past years. As usual, economics rule the day.

I got down on the main floor and ran into what turned out to be the Most Outrageous Boat of the Show. A 37-foot open-ocean fishing boat with a T-top Center Console and three 300 hp outboards. It was going for a show-stopping price of \$393,000, reduced from \$452,000. Its only unusual feature was an amidships gate on the port side. The model was, unbelievably, called Outrage. There also was a 32-foot version with two 300s going for \$226,000. I promised myself to bring my crew of critics to see these babies.

First to arrive was #1 son Bill from his Eighth Avenue office. Bill is the longest-serving crew member, having not missed a show since he started to speak at three months. Next to come was #2 son, Major Mike, who was doing his first show in 20 years. He had a lot of catching up to do, especially with the pricing structure. Last to arrive was my #3 brother, Dr. Tom from North Carolina. Tom had also missed the joys of the show since he left New Rochelle Hospital *muchos años* ago. Greg, #3 son, was scheduled to be with us that night, but

he very graciously volunteered for hospital duty. After toasting each other with a frothy brew, we entered the Wonderland of Boats like wide-eyed children, carrying on the tradition from the Grand Central Palace to the N.Y. Coliseum to the Javits Center.

The first impression we got was the lack of spectators. Boat salesmen were like hawkers, inviting everyone to take a peek inside their craft. This was quite unusual. They were standing in the aisles, in front of the sign-up table, engaging all in conversation. Remember, this was the first night. I could not imagine how the rest of the week would play out. Saturday and Sunday were the pro-football playoff games to determine the Super Bowl contestants, not particularly good days for boat show attendance. We wished the exhibitors well.

Seeing as there were no lines, we quickly boarded Sea Ray, Sun Dancer, Boston Whaler and Chris Craft. Captain Mike Tierney went through the whole history of the Chris's, one that I always love to hear. City Island childhoods of the 1950s were dominated by stories of Chris Craft. They had mahogany-planked, double-planked bottoms, distinctive round bows and a beautiful shear line. They were probably the best production-line craft ever built. Minneford Yacht Yard repaired a few of the 55-foot Constellations while I worked there, and the veteran boat builders tolerated them, which was unusual. They didn't like the Phillips head screw, however, which were relatively new.

We saw at least two manufacturers who were experimenting (I think) with a radical design change. Across the stern there was freeboard no more than 18 inches. As it went forward toward the bow, the freeboard increased to 60 to 70 inches, giving a very unusual side look. Heading back to City Island after being down the Sound, with a brisk east wind-driven following sea, that aft section of deck would be uddawata. It would be good for washing the sand off our feet and shoes, though.

We stopped to speak with a very interesting gentleman representing Monte Carlo Marine, a high-end yacht builder in Dubai, UAE. Italian-born Nino Auture left boat building in Europe because of economics and with a few partners started in the Emirates. Highly skilled Indian craftsmen will work nine hours a day, six days a week for \$600 a month. Nino was traveling around the U.S. selling their beautiful craft, marketed under the brand name MCM. Their motto is "the Power, the Passion, the Past." Their "first off the line" models are '50s retro Chris Craft Centurian look-alikes. Varnished mahogany, sleek lines, inboard power and reliability, perfect for the money-is-no-object crowd.

Another interesting conversation we had was with Bettina Braisted, aka The Sailbag Lady of Madison, Connecticut. For almost 30 years she has run a very successful, custom flag and banner shop that specializes in one-of-a-kind personalized flags. You can design your own banner or let Bettina assist you. She even had one of her flags on the Space Shuttle Endeavor in 2001. With prices starting at \$95, we might think about one for the *Kitty Clyde*.

Saw the 100th anniversary sign at the Evinrude exhibit. Harkening back to our childhood, this was a must stop. One of the salesmen handed us all a good-looking booklet. On the cover of the brochure were six old pictures, chronicling the Evinrude life span: Ole Evinrude in a small skiff with a 3 hp; a good-looking, 40ish Fay Jordain look-alike wearing a bathing suit and a big smile with a 9 hp; a Ronald Reagan look-like holding a freshly caught fish in a '50ish runabout with 14.7 hp Evie; the last three pix were more modern, with larger and faster outboards. The whole booklet is great and very informative. The best part though is a 14-page, two-thirds size booklet stapled in the center. This has the history of the Evinrude family, the evolution of the outboard motor and its related uses, plus a mini-history of the successes and travails of American business in modern times. In a word, it is great. Anyone who would

like to get one of these publications should go online to [www.brp.com](http://www.brp.com) (Bombardier has owned Evinrude since 2001). If this doesn't satisfy your old-time curiosity or seeming need for happy nostalgia, call my #1 brother, Boston Kev. He has replicated lockers from Vidal's Marina in his garage and filled them with way too many old-time, rip cord-starting motors. His BU racing runabouts, *See Ya Later* and *Banshee* (replicas), are hanging from the roof. I think he is also in the market for a Pepsi Cola (bottle) dispenser, into which he will intersperse cans of Schaefer Beer made in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Everyone over 50 years old remembers when all the CI yacht clubs had fleets of dinghies, both rowing and sailing. They were the *de rigueur* method of boat-to-shore transit. No moored boat ever left its mooring without its dink in tow. The name of the dinghy was usually the name of the big boat with "Little" in front of it. Every beach on the Island had a couple of dinks stashed in a corner. Every kid had his first boat experience as a passenger or, if they were lucky enough, as the rower or sculler. Every family worth its salt either owned or had access to a dinghy. The master boatmen on Bowne Street beach were the Hauptner family. They always had a dink or a larger craft under construction in their yard on King Avenue. Chief Clancy on Minneford Avenue always had a few damaged craft under repair. You never knew when you would need a replacement. This is a long-winded explanation of our love affair with the water and the reason for our next stop, Bautech Marine Corp. of St. Augustine, Florida, the builders of the Bauer 8, 10 and 12 dinghies. You have a choice of rowing or sailing models and a robust choice of options on the three models. They range in price from \$1,400 to \$6,000 for the basic, equipped fiberglass hull. For \$20 you can get a DVD of the construction and performance process of the Bauer 10. Go to [www.bauerboats.com](http://www.bauerboats.com). Any parent who is thinking about buying their 10- to 14-year-old a first boat could do no better than a "sailing dink." When we see young kids whizzing around the Island on Jet Skis or 90 hp jobs without a care or an ounce of sense in the world, I always think how much they have missed.

We stopped at Tiara Yacht exhibit to say hello to Mary Dannegger from Minneford Avenue who was part of the sales team for the show. She arranged for the picture you see with this article. We made a date to give her a ride home later. Hello, Mom Ginger! Leaving Mary, we overheard a familiar voice from the next aisle. How did we know we would run into Rob Ricca, a famous sailor of the CI Yacht Club. Rob is a bon vivant of the first order and a generous dispenser of boating knowledge. He seemed to be leading a tour group and had to hurry off rather quickly. Leaving Robin, we ran into Rodney and David DeCuffa, brothers of John of Bait Store fame. We had not seen these young men, Rodney especially, in many a moon and it was nice to catch up. I was sorry not to see the Baitman himself. We were right near the adult beverage stand and I, ah, thought that . . . well, you know what I mean. I also thought we might run into the Brandi family of Bridge Marine fame. The starboard engine, circa '82, of the *Kitty Clyde* is being rebuilt by Jimmy's Machine shop in Yonkers, with all the parts supplied by Joe Sr., Dan and Joe Jr. It is a pleasure to deal with competent people. As most readers know, this is not always the case in the boating game. Thank God for the stimulus money.

Sales people were starting to clean up their counters, so we knew it was time to go. Mike would be going back downtown to Mercer Street, but Tom would be staying with us for a few days. On the ride home, everyone gave his take on the show and how much we all liked it. If there is a common thread, it is how our appreciation of all things nautical, if not our life in general, is rooted in our City Island experience. No matter what negatives you might hear or know, deep down we all know that we have lived and are still living in a magical place.

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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 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



Dolores Mazzella

## Dolores P. Tripaldi Mazzella

Dolores Mazzella, a lifelong City Island resident—or for those who know, a true clam digger—passed away on Feb. 14, 2010.

Born on Nov. 20, 1946, into the Tripaldi family, Dolores married Anthony Mazzella in September 1968. She spent most of her married years on Earley Street with her husband, and she devoted her life to raising three wonderful children, Michael, Matthew and Jeannine.

Dolores took tremendous pride in contributing to the City Island community. She worked as a security guard at P.S. 175 and was very active in the PTA. She was a

member of CIVAC (City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps) and the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion. She also taught CCD classes for public school children, served as a den mother for the Cub Scouts, participated in activities with St. Mary, Star of the Sea and was part of many other volunteer organizations around City Island.

Dolores was very vigorous and loved being part of the community, but her driving force was to raise a good family, and she did just that. After her children were grown, she worked for Krokepe Controls on Hawkins Street for many years and later went to work in a pulmonologist doctor's office in Eastchester. During that time, she was diagnosed with cancer and the pulmonologist, Dr. Binder, was extremely helpful in getting her the best treatment to fight this horrendous disease.

In her last years, Dolores made it a point to take the time to enjoy her grandchildren, Nicholas and Ella. They lit up her world, and she truly enjoyed being around them.

Dolores is survived by her husband, Anthony; her children, Michael, Matthew, Jeannine Cito and her son-in-law, John; her sister and brother-in-law, Joanne and Roger Pulsifer and family; two brothers-in-law, John and Sam Mazzella and their families; her sister-in-law Marie Phillips and families, and her beloved grandchildren, Nicholas and Ella Cito.

Memorial donations may be made to the Department of Medical Oncology at Montefiore Medical Center, 111 E. 210 Street, Bronx, NY 10467 (att: Tracey Dupree/Development Dept.). Please write on the check: In memory of Dolores Mazzella/Oncology.

## Islanders Raise POTS of Money

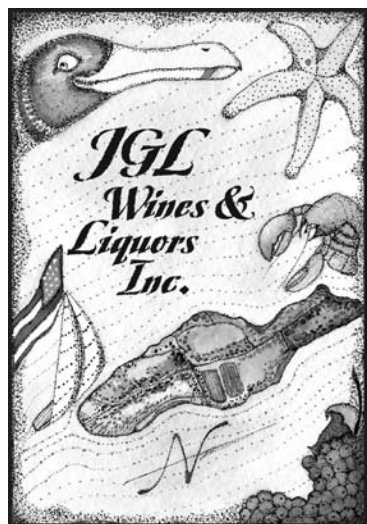


Photo courtesy of BUTCH NIEVES

City Islander Butch Nieves hosted a "Burn the Fat, Feed the Hungry" New York Fit Body Boot Camp at Excel Martial Arts on Westchester Avenue on Feb. 13 to raise money for Part of the Solution (POTS), a Bronx program that supplies food and supplies to the needy. City Islanders Angela Nieves, Phyllis Gitter and Liz Paldino participated in the three-hour "workout-a-thon," which was also intended to promote a healthy lifestyle. Despite winter weather,

challenging traffic conditions and the slow economy, a total of 47 individuals participated, donating \$25 to work out as long as they chose. POTS was the recipient of 52 donations totaling \$2,125. Representatives from POTS and Councilman James Vacca were on hand to show their support.

Other recent donors to POTS, which is supported every month on City Island by donations of food and staples collected at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, include Islanders who donated clothing and other supplies in December last year and funds collected by the church schools at Grace Episcopal Church and Trinity United Methodist Church in their "Souper Bowl of Caring" fund-raiser on Super Bowl Sunday.



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# MR. AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRAINING

By BUTCH NIEVES

## Five Stupid Things Healthy People Do

You are not a stupid person. Not by any means. In fact, it's my guess that you're healthier than most. You probably exercise regularly. You watch what you eat. You keep up-to-date on the latest health concerns. You don't binge on sugar. And you never—ever—eat fast food. Well, hardly ever.

But you do have a few unhealthy skeletons in your closet, ones that you probably aren't even aware of. The following five stupid things are frequently committed by health-conscious people. Once you break these bad habits, you'll find that achieving your weight loss goals just became a whole lot easier.

### 1. You're Dehydrated

It has been said that 75 percent of the population is chronically dehydrated. Would you disagree? When was the last time that you actually drank eight glasses of water in a day? Dehydration occurs when more fluid

leaves your body than is taken in. Symptoms include: fatigue, irritability, headaches, nausea, rapid heart rate, and, in extreme cases, even death. Dehydration also slows your metabolism, which hinders weight loss.

You shouldn't wait until the feeling of thirst or dry mouth hits you. At that point the damage has already been done. Instead, constantly rehydrate throughout your day to avoid dehydration.

The best way to do this is to incorporate water into your daily schedule. Have a water bottle at your desk and train yourself to sip from it often. Get into the habit of drinking a full glass of water with each meal and snack.

### 2. You Eat Out Too Often

Research suggests that most people eat out at least one out of every four meals and snacks. That's an average of once a day.

Restaurant food is designed to do one thing: to taste good. In order to increase eating pleasure, each item is loaded with fat, salt and sugar. This causes you to eat way more calories than you actually need. Even when

you order "healthy" items, you are still taking in more calories and fat grams than you would if you had prepared the item at home. Imagine the last salad you ordered out. Didn't it come with cream dressing, croutons, cheese sprinkles and a piece of butter-laden bread on the side?

The main reason people eat out is for convenience, so with a little organization you'll find that preparing your own meals takes less time than you thought it would. On the weekend sit down and plan out your meals for the week. Then go to the grocery store and stock up on everything you'll need for those meals.

Pack your lunch and snacks each night before bed, then grab it on your way out the door in the morning. When you prepare dinner at home, make enough for at least the next day as well. Your efforts will pay off both in terms of weight loss and in money saved.

### 3. You Are Sleep-Deprived

In Gallup Poll surveys, 56 percent of the adult population reported that drowsiness is a problem in the daytime. That's more than half of us that clearly don't get enough sleep.

Healthy adults require seven to eight hours of sleep each night. When you fail to meet this need, your body goes into sleep debt, which continues to accumulate indefinitely until you catch up. Lack of sleep negatively affects your immune system and your nervous system, and it interferes with healthy hormone release and cellular repairs.

The best way to combat sleep deprivation is to set a scheduled bedtime. Your body will benefit from a consistent sleeping and waking routine, and you're sure to get all the rest you need.

If you have trouble falling asleep once you're in bed, then try these two tips. First, make sure that you don't drink any caffeinated beverages after lunchtime. Second, don't eat for three hours before you go to bed. This helps eliminate sleeplessness due to indigestion, and will also turbo-charge your weight loss.

### 4. You're Stressed Out

I don't have to tell you that we are living in a fast-paced world and that most of us have stress levels that are through the roof. But what you might not realize is that your stress

levels are making you fat. Stress creates an increase in the hormone cortisol, and chronic stress creates a chronic increase in cortisol. This is a problem because it slows your metabolism, leads to cravings and is linked to greater levels of abdominal fat storage.

The vicious cycle of stress and weight gain goes around and around. Stress causes you to eat emotionally, and your raised cortisol levels cause that food to be stored as fat.

One of the most effective ways to instantly eliminate stress is to sit down and write out a list of all the things that are bothering you. This should include things that you need to get done, issues that weigh on your mind and anything you believe contributes to your stress level.

Once it's all down on paper, organize it like a to-do list and start resolving each item. Doing so will get the stress off of your mind and will put your body into the motion of resolving each issue.

### 5. You're on Exercise Autopilot

You do the same thing each and every time you exercise. Same machines, same pace, same duration. While your routine sure feels comfortable, your results have long since halted. A plateau occurs when your body adapts to your routine and weight loss stops. It is incredibly frustrating, and totally avoidable.

You don't have to increase the amount of time that you spend exercising in order to see quicker, faster results. It's all about challenging your body. There are two simple ways to instantly increase the effectiveness of your exercise routine. First, increase your pace. Secondly, increase your intensity. Constantly vary your speed and intensity in order to keep your muscles guessing and adapting.

Another way to break through the exercise plateau is to do something totally new. If you regularly use weight machines then start using free weights. If you normally jog on the treadmill then start using the bike.

Are you ready to break the plateau as you take your routine to the next level? Would you like to know without a shadow of a doubt that you are going to lose weight in the coming months? It's my goal to see you achieve greatness. I believe that you've got what it takes.

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

APRIL 2010									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0133	8.53	0821	-1.10	1408	7.63	2023	-0.35	Thu 01
02 Fri	0219	8.23	0910	-0.64	1458	7.29	2107	0.13	Fri 02
03 Sat	0307	7.83	1002	-0.09	1553	6.94	2156	0.66	Sat 03
04 Sun	0404	7.40	1059	0.46	1655	6.67	2257	1.15	Sun 04
05 Mon	0514	7.04	1200	0.91	1802	6.54			Mon 05
06 Tue	0010	1.49	0627	6.83	1300	1.19	1905	6.59	Tue 06
07 Wed	0118	1.61	0731	6.80	1358	1.29	2003	6.76	Wed 07
08 Thu	0218	1.53	0829	6.88	1450	1.25	2055	7.00	Thu 08
09 Fri	0311	1.30	0920	7.01	1537	1.13	2142	7.23	Fri 09
10 Sat	0358	1.01	1006	7.12	1618	0.98	2224	7.41	Sat 10
11 Sun	0440	0.72	1048	7.19	1653	0.84	2259	7.54	Sun 11
12 Mon	0517	0.44	1122	7.20	1720	0.72	2323	7.63	Mon 12
13 Tue	0548	0.21	1148	7.19	1738	0.58	2335	7.78	Tue 13
14 Wed	0612	0.03	1204	7.21	1800	0.44	2359	7.98	Wed 14
15 Thu	0638	-0.12	1229	7.27	1833	0.35			Thu 15
16 Fri	0033	8.16	0711	-0.19	1305	7.31	1911	0.34	Fri 16
17 Sat	0112	8.27	0750	-0.15	1346	7.31	1955	0.43	Sat 17
18 Sun	0156	8.25	0835	-0.01	1432	7.25	2042	0.60	Sun 18
19 Mon	0245	8.11	0925	0.22	1524	7.15	2136	0.82	Mon 19
20 Tue	0339	7.85	1022	0.46	1623	7.06	2237	1.01	Tue 20
21 Wed	0440	7.54	1131	0.65	1730	7.04	2353	1.07	Wed 21
22 Thu	0551	7.28	1301	0.65	1853	7.20			Thu 22
23 Fri	0137	0.83	0721	7.21	1418	0.42	2014	7.54	Fri 23
24 Sat	0253	0.31	0846	7.36	1520	0.11	2117	7.95	Sat 24
25 Sun	0355	-0.26	0949	7.57	1614	-0.20	2210	8.31	Sun 25
26 Mon	0450	-0.75	1043	7.73	1704	-0.41	2259	8.54	Mon 26
27 Tue	0541	-1.07	1133	7.79	1751	-0.48	2346	8.64	Tue 27
28 Wed	0630	-1.17	1221	7.74	1837	-0.40			Wed 28
29 Thu	0031	8.58	0717	-1.05	1307	7.62	1920	-0.18	Thu 29
30 Fri	0114	8.39	0803	-0.74	1352	7.43	2001	0.16	Fri 30
MAY 2010									
01 Sat	0157	8.10	0849	-0.31	1439	7.21	2042	0.56	Sat 01
02 Sun	0242	7.75	0935	0.19	1528	7.01	2122	0.97	Sun 02
03 Mon	0329	7.38	1023	0.68	1622	6.85	2208	1.35	Mon 03
04 Tue	0426	7.04	1113	1.09	1721	6.76	2310	1.63	Tue 04
05 Wed	0535	6.78	1206	1.38	1821	6.76			Wed 05
06 Thu	0023	1.76	0642	6.65	1300	1.54	1917	6.85	Thu 06
07 Fri	0127	1.72	0742	6.62	1351	1.56	2009	7.00	Fri 07
08 Sat	0223	1.52	0835	6.66	1437	1.48	2055	7.17	Sat 08



Photo by PETE GUSTAS

his NYC falcon newsletter regularly. This is mostly a compilation of eyewitness accounts of falcon behavior in and around the various nesting sites of the city. What strikes us most about these birds is the bond that has evolved between the observers and the observed. This is especially evident around the time when the vulnerable young must fledge; although these baby birds do not realize it, many leave the nest with a guardian human/angel or two by their side. There is something for everyone in Bob's newsletter, for the casual birder or veteran. Anyone can read it—it's free!—by contacting Bob at [rd-cny@earthlink.net](mailto:rd-cny@earthlink.net).

### PUDDLE PG AND MORE

Recently we wrote of a peregrine falcon that has taken to bathing in the puddles at Orchard Beach, and we know some of our readers may have found it hard to believe. Well, this photograph, sent to us and taken by Pete Gustas, confirms it. Pete has been observing Puddle PG—so named by Pete and friends—and his watery ways for years; and he knows it is the same bird by the band number on its leg.

Incidentally, Pete was also able to confirm that 35 to 40 mute swans have been counted in the lagoon behind the Orchard Beach parking lot. (And we thought we had the record with about 12.) Then there was the deer that was killed by a car near the Bartow-Pell entrance in early March. As far as we know, it was the first, but probably not the last.

Another birder familiar with the peregrine falcons of New York City is the Bronx's own Birding Bob, who sends us

The view from the City Island bridge during last month's nor'easter was impressive. As we were driving home, to my right, the protected bay was as flat calm as can be. To my left, the windward side of the island, the Sound was a raging mess. The view out the window on Sutherland Street was even more impressive that same night; some might even say it was upside down. The extra high tide was surging up the street toward City Island Avenue. On the next street over, Kilroe, the surge brought along with it someone's rowboat. We understand that a few parked cars took on water.

Finally, we leave you with what may be one of the strangest City Island sights in a long while: rubber bands. On a recent walk up Bay Street we counted 10. And this is not the first time! We have a few ideas as to their origin, but we would love to hear from you. Drop us an e-line on this subject or any others at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com). Otherwise, we can be reached care of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, Bronx, NY 10464.

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**Basketball**

*Continued from page 5*

"big boys" of St. Mary's 2009-2010 season were Vincent Forman, Isaac Rowser, Joshua Garcia, Walter Brennan, Alexeig Xhokxhiu, Cian Byrne, Conner Saulnier, Dante Rodriguez, John Eric Valenti, Michael O'Conner, John Branley and Brandon Rosenblatt.

**Girls Gidgets**

The Girls Gidgets team had a wonderful time this season. The team had one fourth-grader and seven third-graders. According to coaches Bob Whelan and Marcos Negron, every girl progressed nicely and demonstrated hard work and team play. Congratulations on a job well done to the Gidgets: Destiny White Foster, Sabrina Fontana, Jessica Hines, Claudia

Angel Tapler, Rebecca Scott, Christine Whelan, Dava-Lee Candelaria, Samantha Negron and Mia Comerico.

**Intramurals**

The co-ed Intramural team had a great season learning the fundamentals of the game. Coaches James Goonan, Tony O'Connell and Bill Whelan were pleased with the turnout for the team and wish good luck to all those moving up next year.

The eager-to-learn Intramural players were: Jabril Stanford, Nicholas Badillo, Samantha Kucerak, Meghan McConaghy, Jordan Rodriguez, Steven Mazza, John Wilson, Joseph Goonan, John Russell, Jonathan Rodriguez, Ryan Whelan, Thomas Whelan, Isabel Whelan, Robert Anthony O'Connell, Devon Munato, Amanda Acocella, Paul Goonan and Timothy Stiene.



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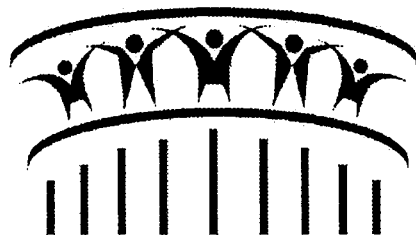
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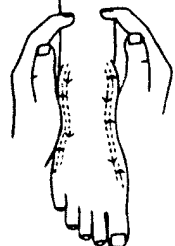
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Well, folks, after a very long winter it's time for baseball again. The City Island Little League is embarking on its 51st season. Our opening day ceremony will be on Saturday, April 17, at 10 a.m. at Ambrosini Field. Please come and join us as we celebrate another fine season of baseball here on City Island.

We have had two registrations already and are beginning the process of selecting teams. If you have a child who is interested in playing baseball, please contact us as soon as possible so we can find a team for him/her. Boys and girls ages 5 through 13 are eligible to play. You can call Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313 or e-mail Sally Connolly at [sallypconnolly@aol.com](mailto:sallypconnolly@aol.com) for more information.

There have been some changes to our executive board this year. After many years of service, our long-time president Bob Whelan has turned over the reins to John Tomsen. Bob has been involved in youth sports on City Island for over three decades. He has kept our league vibrant and exciting. He worked tirelessly to insure that every child who wanted to play ball had an opportunity to do so. His leadership and guidance will be missed, but we look forward to moving ahead following his example of integrity and fair play. I speak for the executive board, managers, coaches, parents and, most importantly, the hundreds of players Bob has touched when I simply say, "Thank you, Bob!"

As always, we would like to take a moment to thank our sponsors. We continue to receive interest from new sponsors. Next month we will list them all in *The Current* so you can thank them for their support. Hope to see you all at the field.

Larry Saulnier

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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.

Happy April 19 birthday wishes to Pell Place's Eileen Scott.

Good luck to the Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, which is opening this month with a wine and cheese event on April 17 at 7:30 pm. Stop by and say "hi"!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from her family.

City Island resident John Scardina was interviewed on Channel 67/Bronx Net's Open Show in March to promote his Bronx Community College seminars "Parenting in the 21st Century." You can see another set of interviews with John and his BCC seminar participants on Cablevision's Neighborhood Journal, Channel 118, beginning April 4 (on the hour each evening).

Co-workers, customers and friends wish Chase Bank's Brenda Winston a terrific birthday on April 25.

Happy May 1 birthday wishes to Diane Duryea from your friends at Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc.

Nora: you must be proud of your refrigerator's debut! Guess who?

Happy 10th birthday to Dusty Rose! Love, Mom, Dad, Travis and Russell.

Birthday wishes on April 25 to Bay Street's Maria Swieciki, with love from Bob and the kids.

Happy birthday to my older sister,



Colin Kenny.

Lisa Ferraro, from her Atlantic City pal, Susan.

Happy April birthdays to Walter Henning and Richard (the Duke) Frey.

Congratulations to St. Mary, Star of the Sea pre-kindergartner Colin Kenny for being awarded Student of the Month in March. We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad, Jayden, Hunny and Pop Pop.

Congratulations to Alanis Lynne Lopez and her best friend, Samantha Rivera, who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 27 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. May God continue to bless you both today and always. Much love, Mom/Annette.

And a very happy spring to everyone. We deserve it!

Maria Swieciki

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

At the P.S. 175 Card Party "Under the Big Top", which took place at the Lido on Friday, March 12, 2010, State Senator Jeff Klein presented Principal Amy Lipson with a check for \$45,000 to purchase 41 new Apple laptop computers for the school. Senator Klein said: "The best way for young people to compete is to make sure they have the right computers. This money is your taxpayer dollars . . . and your taxpayer dollars came back to work for you." Standing (l. to r.) are PTA co-president Leslie Hanley, Senator Klein, principal Amy Lipson, Brenda Prohaska, Tracy Tomsen, PTA co-president Lisa Liquori-Fine and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto.



Photo by PAUL NANI

After being postponed because of a snowstorm, the benefit for victims of the fire on City Island Avenue last November was held on March 21, 2010, at Grace Church on Pilot Street. Music director and Island resident Steve Marcus presented an enthusiastic and talented group of singers and comedians to raise money for the businesses and tenants displaced by the fire at 415 City Island Avenue. Among the attendees were Patrice and Raphael Ortega, owners of ToGo Express takeout restaurant. Their restaurant and kitchen were damaged by the fire, but they have been able to stay in business by temporarily relocating to Augie's Deli on City Island Avenue. Patrice and Raphael look forward to returning to their original location, but there is no definite date yet. Repairs to the damaged property are under way, and Islanders have marveled how quickly the outside of the building has been restored. Work on the inside continues, and everyone looks forward to the completion date. Among the performers at the benefit were (l. to r.): Karen Nani, Frank Siciliano, Fred Lando, Evyonne Baker, Steve Marcus, Skip Giacco, Lenny Schwartz, Patricia Alexander, Eileen Marcus, Joanne Brogan, Dennis DeLeo, Denis Zepeda, Chris Avena and Jacqueline Mercado.

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