

The Island Current

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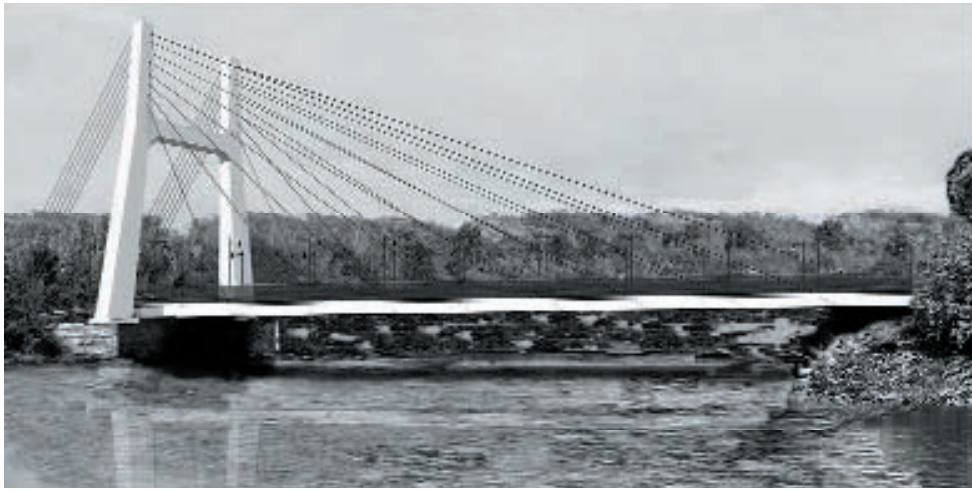
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One Dollar

HERE COMES THE BRIDGE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Rendering courtesy of DOT

As Island residents and businesses prepare themselves for the three-year water-main and sewer replacement project, New York City agencies are preparing themselves for the replacement of the City Island bridge.

Members of the City Island Civic Association attended an all-agency meeting convened by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on March 3, 2005, at which Gandhi Engineering Inc. presented its plans for the new bridge. The schedule calls for construction of a temporary bridge to begin in October 2007 and for the new bridge to be completed in October 2010. The sewer project will not be completed before the spring of 2008, but according to DOT, the two projects will not pose a conflict.

The temporary bridge will be constructed south of the present bridge and is designed to withstand storms and heavy

tides for at least three years, the term of the project. The temporary bridge, which will have three lanes, including a fire lane, will be accessed through parkland north of the bridge and will enter City Island through the Catherine Scott Memorial Park. After the new bridge is in place, the temporary bridge will be demolished, the parkland restored and the traffic redirected to its present location.

Kirti Gandhi, president of Gandhi Engineering, described the new bridge as 20 feet wider than the present bridge, to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and shoulders in addition to three lanes of traffic, one lane designated as a fire lane. The extra width will allow for bridge maintenance in the future without interrupting the flow of traffic.

The bridge is a cable-stayed design, with a 50-meter tower supporting cables

extending to parkland on the north side and to City Island on the south. This design will eliminate the need for supporting structures in the water, as there are now. There will be a 12-foot clearance above the high water mark, 4 feet more than there is now, according to the engineers. The temporary bridge will also allow for boat traffic during the construction period, except for short periods during demolition.

According to the DOT schedule, the temporary bridge will take 9 months to construct; the demolition and construction of the new bridge will take 21 months and the restoration of traffic patterns and of the parkland will take an additional 6 months.

Con Edison and Verizon informed those in attendance at the meeting that they were prepared to run expanded conduits, a gas main and power lines under the bridge as the construction schedule permits. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will also make certain that the water mains running under the present bridge to City Island are protected and that the installation of two new 24-inch mains be coordinated with Gandhi.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, brought up several

issues of concern to residents and businesses, specifically traffic control, the storage of construction equipment, security issues regarding the tower, graffiti, water traffic during construction and demolition and the appearance of the new bridge. He made a special request that the tower not be lighted dramatically like the Throggs Neck Bridge and that no leases be given for cell-phone towers on the bridge. He also requested traffic agents to be on duty during the construction period and an electronic traffic sign in Pelham Bay Park to alert drivers to traffic conditions on City Island.

In response to questions about the appearance of the new bridge, Mr. Gandhi said that the schematic drawings were not final and that enhancements to the design would be resolved in due course by the New York City Art Commission. He assured Mr. Fitts that there would be community input at each stage of the planning and construction process and that City Island Avenue and the parkland would be restored to its original condition, including the replanting of mature trees.

COMMUNITY CENTER AND MUSEUM AT RISK?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Unless Haim Joseph, the proprietor of 190 Fordham St. Realty, Corp., pays back taxes on two units in the old Public School 17 building on Fordham Street, the City Island Historical Society/Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center could be in danger of losing their spaces in the building.

When New York City sold the building to Mr. Joseph in 1988, the deed contained a restrictive covenant mandating that the units be limited to "not-for-profit, City Island-related, museum and community center uses," and the developer was required to issue 99-year leases to each organization. According to the indenture agreement between Mr. Joseph and the city signed Feb. 11, 1988, "this covenant shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantee, the Grantee's successors and assigns and every successor in interest to the property conveyed hereby."

In spite of this signed agreement, Mr. Joseph has not paid real-estate taxes on the two units since 2001, when the building was converted to condominiums, although it was clearly stated in the Condominium Offering Plan that "Sponsor or its designee will be solely responsible for the payment of all Common Charges and other costs and expenses relating to the Non-Residen-

tial Units."

A tax lien for the Historical Society unit was sold in 2003 to a lienholder, who filed for foreclosure on Aug. 19, 2004. On Feb. 1, 2005, Judge Bertram Katz of the Supreme Court of the State of New York handed down a judgment of foreclosure and sale, and an auction date was set for April 19, 2005.

Representatives of the Historical Society and the Community Center have enlisted the help of Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., both of whom have written letters to Marsha Stark, Commissioner of the Department of Finance for the City of New York, pointing out the existence of the restrictive covenants on the property (see *Box 6*). As of press time, no response had been received to their letters or to those written by Virginia Gallagher and Barbara Dolensek on behalf of the organizations.

The total amount owed by 190 Fordham St. Realty is over \$17,000 for the two units. It has been suggested that the two not-for-profit organizations purchase the units, but neither has sufficient funds to pay real-estate taxes nor is there a likelihood that sufficient funds could be raised on an annual basis in the future.

HOOP DREAMS – BIG RESULTS!



Photos Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2005 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Junior Varsity Boys team won the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Bronx Division Championship! See article in this issue for season results for all St. Mary's teams. Shown above are the Bronx Champs (kneeling l. to r.): Christopher Vatti, Avery Thomas, Kevin Whelan, Vincens Miria, Henry Sanchez and Nicholas Peluso. Standing are coach Andy Werkhoven, Reese Werkhoven, Frank Ortiz, Jack McCabe, Sal Kulka, David Strother, Ryan Pena, Hart Deese and coach Bob



Congratulations to the hard-working St. Mary's Girls Gidgets basketball team! They made it to the semifinals of their division and competed in four tournaments. Shown above with coaches Frank Strazzera and Carlo Volpe are the tournament champs (kneeling): Brianna Saunders, Birla Storm Gonzalez, Nicole Cerrato, Olivia Carrión and Annalise Vivola. Standing are: Jennifer Branley, Victoria Strazzera, Amber Tudor, Paige O'Donnell, Gabrielle Vitiello, Vittoria Volpe and Ashlee Yarusso. Not shown: Shannon Monaghan.

BRIEFLY...

BRONX MASONS CLOTHING DRIVE will be held on Saturday, April 16, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue. All clothes donations received will go to St. Athanasius Church in the South Bronx. Please separate clothes into individual bags for men, women and children. These clothes will go to needy recipients. For more information about this one-day event, call Scott Meyer at 885-0374.

THE BRONX BIATHLON will take place in Pelham Bay Park on Sunday, April 17, from 7 to 11 a.m. This event closes off traffic going north on Shore Road and on the Hutchinson River Parkway, so those who wish to travel to Westchester County that morning will be obliged to use I-95 or some other route.

LIFE IS A CABARET! The City Island Theater Group proudly presents their spring 2005 show: the exciting musical "Cabaret." Performance dates are: April 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and April 24 at 3 p.m. All performances will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Ave. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors, and Bronx cultural cardholders. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your tickets today.

AUTHOR KATHERINE KIRKPATRICK will participate in National Library Week at the New Rochelle Public Library on Saturday, April 9, at 2 p.m. in a program called "History Sleuths." Ms. Kirkpatrick, a former resident and author of "Keeping the Good Light," and author Mary McGahan of Larchmont, will reveal how they wrote their recent books for children using clues from the remarkable past of New Rochelle and the Sound Shore area. The authors will give tips on writing their own historical fiction and the local history detective work needed for this genre. Ms. Kirkpatrick's new book, "Escape Across the Wide Sea," relates the journey of nine year-old Daniel Bonnet, a French Huguenot forced to leave his homeland, who settles in the new community of New Rochelle, NY, in the 1600s. The free program includes a brief slide show of some of New Rochelle's oldest graveyards, houses and sites that gave the authors inspiration for their books, and instructions on where to find the sites.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT LE REFUGE: On Saturday, April 30, at 4 p.m., a chamber music concert featuring works by Beethoven, Poulenc and others, will be performed at Le Refuge Inn, 586 City Island Avenue. The performers will be Janine Robinson, piano; Amy Kempton, flute; Alan Hollander, oboe; Michael Caputo, clarinet; Brad de Milo, French horn; and Donna Munzel, bassoon. Admission is free. If you wish to make post-concert dinner reservations, call 718-885-2478.

SEWER REPLACEMENT MEETING The April meeting of the City Island Civic Association, to be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center at 190 Fordham Street, will be devoted entirely to a public discussion of the forthcoming storm and sanitary sewer replacement project. The project is scheduled to begin in April, but there are a lot of open questions, such as how traffic is to be handled, what streets will be done first, why no work (except on Schofield Street) is to be done during the summer and what is the responsibility of individuals whose lines connect to the main lines on City Island Avenue. Representatives of the Mayor's office, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Design and Construction will be on hand to make a presentation and answer questions. Be sure to come.

GREAT FLOWERING LANDSCAPE SHRUBS is the subject of a lecture by Vincent Simeone to be given at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road on Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m. Mr. Simeone is director of Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park in Oyster Bay, New York, and teaches at the New York Botanical Garden and SUNY Farmingdale. He is the author of a newly published book entitled "Great Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape." He will discuss exciting new varieties of traditional shrubs and how to select the proper plant based on aesthetic value, landscape function or cultural requirements. Admission \$8 per person. For more information, call 718-885-1461.

COMMUNITY CENTER GARAGE SALE: On Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Community Garage sale held indoors at the City Island Community Center located at 190 Fordham Street. Tables to sell your wares, knick knacks and bric-a-brac can be reserved for \$10 per table by leaving a message at 718-885-1145. A bake sale and raffle drawing will be held during the sale. For more information please call 718-885-1145.



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ISLAND VISITOR KILLED AT TRAFFIC CIRCLE



Photo by KAREN NANI

A fatal car accident claimed the life of a 23-year-old driver at the City Island traffic circle on March 7, 2005. Family and friends of Freddie Lumaj created a memorial to the victim at the tree where the impact occurred.

Dozens of flowers and bouquets surround the trunk of a single tree on the City Island traffic circle as a touching memorial to the life and tragic death of Bronx resident Freddie Lumaj.

Mr. Lumaj, a construction worker from the Pelham Parkway section of the Bronx, died early in the morning of March 7 after crashing his car into the tree just minutes after leaving a City Island restaurant. He had been visiting Portofino with his younger cousin Ermel Lumaj just before the accident.

According to a report in the New York Post, Ermel Lumaj said that he and his cousin were unwinding by listening to music at the restaurant. Ironically, as the two men were getting into separate cars after leaving Portofino, Freddie told his

younger cousin to be careful leaving the Island and to avoid speeding. As the two drove off, Ermel reported seeing Freddie flash his headlights and pass him on City Island Road just seconds before crashing into the tree.

At the crash site, Mr. Lumaj was found unconscious and with severe head trauma by Emergency Medical Service technicians. He was pronounced dead at Jacobi Medical Center about an hour later.

Mr. Lumaj immigrated to the Bronx from Albania four years ago. He lived with his mother and brother near Astor Avenue. He was described by relatives as a very hard worker, often putting in 14-hour days, in order to earn money to bring more family members to this country from Albania.

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MTA TO TAKE OVER NEW YORK BUS SERVICE

By BILL STUTTIG

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and New York Bus Service (NYBS) recently announced that they have finally reached an agreement in principle to transfer control of the express bus service to the MTA.

For more than 30 years, NYBS has served City Island and other communities of the east Bronx with reliable, bus transportation directly to Manhattan, serving more than 10,000 riders in the Bronx every day. Two buses are provided to take City Island residents to Manhattan each weekday morning and back to City Island from Manhattan late in the afternoon.

Many Island residents also take advantage of the reliable, comfortable service to and from Manhattan from transfer points in nearby Bronx communities, such as Pelham Bay and Co-op City. The service operates seven days a week and nearly 18 hours a day from these nearby communities.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who first proposed an MTA takeover of the city's seven privately operated express bus lines in December of 2002, set several deadlines for the MTA to reach an agreement with the owners of NYBS on a takeover that would be acceptable to both sides. After failing to meet those deadlines several times, a final deadline was set last year for an agreement to be reached by the end of March 2005.

In announcing that the two sides have

reached an agreement in principle, Mayor Bloomberg said, "I am very pleased we have reached an agreement with New York Bus Service. This is an important step toward completion of the transfer to the MTA of the franchise bus lines."

Mr. Bloomberg also announced that NYBS would continue to operate the bus routes until the final details of the transfer of control are worked out, including operation of New York Bus's depot near Co-op City. The transfer is expected to occur by late summer, according to a press release from the mayor's office.

NYBS president James O'Reilly said, "New York Bus Service looks forward to working with the city of New York and the MTA in accomplishing a seamless transfer of express bus operation without any inconvenience to our riders. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our employees who have worked so hard in providing an excellent commuter service for our riders between the Bronx and Manhattan."

Although almost everyone who uses New York Bus Service agrees that the service has been excellent over the past 30 years, many riders fear that an MTA takeover will mean a decline in service.

Transportation advocates in the Bronx have reported hearing many complaints from Riverdale residents about a decline in service to that community after the MTA took over the private Liberty Lines routes serving the west Bronx in January.

Congressman Joseph Crowley, in a recent letter responding to a constituent expressing concerns about the MTA, said, "My top priority is the continuation of bus service with high quality and the same routes for my constituents, whether they be operated by private lines or the MTA, as well as labor and job protections for the workers of the MTA and the private bus lines. I am hopeful of the future role of the MTA; it is a new role but we will be monitoring the situation very closely."

New York Bus Service is the third of the seven bus companies to announce an agreement with the MTA. Liberty Lines agreed in January, and Queens Surface Corporation agreed in February. Those two lines are now being operated by the MTA.

Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt

By BOB CARMODY



The City Island Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, at Hawkins Street Park and was a huge success and fun for all.

The Easter Bunny showed up unexpectedly, causing a photo frenzy that lasted for about an hour and left a smile on everyone's face.

The first event was a lively Easter Egg Hunt, in which children scrambled around the park and found about 1,000 prize-filled eggs. The children were then rewarded with special prizes for their enthusiasm.

The Piscitelli Family of Timeless Sweets handed out jelly beans and candy samples to everyone. They also served up fresh popcorn, cotton candy and various other treats. The Pizza Place across the street beefed up their staff in order to be able to feed all the little egg hunters and volunteers.

The Chamber set up a raffle and information table. The 50/50 raffle winner was Sara Kim, and Mary Jo Byrne won the Basket of Cheer.

The second event was the Easter Bonnet and Hat Walk around the park. Participants of all ages let their imaginations run wild with their designing capabilities, and the winners were: Nautical: Nicholas Calbo; Original: Anthony Orzo; Humorous: Catherine Ambrosini; Classy: Julia Di

Marco; Biggest: Amanda Brennen; Flowery: Annalise Vivolo; and Just Plain Silly: Joseph Kramer. Honorable Mentions went to Dusty Prohaska, Gina Di Marco, Celeste Zayas, Julianna Gonzalez, Benicio Hernandez, Jacqueline Vitataco, Brianna and Christine Whelan.

Prizes were donated by the following businesses and residents of City Island: Connie's Market, Papa John's, The Black Whale, the Pizza Place, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Bronx Equestrian Center, Island Produce, B & B's Restaurant, the Chamber of Commerce, Geri Seiter, Pat Genovese and a secret donor!

There were many volunteers who made the event possible: Kelly Carmody (even though she was incognito), Maddy Piscitelli, Diane Carmody, Geri Seiter, Joanie Ramftl, Maria Swieciki, Terry Carmody, Freddie Ramftl, Peter La Scala, Kim Moran, Candy Mancuso, Marge McNulty, John Lippman and Paul Kline. Apologies to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted.



The Chamber of Commerce thanks all the volunteers, donors and participants. See you next year!

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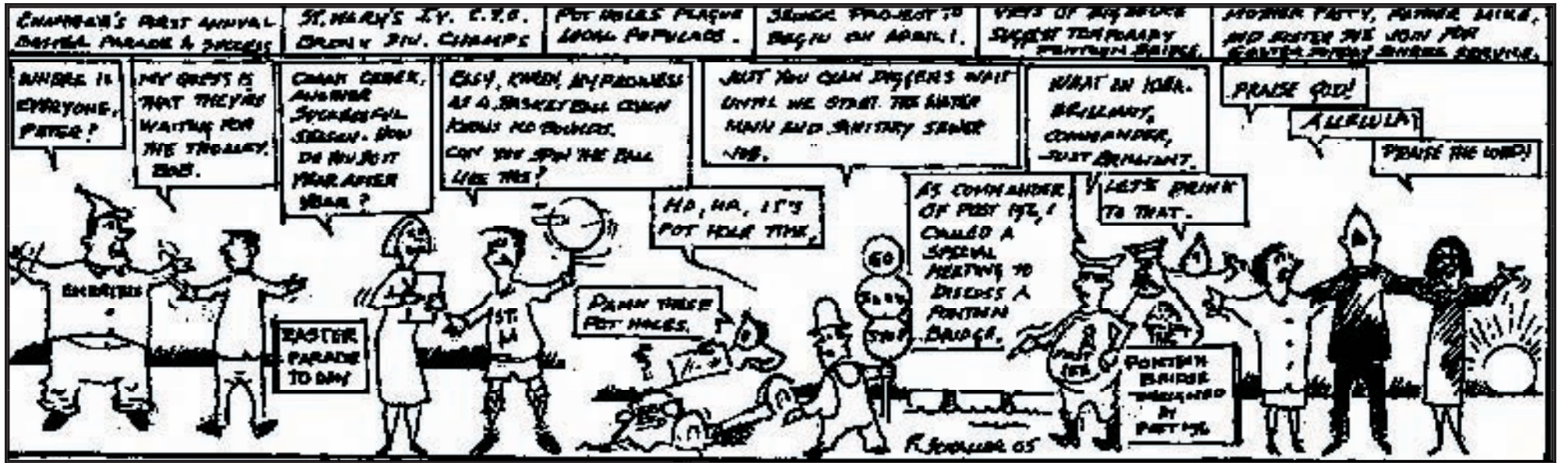
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SOS

Copies of the following letters were received by The Current.

Martha Stark, Commissioner
 NYC Department of Finance
 One Centre Street, Room 500
 New York, NY 10007
 March 16, 2005

Dear Commissioner Stark:

I am writing on behalf of the City Island Community Center and the City Island Historical Society that are located at 190 Fordham Street.

Both of these organizations are housed in an old school building that was sold by the City in 1988 to a private entity. As part of the agreement to purchase the property, the purchaser signed an agreement to assign 99-year leases for the spaces in the building to the two non-profit organizations mentioned above. This restrictive covenant runs with the properties.

Most of the space in the school building was subdivided and sold as condominiums. The two spaces were to be maintained by the owner for non-residential use.

The tax liens on these two properties were sold at auction last year and there has been a notice of foreclosure filed for these two units. The property owner has not paid taxes on these two units since 2001. Since the two units are occupied by not-for-profit 501c3 organizations, why is the property subject to real estate taxes? In addition, the two properties are assessed at a much higher level than the condominiums in the building.

I am requesting that your agency review the sale of these tax liens and determine if the City should have sold them without notification to the two community organizations. In addition, was the purchaser of the liens advised of the restrictive covenant that exists on these properties?

If you have any questions or are in need of any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the district office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Madeline Provenzano, Council Member

March 23, 2005

Dear Commissioner Stark

I was hoping you could assist me with a

matter of great concern to my constituents on City Island.

The City Island Community Center and the City Island Historical Society, located at 190 Fordham Street, are both housed in an old school building that was sold by the City in 1988 to a private entity. As part of the agreement to purchase the property, the purchaser signed an agreement to assign 99-year leases for the spaces in the building with the not-for-profit organizations. This restrictive covenant runs with the properties.

The space was subsequently subdivided and sold as condominiums. The two spaces covered by the restrictive covenant are the only two spaces in the building that were to be maintained by the owner for non-residential use. The tax liens on these two properties were sold at auction last year and there has been a notice of foreclosure for these two units. The property owner has not paid taxes on these two units since 2001.

My question and that of the organizations at issue here is since the two units are occupied by not-for-profit 501c3 organizations, why is the property subject to real estate taxes? I am informed by Barbara Dolensek from the City Island Historical Society that these two units are assessed at a considerably higher level than the condominiums in the building; can you explain why?

Please have someone in your office review the state of these tax liens and determine if the City should have sold them without notification to the two community organizations. In addition, please advise if the purchaser of the liens was advised of the restrictive covenants that exist on these properties. Lastly, what recourse would the holders of these 99-year leases have? I am enclosing copies of the relevant pages from the sponsor's offering plan and other relevant documents.

Adolfo Carrión Jr

Spring Cleaning

To the Editor:

"Whan that the month of May is comen and that I here the foules singe..." That's all the Chaucer I can remember, but the general idea is that spring is coming and it's time for spring clean-up after all the snow.

All of us are proud of our homes and gardens, and I wish we could look like Christmastime every day. Other than flora and fauna, let's try to paint and spruce up and perhaps get rid of those antique wire rusted fences and whatever else is still in the garage, basement and attic. (I'm afraid to look in mine after 50 years of living in our house!).

And please let's not put our trash out on a Saturday for Monday pickup. It spoils the appearance of the island and is sometimes a lure for animals. The annual beach clean sweep will soon be arranged. Let us work to preserve our historic nautical heritage. Spring on! Spring at last.

Jackie Kyle Kall

Tsunami Relief Report

Last month The Current published an article about Father Eugene, formerly with St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and now back in his native Sri Lanka, where he is involved in rescue and recovery efforts after the tragic tsunami struck the day after Christmas 2004. The following letter gives more detail about the kind of work that he is doing. For those who wish to support him, checks payable to Father Eugene Sudath Gunetilleke may be sent to his attention at St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

To the Editor:

I am sorry not to have kept in touch with you, but I have been involved in many activities. My responsibilities keep me so busy that I have no time for correspondence. I hope you will understand.

Several schools in Negombo, which is a coastal area, were ruined due to the tsunami tidal wave, resulting in the displacement of many innocent schoolchildren. Therefore, the archbishop of Colombo wants to expedite the inauguration of a branch school of St. Joseph's College in this area in order to help these children as soon as we can. This task has been fully entrusted to me, and I

have been appointed rector of the school.

It is going to be a gigantic task, which will need a lot of funds and hard work. The foundation stone for the first building as the initial stage was laid on March 9 by the archbishop himself. I hope it was a very good start.

It is my duty to let you know about the progress of my tsunami relief project. My original idea was to put up some houses for the victims, but because of the dispute about the 100-meter buffer zone rule [the refusal of banks to fund construction within 100 meters of the ocean], even the government has not begun any housing projects. Therefore, I changed my direction and thought we should purchase boats and fishing gear for affected families in the fishing communities. Although I placed orders for the goods in early February, the supply was delayed because of high demand.

I have already been able to donate the first set of items to a needy family, and I have placed orders for another set. I have also allocated some money to offer scholarships for some of the schoolchildren. Once I implement the project properly, I will come back to you with all the details.

I hope this mail finds you in good health. May God bless all your endeavors in life!

Father Eugene Sudath

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Dudley the Dog is Returned

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The now-famous Dudley the dog is back with his family, Christine and Andy Werkhoven and their children, Isabel and Reese.

Valentine's Day 2005 was celebrated by many romantics on Sunday, Feb. 13, which was destined to become the one winter day when City Island experiences the heavy traffic of summer.

It was also destined to be the day that the Werkhoven family dog, a white poodle named Dudley, took advantage of an open gate and went wandering down City Island Avenue, at about 4:15 in the afternoon.

Although the family went into search mode less than half an hour after his escape, he seemed to have disappeared into thin air.

Despite numerous sightings during that half hour gap, he was nowhere to be found. Family members canvassed the neighborhood calling his name and, as anyone on foot on the avenue that day can attest, they questioned every pedestrian they saw.

By the time it got dark, the outlook was becoming bleak. On the three occasions when Dudley had escaped before, he had been recovered within minutes. Except, that is, for the Saturday morning he went to the girls' softball practice, where the coach told the players that if they ran the bases as fast as Dudley, they couldn't lose. That day he was gone for 30 minutes before the family recovered him.

By 8 p.m. on that fateful Sunday, Andy Werkhoven started putting up posters that his wife, Christine, and daughter, Isabel, were making with markers; by 10 p.m. they were making posters on the computer.

The Werkhovens thought for sure that a well-meaning neighbor must have seen him in the street and picked him up for safekeeping. It made them ill to think that anything else was possible. As everyone who shares their life and home with a pet knows, losing a dog is like losing a member of the family. Christine Werkhoven resolved that she would not just sit back and wait, and she became virtually obsessed with getting Dudley back.

As she told *The Current*, "I stopped working, eating normally, sleeping through the night and thinking clearly. I was use-

less except for working on getting Dudley back. I couldn't speak about Dudley without bursting into tears. People would say hello to me, and I would say, 'My dog is missing,' and hearing those words from my mouth would make me start to cry."

Christine made 2,500 posters, put ads in *The Island Current*, as well as the *Post*, the *Daily News*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Village Voice*, all four editions of the *Bronx Press Review*, all three editions of the *Bronx Times* and all editions of the *Penny Pincher*. The family hung banners over the north and southbound Bruckner Expressway (at the suggestion of the woman who runs the Mount Vernon shelter) and in the ball field by Rodmans Neck.

She bought mailing lists of pet shops, pet hospitals, groomers and vets within 10 square miles and mailed a color photo poster advertising the reward to all of them. She listed him as missing on *Dog Detective.com*, *Petfinder.com*, *Fido finder.com*, *LostandFound.com* and *Missingpet.com*. She emailed every poodle rescue operation in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and checked with the Center for Animal Care and Control (CCAC), the New Rochelle Humane Society, the Mount Vernon shelter, the Yonkers shelter and shelters in Long Island, Westchester and Putnam. She walked the beaches looking for his frozen body and called the Department of Sanitation to check "dead lists."

Christine checked with Parks Department personnel nearly every day, and Andy checked the CACC every other day. They posted flyers in the 43rd, 45th and 50th precincts and at the schoolrooms in Rodmans Neck. Every day she replaced posters that had gotten wet or had been removed. She even ambushed Adolfo Carrión, the Borough President, right here on City Island, to ask if he would help her get Dudley on Channel 12 news. The family also hung posters in Co-op city, Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck, Crosby Avenue, Middletown Road, Williamsbridge Road, White Plains Road, Pelham, Mount Vernon, New

Continued on page 17



Photos by KAREN NANI

James Vacca, manager of Community Board 10, announced his candidacy for the New York City Council seat being vacated by Madeline Provenzano in November. Mr. Vacca made his announcement to City Islanders at a fundraiser held on Feb. 24 at a home on Tier Street. Shown with the candidate at the event are (top photo): Islanders Jane Protzman (left) and Barbara Dolensek (both of whom were recovering from injuries), and (bottom photo, l. to r.) Bill Clancy Jr., Mr. Vacca, Bill Clancy Sr. and Islander John Neuner, who is the candidate's campaign budget director.

ISLANDER VOTE: PAST AND FUTURE

By KAREN NANI

Campaigning has already begun for the 2005 November election. In the New York City Council race, former New York State Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman and Community Board 10 Manager James Vacca have announced their candidacy for the seat being vacated by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano because of term limits. Let the electioneering begin!

First, a look back at how Islanders voted in the 2004 election. The Bronx Board of Elections recently reported that a record number of City Islanders cast their ballots in the November 2004 election. Among the 2,428 registered voters on City Island, 1,892 cast ballots, representing voter turnout of around 78 percent. A majority voted not to reelect George Bush as president, choosing John Kerry by a margin of 116 votes. Islanders did vote to return Senator Charles Schumer to the U.S. Senate and Congressman Joseph Crowley to the House of Representatives.

Although the national races for president and Congress received the most attention from Island voters, there was also interest in the local contests for New York State Assembly and Senate.

The following table indicates the tallies for Election Districts 60, 61, 62 and 63, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families party lines.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
<u>President/Vice-President</u>		
Kerry/Edwards	992	52
Bush/Cheney	876	46
Nader/Pierce	24	1
National Winner: George Bush/Dick Cheney		
<u>U.S. Senate</u>		
Charles Schumer	1,175	70
Howard Mills	396	23
Marilyn O'Grady	118	7
Statewide Winner: Charles Schumer		
<u>U.S. House of Representatives</u>		
Joseph Crowley	886	60
Joseph Cinquemani	581	40
State Winner: Joseph Crowley		
<u>New York State Senate</u>		
Jeffrey Klein	704	40
John Fleming	633	36
Stephen Kaufman	406	23
State Winner: Jeffrey Klein		
<u>New York State Assembly</u>		
Michael Benedetto	861	59
Raymond Capone	602	41
State Winner: Michael Benedetto		

Islanders were relieved that lines were shorter than anticipated on Nov. 2, 2004, at P.S. 175, the polling site for all residents. On a side note, the traditional Election Day sale at P.S. 175 benefited from strong voter turnout and the support of Islanders.

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BARTOW-PELL EVENTS



Photo courtesy BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM

Tanya Kraemer and Kevin Flynn of City Island are the new docents at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park. Be sure to pay them a visit.

New Visitor Services at Bartow-Pell

Two Island residents have recently joined the staff of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, making it possible for this historic house to expand its hours and its docent program for visitors.

Tanya Kraemer and Kevin Flynn are now leading tours of this landmark house, which with its carriage and gardens exemplifies the elegant country living that existed in the Pelham Bay area in the middle of the 19th century. The buildings sit on land that was originally inhabited by Siwanoy Indians and later stood witness to military action during the period of the American Revolution. The site is administered by the International Garden Club in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and is a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City.

For the first time ever, visitors may take guided tours during regular public hours, which are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 4 p.m. (last tour is 3:15 p.m.). The new docents escort visitors on a one-hour tour of this beautiful Greek Revival mansion, focusing on the life and times of the Bartow family and those who lived and worked on the family estate.

The tour will include the south wing and two floors of the main section of the mansion, including a new space for temporary exhibitions. The current exhibit explores the life and history of the Lenape Indians, who once inhabited the Pelham Bay area. The first floor of the main section encompasses a large entry hall, guest parlors and dining areas. A handsome spiral staircase leads upstairs to the master bedchamber and the boys' and girls' bedrooms, as well as a family parlor. All of the rooms are exquisitely furnished.

The 19th-century carriage house, which

is a short walk to the north of the mansion, is now open as part of the guided tour. Here visitors will view an old carriage and sleighs, a stable area that contains horse and pony models, a stable boy mannequin, tools and equipment needed for the care of the horses and the cistern that supplied water for the carriage house.

Another new service is the opening of the mansion on the first Friday of each month, when the new trolley runs between Pelham Bay Station, the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and various stops along City Island Avenue from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The tours are appropriate for all ages, although children must be accompanied by adults. Entrance fees are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students; children under six are admitted free. Wednesday is a free day for everyone. The location is 895 Shore Road (across from the Split Rock Golf Course). For more information, visit the Web site www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org or call 718-885-1461.

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

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** at 327 City Island Avenue will feature photography and paintings by Lily Fertik, Glenn and Nadiya Goldstein, John and Trudy Muhlfeld, and Lois Weingarten throughout the month of April. An opening reception will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 8.

The "Young City Island Artist Exhibition," on view at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, through the month of April, presents the work of young people from all over the Bronx 17 years of age and younger. The art work, including drawings, paintings, sculpture and photography, will demonstrate that creative energy is abundant in youth and should be encouraged. This event is made possible with public funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund, Bronx Borough

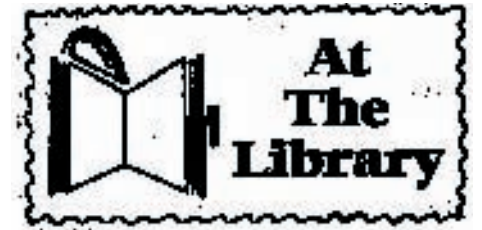


As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months 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
617 King Avenue	10/31/04	\$635,000	1 Family
238 Bowne Street	12/10/04	\$509,000	Condo
15 Deepwater Way	12/28/04	\$550,000	Condo
238 Bowne Street	1/5/05	\$559,000	Condo
74 Hawkins Street	1/7/05	\$390,000	1 Family
161 Ditmars Street	1/11/05	\$555,000	1 Family

President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council. The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. For further information, call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403.

On Saturday, April 9, **Starving Artist Café and Gallery**, 249 City Island Avenue, will have a reception at 3 p.m. for well-known City Island artist Mark Whitcombe, who will exhibit his latest works. Later that day, at 8 p.m., singer-songwriter Sam Leopold returns to the Starving Artist with his energetic act. The next two Sundays will feature jazz. On Sunday, April 17, Robin Radus brings his jazz keyboard and vocals to the café / gallery, starting at 3 p.m., and on Sunday, April 24, the City Island Jazz Trio will go on stage at 3 p.m. On Saturday, April 30, owner-proprietor Elliott Glick will lead a "great American songbook singalong." Everyone is welcome! Always on the menu at Starving Artist are Glick's handmade jewelry creations, as well as fine art / craft by various artists, coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso and treats, including Jen's Sweets, the pastries that are works of art.



The City Island Library now has Spanish books for adults and children. For information about any of the programs below, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

Adult Programs

E-mail Internet Workshop: Tuesday, April 12, at 11 a.m.

Arts and Crafts

Let's Fly Kites: A kite making workshop on Monday, April 11, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Ages 6 to 12.

Millennium Babies will meet on Thursday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at the library for stories and songs.

Bilingual Picture Book Program: Thursday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 8.

Picture Book Program: Thursdays April 7, 21 and 28. Ages 4 to 11.

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St. Mary's Slam Dunk Season

By KAREN NANI



The 2005 St. Mary's Boys Varsity team (kneeling): Michael Jaffee, Alan Leon, Andrew McGuire, John Mazzella, Alex Cebek, Zack Mirabito and Danny Henning. Standing coach George Spencer, Frank Apollo, Andrew Michalski, Kieran Spencer, Coach Frank Cebek, Jonathan Rosa, Joseph Noahvicka, Michael Doati and coach Bob Mirabito.

This year, the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball Program continued to grow in size and success. More than 125 girls and boys participated in the 2004–2005 season, which achieved its goals of “emphasizing sportsmanship and building confidence,” the program directors told *The Current*.

The season began with registration in September and ended with a breakfast on March 9, 2005, with over more than 200 parents and players in attendance. Every team made the playoffs, and the Junior Varsity Boys won the Bronx Championship. Each player received a trophy for his or her effort, and special trophies were awarded to recognize individual achievements.

Directors Frank and Kathy Cebek congratulate all the players on their great effort and thank the parents for their continued support and cooperation. They also expressed appreciation to all the coaches, especially those who are retiring after many years of service, for devoting so much time and energy to the children.

Additional thanks go to assistant director John Moore and his wife, Caryn, and to Tom and Helen McMahon for their continued dedication. The season would also not have been possible without the support of Father Michael, Sister Bernadette and Jane Dennehy, principal of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

Coaches provided the following highlights of each team's season and players.

Boys Junior Varsity

The 2005 Junior Varsity Boys team won the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Bronx Division Championship! The team played St. Margaret's for the title and won 46 to 38.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament was Henry Sanchez, who led all scorers with 20 points and forced numerous turnovers. David Struthers played an impressive defensive game in the middle that proved to be too much for the opposition and added 14 points to the tally. Sal Kulka added 10 points and Jack McCabe 4 points. The remaining defensive standouts in the game were Reese Werkhoven, Ryan Pena and Brandon Esola.

The boys had an outstanding season, compiling a combined record of 23 wins and 12 losses. They all worked hard and learned how to play as a team. A special thanks to coaches Bob Whelan and Andy Werkhoven for all of their time and effort. The team would like to recognize Cathy and Frank Cebek for a job well done running the program.

Girls Gidgets

The 2004–2005 Gidgets returned to the court this year with a desire to win, and that is exactly what they did. Their overall

record showed 26 wins and only 6 losses. They made it to the semifinals in their division. Aside from league games, they were entered into four tournaments. They placed second in two tournaments, took first place in another tournament and will play in a championship game in a fourth tournament.

The following girls received special awards: Amber Tudor for Most Improved, Victoria Strazera for Best Offense, Vittoria Volpe for Best Defense and Ashlee Yarusso for Most Valuable Player.

The coaches and parents are very proud of all the girls. Hats off to coaches Carlo Volpe and Frank Strazera on a job well done. A special thanks to all the parents for all of their support. Until next year girls—time out!

Boys Bantam Gold

The Boys Bantams Gold (A) team had a terrific season, finishing in first place in their division with only two losses for the season.

They were led by all-stars Makai Hawkins, Robert Pirraglia and Amir Smith, with Kevin Saulnier and Brandyn Reilly rounding out the starters. Strong bench support came from Daniel Clancy, Devon Navarro, Ryan Henning, Andrew Clarke, Dylan Cullen and Josh Williams.

Congratulations on a great year.

Boys Bantam Blue

This year's turnout in early October for the Boys Bantams team was much larger than usual, thanks in part to the enthusiasm coach Paul Saulnier mustered last season for the Bantams. Instead of turning away a squad of motivated players after tryouts were over, a new team was forged with help from Frank and Cathy Cebek. About half of the team came from the previous Bantam team and the other half were novices to the sport.

Coached by David Sexton and Paul Mankiewicz, the Bantam Blue team turned out a great season. Although the team had only one win, a few other games were nail-biters. The parents helped make the games fun with their cacophonous cheering. Novice and returning players made tremendous gains in both their skills and knowledge of the game. Many of the players were first time participants in an organized team sport, so it is gratifying to see most of them moving on to the upcoming City Island Little League Baseball season.

The basketball season closed out by recognizing Kyle Zima as Most Valuable Player and Tiernan Shanley as Most Improved Player. Kyle and Tiernan exemplify the great sportsmanship and hard work that were the trademarks of the team.



Photos Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The Girls Junior Varsity team made a strong finish after a shaky start to the 2005 season. Shown above are the “comeback kids” (kneeling): Julia Doyle, Melissa Pryor, Roman Baker and Gabrielle Pirraglia. Standing: coach Jimmy Doyle, Larissa Pirraglia, Sarah Graves, Alyssa Manfredonia, Chervante Thomas, coach Keith Manfredonia and Amanda Heffernan.



The Boys Bantam Gold team finished first place in their division with only two losses for the whole season. The tough competitors are shown above with their coaches Paul Saulnier and Chris Hawkins (kneeling): Daniel Clancy, Dylan Cullen, Andrew Clarke and Kevin Saulnier. Standing are Makai Hawkins, Josh Williams, Amir Smith, Robert Pirraglia and Brandyn Reilly. Not shown: Ryan Henning and Devin Navarro.



The Girls Varsity finished the season with a winning record and a second round appearance in the playoffs. Shown are (front row): Bernadette McMahon, Alycia DaLoia-Moore, Nicole Cody, Sarah Rothschild and Sonia Andrades. Second row: coach John Moore, Delia Berger, Jasmin Crowder, Bridget McGowan, Phoebe Mankiewicz and Lauren Branley. Not shown: Kristen Clark and Sarah Pryor.

Girls Junior Varsity

After losing their first five games, the St. Mary's Girls Junior Varsity team made an exciting comeback by winning their next three games and finishing five and eight overall before losing a close game to Sacred Heart in the playoffs.

Leading the JV were Sarah Graves, team MVP, Amanda Heffernan, Best Defensive Player and Melissa Pryor, Best Offensive Player. Other starters were Charvante Thomas, Alyssa Manfredonia, Samantha Weyhrauch, Julia Doyle, MARRISA FERRIS, Gabrielle Pirraglia, Larissa Pirraglia, Julia Hayes, Rebecca Rodstrom, Alyssa Molloy and Roman Baker. Also on the team were fifth-graders Angela Acocella, Malena Allbright and Demi Atkins. Coaches' awards were also given to Larissa Pirraglia and Roman Baker for sportsmanship.

The coaches would like to thank the

players and their parents for a great season.

Girls Varsity

The Girls Varsity team had an outstanding year, finished the regular season with a winning record and made it to the second round of the playoffs. The team was successful because of its competitive spirit and “never say die” attitude. The girls were in every game they played and were a joy to watch and coach.

The varsity was led by Sonia Andrades and Lauren Branley. Sonia, the team MVP, was the leading scorer and her athletic ability and love for the game was key to the team's success. Lauren provided leadership on and off the court and her rebounding, clutch scoring and excellent defense kept the team in virtually every

Continued on page 13

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Grace Episcopal Church Receives Funds to Replace Roof

By JOSEPH NIXON

Thanks to a phenomenal growth in attendance and pledge contributions, Grace Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, is now in a position to address deferred maintenance issues on its historic buildings, including a replacement roof on the church building, new bathrooms in the parish hall and a complete upgrade of the parish rectory.

To get these major projects started, the church has received a \$24,100 grant from the Episcopal Diocese of New York that will cover two-thirds of the expected cost to replace the badly damaged roof on the church hall. The balance of the cost of the replacement roof will be generated through fund-raising efforts, individual donations and parish funds.

Grace Church has also received generous grants from the parishes of Christ the Redeemer in Pelham and Saint Matthew's in Bedford, where Mother Patricia Alexander formerly served as priest associate.

The church building was originally constructed in 1861-62 by ship's carpenters

from the Robert Jacob Shipyard on land donated by George Washington Horton. It is a unique design in the Carpenter Gothic style. The rectory was built at the turn of the 20th century in the Italian Villa style.

In planning for the church's continued growth and an increased usage of its facilities by the community, the parish's Building and Grounds Committee estimates that the total cost of improvements will be \$250,000. To achieve that considerable goal, the church will likely launch a professionally developed capital campaign. Ideas for raising the necessary funds include grants, church bonds and equity loans.

Parish leaders encourage everyone who is interested in the renewal project or who wishes to make a tax-deductible contribution to "the little church on the corner of Pilot Street" to call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 or to visit its Web site at <http://gracecityisland.diocesenyc.org>. Contributions may be sent directly to P. O. Box 131, City Island, NY 10464.

WOW CELEBRATES WOMEN'S "HERSTORY"

On Sunday, April 17 at 11 a.m., City Island women and girls are invited to attend the annual celebration of women's history month with WOW (Women On the Way), to be held at B&B's restaurant at 316 City Island Avenue. This year we will be awarding clam digger Alice Payne with the first Anne M. Hutchinson Award, for her contributions to the City Island community.

We will also celebrate the 85th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States granting women the right to vote, as well as the 25th anniversary of the proclamation by Congress of Women's History Month.

Islander Eleanor Rae will give a presentation on Anne M. Hutchinson; Yolanda Bako from Co-op City will speak on her participation, as well as the history of the

establishment of Women's History Month; Islander Helen Friedman will speak about some of the current feminist issues; and Cheryl Jehudit Berent will give background on the 85th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Members of ¡Retumba! (Resound!), an Afro-Caribbean dance and percussion ensemble based here on City Island will be performing.

Bring something about yourself—a story, poem or photograph—to share with the group, as well as business cards and networking information. Off-Island women and girls are welcome. We will enjoy a breakfast buffet at the cost of \$15 per person. Boys and men of good will are welcome. Those interested in attending can pay at the door. For more information, call Yvette at 718 885-2574.

JUDGE JOHN STEVEN MOORE

By MIRIAM S. KLEINBERG

Today everyone is a legal expert. We all watch "Law and Order" and "Judging Amy," and we all know what we would say to the attorneys and the witnesses if they behaved in an unseemly manner. However, none of the TV judges is also a basketball coach for a children's basketball team, nor do they live on City Island. In that, as well as in many other things, Judge John Steven Moore is unique.

Born in Englewood, New Jersey, John Moore attended local parochial junior and senior high schools. There was a law-school program at his high school, and this appealed to him so much that he knew early on which way he wanted his life to go. From high school he went to Fairfield University and Fordham Law School, and straight from law school, without missing a beat, he became an assistant district attorney in the Bronx.

His grades must have been pretty good, because Sheldon Liebowitz was his mentor and then Mayor Koch appointed him chief of trials for four years in the Felony Case Bureau. District Attorney Mario Merola then assigned him to the position of bureau chief, where he supervised 125 lawyers, assigned cases, determined policy and ordained jury selections.

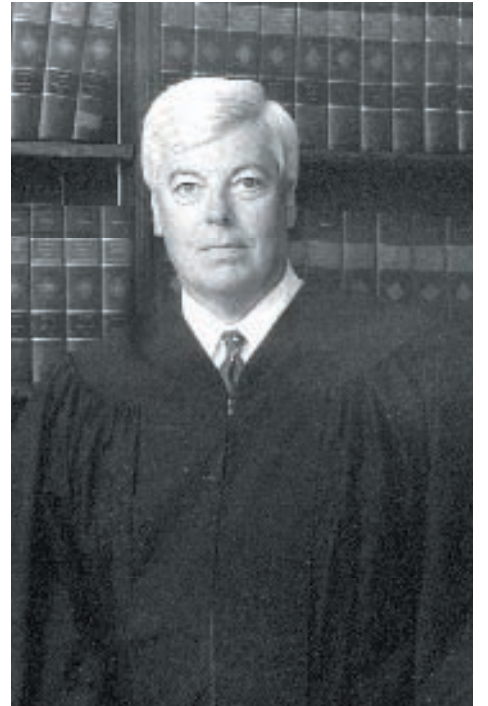
John Moore served as an attorney in the public sector for 14 years and as a judge, appointed by Ed Koch, for 18 years. He served from 1987 to 1992 on the Criminal Court and in 1992 he was elevated to the Supreme Court, where he still is, having been reappointed by both Mayor Dinkins and Mayor Giuliani.

Judge Moore's first trials were a paradox for him because he was shy, although he was fascinated by public service. He smiles now when he remembers how nervous he was. But he also remembers a case in which the trial judge fell asleep and which he won, probably because the judge felt so guilty about his unjudicial behavior.

For some time John Moore served in the Bronx Supreme Court Criminal Division, where he heard cases that dealt with juvenile offenders, sex crimes and child abuse. In Juvenile Court the guilty parties were given lesser penalties, and it was there that he developed a special sensitivity to the needs of children in the criminal justice system.

One case he still recalls with special horror was that of a graduate student who was working as a night clerk in a motel, where he was shot in the head. The weapon used in that crime was later matched to a gun used in subsequent crimes, including several murders, and served as valuable evidence.

As a judge, John Moore has been subjected to threats and attempted abuse from criminals, but on a less serious level, he has experienced misunderstandings and confusion caused by language or cultural barriers (or clever criminals). In one case the whole court sat around for a day waiting for an interpreter, but it turned out the defendant spoke perfect English. In another case the defendant stole an oil truck, delivered all the oil and collected all the payments before he was apprehended and convicted. The owner of the truck con-



sidered hiring him for his efficiency after his term was up. What a resumé!

In 1998 Judge Moore, his wife, Caryn, and their daughter, Alycia, moved from Riverdale to City Island. They found a house here, checked out the schools and were so taken with the community, the principal and the school that they decided to stay.

Part of Judge Moore's professional responsibility is to try to help children from dysfunctional families. Most people who observe the struggles of these children believe that what is needed is parental involvement. They all say, and none more firmly than Judge Moore, that good parents must get involved in the life of their children. Go to the school conferences, be a part of the audience at every event, cheer your child at every game. Spend time with your kids and know what's going on in their lives. This isn't always easy, because the kids often fight the connection, especially when they need it the most.

John Moore believes that athletics is a good meeting ground between children and adults, an area that is least likely to cause friction. He is very involved in St. Mary's basketball and softball teams, as well as the Catholic Youth League. He feels that sports offer a good opportunity for kids to build self-esteem, and that both girls and boys should play.

Judge Moore's experience in the courtroom gives him a special insight into the ways in which people behave under stress. He says, and he should know, that the courtroom is a place where one feels a lot of tension, and like all experienced judges, he knows how important it is to alleviate stress. In fact, an important part of a judge's job is to keep the atmosphere in the courtroom as calm as possible, and being able to listen well is part of his technique.

When he was beginning, Judge Moore recalls, he was given priceless advice by an older judge, who told him to "Keep your big mouth shut." I can't believe that this gentle and kindly man ever needed that advice, but for the sake of this interview at least I'm glad he didn't follow it.

And for the sake of all of us, adults and children alike, City Islanders were very fortunate indeed when the Moores decided to call this place their home.

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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

Sat., April 2 to April 30, **Young City Island Artist Exhibition.** Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue.

Sat., April 16, **Bronx Masons Clothing Drive,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue.

Thurs., April 21, **Community Board 10 meets,** 7:30 p.m., P.S./M.S. 194, 1301 Zerega Avenue, Bronx.

Sat., April 23, **Little League Parade,** sponsored by City Island Little League. Players gather at 10:45 a.m. at Catherine Scott Promenade (Bridge Park).

Sat., April 30, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: canned ham sliced with potatoes.

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

MAY

Sun., May 1, **Community Garage Sale,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Indoors at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Chapter 318 AARP

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, April 12. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street on City Island. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Our next trip is to Ace in the Hole in Patterson, New Jersey, on Thursday, April 14. We will see a show and have an open bar for one hour, plus lunch served family style.

In May we are going to Mount Haven, Pennsylvania, for Polkafest. For information, please attend one of our meetings or call Florence Bonicoro at 718-885-1844 or Marie Tirelli at 914-576-6223.

Our end of season luncheon will be on Friday, June 10, at Marina del Rey. We will have a cocktail hour and a full sit-down dinner with an open bar from 12 to 4 p.m. This is a great affair for the price. Please come and join us. We have a wonderful time.

Remember, we have blood pressure readings taken the first Wednesday of each month. There is a notary public to notarize any document for you free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacone.

Marie Tirelli

Trinity United Methodist Church

Happy spring, everyone! Winter is finally over, and for that we can rejoice! Our church services are every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school meets in the lower level at the same time. All are welcome to attend our services and Sunday school.

Please leave the second Saturday of May open. That's the date of our spring fair. We will be selling the usual varieties of homemade goodies and crafts that day. We hope to see you there.

Anne Sill

City Island Seniors

Now that spring is here, come out to our meetings, which are always interesting and fun. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the Trinity United Methodist Church, on Bay Street and City Island Avenue. We had a musician scheduled for our April meeting, and we would look forward to greeting you at our May meeting.

Genevieve Plaeger

Chapter 3303 AARP

The members of the Minneford chapter have been informed that since December, the New York State AARP has launched a joint surveying project with Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office to help lower the cost of prescription drugs. Volunteers across the state collect drug retail price lists from pharmacies so that drug prices can be posted online at www.NYAGRx.org. More than 1,800 pharmacies have been surveyed so far. An invaluable comparison-shopping tool, the database enables consumers to find the pharmacies that are selling prescriptions for less.

Part of this year's legislative agenda, New York State AARP is lobbying hard to pass legislation requiring pharmacies to transmit their price information directly to the state. This legislation would also make the state responsible for maintaining an online price database. Members are being asked to become AARP RX watchdogs and help with next month's survey by calling RX Watchdog Hotline (toll-free) at 1-866-227-7442.

The chapter is sponsoring an exciting overnight trip to Washington, D.C., from Saturday, April 16, to Sunday, April 17. We will have a narrated tour of the city, visit the World War II memorial and go sightseeing to other memorials and other interesting sites. Lunch will be at Union Station, and accommodations with dinner and breakfast will be deluxe. We will attend a Catholic mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and much more. Departure time is 8 a.m. Prices and more details for the event will be discussed at our meetings or you may call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Garden Club

We are in the process of planning our annual garden tour for May. If you would like us to consider your garden for the tour, please call Phyllis at 718-885-0521.

Gardening Hint: Divide overcrowded plants by digging up a clump of roots and then cutting through the plant with a sharp knife. Place one of the halves in the original place at the same depth and the other half in a new location. Gently press soil back around the base and water well.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

Your Shul by the Sea, a welcoming Jewish renewal congregation, 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).

Our Torah study group will continue on Saturday, April 16, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, beginning with a short spirituality service. Rabbinical students Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper will alternate leading the group.

Yoga-Tai Chi classes, led by Marc Kaplan, continue on Tuesdays in April from 6 to 7 p.m. His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Ballroom dance classes, led by Elaine Belasco, begin on Wednesday, April 13, and continue on Wednesdays thereafter from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For information and registration, call Elaine at 718-885-2154.

SHOHAM classes led by Rabbi Wiener offer Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind and will be conducted on Monday,



Photo by BOB BERENT

On Sunday, March 20, Temple Beth-el of City Island celebrated Purim, Judaism's most dramatic, fun-filled holiday. Seen here are members dressed up like royalty, rogues and others from Persia some 2,300 years ago as they act out the story of Esther.

April 18, at 7:30 p.m. The classes are a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the priests of biblical Israel. (Free for members; \$15 per class for non-members.)

Help celebrate our 71st anniversary at our Anniversary Dinner-Dance at the City Island Yacht Club on Saturday, April 16. We will be honoring our new State Senator, Jeffrey D. Klein, that evening. So for an evening of fine food, dancing and hobnobbing, call Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820 for reservations and information.

For the second night of Passover: Sunday, April 24, we will be conducting our annual seder at 6:30 p.m. with a fully kosher, congenial and traditional Passover dinner. The seder will be conducted primarily in English (adults \$36; children \$12). Please R.S.V.P. by calling 718-885-3098.

Visit our Web site at www.yourshulby-thesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Theater Group

"What good is sitting alone in your room?"

Come see the new production of the groundbreaking musical "Cabaret" by the City Island Theater Group instead!

It's Berlin and the year is 1929, the emcee of the Kit Kat Club invites you into the cabaret and urges you to forget all your troubles. In the Kit Kat Club life is beautiful! Headlining at the club is the stunning Sally Bowles, who, along with the sexy Kit Kat Girls, seduces the audience and a young American writer named Cliff Bradshaw. Cliff is instantly smitten by Sally and her unique, carefree lifestyle.

As beautiful as life is in the Kit Kat Club, a very scary and changing world looms outside. History is in the process of being made, and lives will be changed forever. Although it premiered in 1966, "Cabaret" tells a timeless story that is still relevant in today's world. "Cabaret" features such wonderful songs as: "Don't Tell Mama," "Perfectly Marvelous," "Two Ladies," "Married," "So What" and, of course, "Cabaret."

"Cabaret" will be directed by Nicholas Sala with musical direction by Dr. Elizabeth Rauh and choreography by Jean McCabe and Lindy Tabano. Starring are: Christopher McGowan as the emcee, Cori-Ann Roublick as Sally Bowles, Anthony Ottavio as Cliff, Cathy Roskam as Fraulein Schneider, Marvin Einhorn as Herr Schultz, Margaret Cioffi as Fraulein Kost and Eugene Kopman as Ernst Ludwig. Also featured are: Justine Costanza, Jean McCabe, Susan Rauh, Liza Reid and Lindy Tabano as the Kit Kat Girls and Matt Rota as a Kit Kat Boy. This stunning cast is not to be missed!

Performance dates are: April 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and April 24 and May 1 at 3 p.m. All performances will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104

City Island Avenue. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your tickets today.

"Life is a cabaret!"

Nick Sala

City Island Nautical Museum

As some of you may have noticed, our doors have been shut on Sundays for the past few weeks. We are currently undergoing a major spring cleaning, which has involved repainting the Community and School Rooms. Furniture has been moved into the hall, and everything is pretty messy. However, great plans are afoot for the redesign of each room, and Tom Nye especially has been hard at work getting it all together.

Please watch for our sign underneath the flower boxes at the City Island Diner so that you will know when we are reopening. In the meantime, anyone who wants to volunteer to help Tom reinstall the exhibits or to help us come up with a spring-summer program of events should give us a call at 718-885-0507.

Together with the Community Center, we are currently going through a crisis about our long-term leases, since our landlord hasn't paid the taxes and the spaces have gone into foreclosure for possible auction later this spring. We are doing our best to make this situation right (see article this issue) and we ask you all to keep your fingers crossed for us.

Barbara Dolensek

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If you wish to submit, for inclusion in this column, information regarding events and activities at the City Island Community Center, please call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202 no later than the 15th of each month, except December and July. Leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Announcements

Community Garage Sale: Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reserve your table now by calling 718-885-1145. \$10 donation per table requested. Bake sale, raffle and lots of great stuff! Plates from "Make a Plate" fundraiser (April 1) will be distributed.

Please help us improve the Center by making a donation toward our goal of \$6,000 for a new floor. Your support is appreciated!

Beginner knitting classes for ages 8 and up! Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

Painting classes will be held on Tuesdays, April 5 through May 31. Grades K-2 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; grades 3-5 from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To

volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 885-2192.

Martial Arts Class: Ba Gua Zhang Dragon Style :Exceptional Instructor Saturdays 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m, for ages 16 and up. For more information call Florence at 718 885-3551.

Dance Classes: Preballet, jazz and tap for kids: Thursdays after school .Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576-5515.

Art and Playgroup: Thursdays from 10:30 to 12 or 12:30 to 2. Call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202 for more information.

Millennium Babies: A Moms and Babies Playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 885-9040.

Irish Dance: call Deirdre O'Mara at (201) 947-8535

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

Photography Classes: for adults and teens. Call Ron Terner at 885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

Step Aerobics Classes: Sun. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Mon. & Wed. 7 to 8:00 p.m. Babysitting available Mon. and Fri. a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 885-0793.

Yoga: Basic level Hatha Yoga classes include yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing practices, and stress management for peace of mind and physical well being. Call Annette at 885-0724 for further info.

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

Legion News

Spring is here, but you wouldn't know it, as the temperature is below normal and vestiges of snow still cover some grassy areas.

The big event of the month was the children's Easter party. There were prizes for both girls and boys, an Easter egg hunt and hors d'oeuvres. D.J. Ray provided the music, gratis. Islanders were treated to a cavalcade of Disney characters: Peter Rabbit (Peter Zvara), Little Rabbit (Marge Sessa), the Bear (John Musto) and the Duck (Gene Valesio).

Unfortunately, a number of local miscreants seized the opportunity to pelt the performers with ice and snow. Several who were responsible for this dastardly deed were apprehended and did apologize. The commander thanks Ray Kelly and all those who gave their time to make the party a success. Tom McMahan, our congenial bar chairman, said that sales were brisk.

I have no updates on those in the military. I did meet Matthew Delaney, no longer on active duty, and now, like his late father, a member of the New York City Fire Department. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Although over a month away, the Memorial Day parade was discussed at our last meeting. It seems that the Post coffers are a little on the lean side and that monies will have to be generated to provide bus service to bring sailors and/or marines to the Island for the parade. Comrade Bob Menona hopes to be able to corral the Army band for this stellar event.

Sick call: Comrade Lane's spouse is on the mend, as are comrades Mike Treat and Richy O'Keefe.

We would use a few good men for the flag detail. Lieutenant Matt Murphy, New York City Police Department, is on active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard, and although Comrade Joe Goonan is home, we are not certain if his injuries, incurred while on active duty, will preclude him from partaking in the flag detail.

The Post, as always, will participate in the annual Little League parade on Saturday, April 16. Our Sergeant at Arms Dave Carman reports that volunteers are needed for the color guard.

Meetings for the month of April are the 4th and 18th for the regular meetings and the 11th for the executive board. Try to make the regular meetings, as we don't seem to be able to muster a quorum.

I talked recently to Staff Sergeant Emeritus Michael Spero, now age 94. Mike was a civil engineer by profession who dedicated himself to whatever task was assigned to him. It was such a task that would immortalize him among his army peers: He was credited with designing and constructing the deepest latrine in France during World War II. The following was Mike's response to his critics and to the author J. B. Woodson of Straight and Level, the story of the 33rd Reconnaissance Squadron in the war.

"Sure it was deep but not just for the fun of digging. You remember everywhere we stayed in the Army where there were trench latrines. They were dug a couple of feet deep, and, in no time at all, with a couple of hundred men using them, they filled up fast. . . . You fellows never appreciated that latrine. A deep latrine follows the sanitary sewer septic tank principles, where the moisture from the ground starts the organic deposits to digest and liquefy. . . . Those shallow latrines when they filled up were closed or filled in and the latrine was moved to another location. How many GIs in a hurry to get to the latrine found it moved to another location he could not find?"

Although awarded the Legion of Merit and a direct commission for other achievements, Mike always regarded the latrine as his greatest military success.

Russell Schaller



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Mexican-Americans

In looking for films about immigration into the United States, I discovered that several fine examples have focused on the Mexican-American experience. First, some films about family. **Tortilla Soup** (2001) stars the superb Hector Elizondo as Martin Naranjo, a widowed chef who lives with his grown daughters, Carmen (Jacqueline Obradors), Leticia (Elizabeth Pena) and Maribel (Tamara Mello). Carmen is a successful businesswoman, Leticia a spinster school-teacher and Maribel a rebellious student. Raquel Welch plays the role of Hortensia, a very annoying widow with Martin in her sights. This is a charming remake of the excellent Chinese film **Eat, Drink, Man, Woman** (1994).

My Family (1995) is a chronicle of the Sanchez family, whose patriarch, Jose (Jacob Vargas), walked from Mexico to Los Angeles in the 1920s. The story is narrated by Paco (Edward James Olmos), a writer recounting memories of his family. Jose works as a gardener and marries a nanny, Maria (Jennifer Lopez); together they have six children. In 1932, Maria, pregnant, is one of several thousand American citizens of Mexican descent who are rounded up by government troops and shipped in cattle cars to Central America. This is a moving drama about all six of the Sanchez children, including Jimmy Smits, who in a particularly moving subplot, agrees to marry a woman from El Salvador in order to keep her from being deported.

A sweet romance that is also about family tradition is **A Walk in the Clouds** (1995). The setting is the vineyards of northern California in the aftermath of World War II. Paul Sutton (Keanu Reeves) returns from the war to find his wife a stranger; he meets the beautiful Victoria Aragon (Aitana Sanchez-Gijon) on a bus out of town. Victoria is going home in shame because she is unmarried and pregnant, and Paul agrees to pretend to be her husband. However, he falls in love with her and her entire family, which includes Anthony Quinn as the patriarch Pedro. The cinematography is unforgettable, especially in a scene where the family dons butterfly wings to fan warmth from heaters onto the grapes to keep frost from ruining the crop.

La Bamba (1987) and **Selena** (1997) are

both musicals about famous Mexican-American singers. Common elements include the fact that the main characters, Ritchie Valens (Lou Diamond Phillips) and Selena (Jennifer Lopez), both died very young (Valens crashed in an airplane and Selena was murdered). These films were also star-making vehicles for the actors who portrayed the characters. Selena was written by Gregory Nava, the author of **My Family**.

A wonderful coming-of-age movie is **Real Women Have Curves** (2002), which stars America Ferrera as Ana, a very bright 18-year-old Mexican-American who has won a scholarship to Columbia University. Her family, however, wants her to work in her older sister's dress-making factory. Ana is a breath of fresh air because she has confidence in herself despite the wicked tongue of her oppressive mother, Carmen (Lupe Ontiveros). There is a fabulous and funny scene in which all of the factory women strip down to their underwear because of the unbearable heat and compare their bodies. This is an inspiring moment for those depressed people who believe thin is beautiful.

Spanglish (2004) is a quirky story about Flor (Paz Vega) and her daughter, Cristina (Shelbie Bruce), who move to Los Angeles, where Flor goes to work for the Clasky family. Bernice Clasky (Sarah Steele) is the same age as Cristina. The mother Deborah (Tea Leoni) is a drama queen of the highest order, married to John (Adam Sandler), a chef whose restaurant receives four stars from the New York Times restaurant reviewer. Flor is the voice of reason in a home of bedlam, although she barely speaks English. This is a story about assimilation and the misguided good intentions of Americans toward immigrants.

The finest of all the films on this theme is **Lone Star** (1996), written and directed by John Sayles. It is the complex, multilayered epic about the 1950s murder of a much-hated sheriff, Charlie Wade (Kris Kristoferson) and the aftermath of the event. Set in a Texas town near the Mexican border, the film stars Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper) as the sheriff on the case, who is always being compared to his father, Buddy (Matthew McConaughey), Wade's deputy at the time of the murder. Elizabeth Pena is Pilar, with whom Sam once had a love affair, although both families were opposed to the Mexican-Anglo alliance. There is seamless moving back and forth in time with deeply felt emotions, secrets and interactions between chicanos, blacks, whites and Indians.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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The 2005 Intramural Program consisted of girls and boys eight years old and younger. The future stars are shown above (kneeling): Lindsey Zapata, Brianna Reilly, Arianna Rodriguez, Christine Whelan (team mascot), Briana Whelan, Grace Ramos and Anastasia Lacina. Standing are: Jillean Cea, John Brandly, Thomas Mastracchio, Eric Vaelnti, Emmet Foxx, Sean "Irish" Lyons, Michael "the Missile" Pirraglia and Chandler Campbell. Coaches are Bob and Anna Marie Whelan. Not shown: Sarah Williams, Samantha Pryor, Catherine Graves, A.J. Carrión, Thomas Wright, Anna Vivola and Catelin Fitzpatrick. .



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

St. Mary's is welcoming spring with many exciting lessons of the season. The Pre-K/ kindergarten will observe the life cycle of the caterpillar from pupa into butterfly. Grade 2 will also observe the new life of spring by growing plants from beans and learning about the plant life cycle. The students will work with the Pelham Bay Park Teaching Rangers, who will introduce them to the different kinds of plants we have in our community.

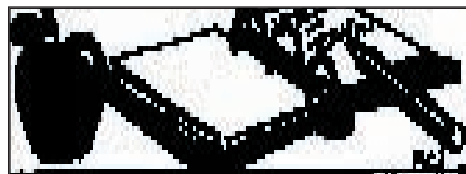
The first-graders are creating dinosaur dioramas and writing stories about their special dinosaur. Grade 3 is writing stories as they study the weather; their stories speak of the wonders of April showers.

Grades 4 and 8 are continuing their preparations for the state tests. The fifth-graders will have a candle lighting ceremony on April 4 in remembrance of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The sixth grade is scheduled to go to Medieval Times as part of the social studies class, and Grade 7 is beginning a study of the human body. Everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated by our parish on Saturday, April 16, at 11 a.m. School will be closed

for a religious conference day on Friday, April 22. The fourth and second grades will celebrate Earth Day in conjunction with their Pelham Bay Park studies.

We will honor our school secretary, Sister Loyola, on April 27. The school will celebrate Poetry Month by the sharing of favorite poems, including works written by the students, and Grades 4 and 5 will publish their own books of poems. We will celebrate First Friday with a 9 a.m. Mass prepared by the sixth grade. All are welcome to come and share the eucharist with our young people.



Public School 175

The kindergarten children will begin their unit on spring by raising butterflies and observing the various stages of their development.

The first-graders will visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art with the Lincoln Center Institute.

Grade 2 is researching the incredible world of dinosaurs, and in math class the focus is on measurement.

The third-graders are working on their International Day project. Students are researching the countries from which their families emigrated. They will take their very first standardized tests in reading and math.

A guest speaker from the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will visit the fourth grade on April 13, and the children will in turn visit the mansion toward the end of the month. They will learn how people lived in our area during the mid-19th century. The children have also been working very hard to prepare for the math and science tests scheduled for this May.

Grade 5 is building weather instruments in science class and will soon begin a unit on Central America. They are also putting the finishing touches on their sets for their play.

The sixth-graders began their unit on ancient Greece and are enjoying the myths and fables of that period.

The seventh grade will celebrate National Poetry Month with the annual poetry picnic. They will also be attending "Story Tellers" by David Gonzalez for their Spanish class with their teacher, Ms. Figueroa.

Grade 8 is currently reading "Animal Farm" in language arts, and their senior trip this year will be to Medieval Times in mid-May.

Slam Dunk Season

Continued from page 7

the team rebounding strength and clutch defense.

Coaches John Moore and Tom McMahon would like to thank the parents for their wonderful support and congratulate them for raising such great young women. They also congratulate the girls on their success on and off the court. Each of these girls made important contributions to the team, but more importantly they are a great group of young ladies and were a pleasure to coach.

Finally, the coaches say a farewell to their graduating eighth-graders: Lauren Branley, Delia Berger, Jasmin Crowder and Nicole Cody, who are leaving the basketball program and going on to high school next year. Congratulations and thanks for representing St. Mary, Star of the Sea so well over the years.

Boys and Girls Intramurals
The 2005 Intramural Program consisted of boys and girls eight years old and younger. They gathered on Saturday mornings learning the basics of shooting, dribbling, passing and playing defense. The participants developed so quickly that they were able to play games on a weekly basis. Their progress was amazing and St. Mary's basketball will have many future all stars.

All of the children should be commended on a job well done. A special thanks to Anna Marie and Bob Whelan for running the program and to Charlie Ramos, Adolfo Carrión and Rod Rodriguez for helping on the sidelines.
See you all next season!

Sarah Pryor provided steady play at the forward position and with her capacity to hit the long jump shot, she kept opposing defenses honest. Nicole Cody brought speed and desire to every game and gave

the team rebounding strength and clutch defense.

Delia Berger provided steady leadership on the court and her tenacious defensive play gained her the Best Defensive Player award. Jasmine Crowder, who won the Coaches' Award, provided strength under the boards and clutch scoring. She was a real force in every game.

Kristen Clark, the point guard, displayed excellent ball handling, tough defense and great heart. Alycia DaLoia-Moore played a strong defensive game and her speed was critical in stopping the fast break. Her steady play at forward and good court sense was a real asset to the team.

Bernadette McMahon provided excellent play at guard with key outside shooting and accuracy from the foul line. Her great desire to play made her a factor in every game, especially in the playoffs. Bridget McGowan brought energy and enthusiasm to every game displaying strong defense at the guard position. She was a consistent threat to score from the outside.

Sarah Rothschild possessed great speed and athletic ability. Her quick reactions on defense enabled her to make many key defensive plays. Phoebe Mankiewicz's rebounding, clutch shooting and excellent defense made her a valuable player in every game. Her hard work and determination will make her a leader on next year's team.



The Boys Bantam Blue team did A+ work during the basketball season, according to their coaches David Sexton and Paul Mankiewicz. The players are shown above (first row): Ari Weber, Cian Byrne, Ian Campbell, Michael Candelaria and Bobby Carmody Jr. Second row: Dylan Cruz, Blake Cottam, Gregory Sexton, Tiernan Shanley, Kyle Zima and Tyge Mankiewicz.

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Photo courtesy of LINDA ULMER

Young students ready for the March of the Wooden Soldiers in a Public School 17 Christmas program, circa 1955.

Disabilities and Other Social Security Matters

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

If you were to suddenly become disabled through an accident or illness, would you qualify for Social Security disability benefits? Although most people are aware of the basic requirements for Social Security retirement benefits, not many understand how—or if—they would qualify for disability benefits.

In addition to meeting the Social Security definition of disability, you must have worked long enough and recently enough (unless you are blind) under Social Security to qualify.

Here is a quick check-list you can use to see where you stand. Eligibility for disability benefits is based on your Social Security work credits, which are based on your total yearly wages or self-employment income. You can earn up to four credits each year. The amount needed for a credit changes from year to year. In 2005, for example, you earn one credit for each \$920 earned; when you have earned \$3,680, you would have your four credits for the year.

The number of work credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age when you become disabled. Before age 24, you may qualify if you have six credits earned in the three-year period ending when your disability starts.

From age 24 to 31, you may qualify if you have credit for working half the time between age 21 and the time you become disabled. For example, if you become disabled at age 27, you would need credit for three years of work (12 credits) out of the past six years (between ages 21 and 27).

From age 31 through age 42, you would need 20 work credits. The number of credits needed between ages 43 and age 62 or older rises each year. For example, at age 44 you would need 22 work credits, and at age 46 you would need 24 credits.

A convenient chart that shows the credits needed is located at www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan/dqualify3.htm. Once you are age 31 or older, unless you are blind, you must have earned at least 20 of the credits in the 10 years immediately before you became disabled.

The Social Security statement that you receive each year is a good way to monitor your eligibility. The statement shows all

earnings reported to date and also provides an estimate of the benefits for which you are eligible. Review this statement carefully to be sure it reflects all your earnings and notify Social Security right away if you find errors or omissions.

Although most people who work regularly will not have a problem keeping their disability coverage current, people who move in and out of the work force or in and out of covered employment, may not be covered.

The importance of having Social Security disability insurance protection is underscored by one statistic: there is a nearly three in 10 chance that a 20-year old will become disabled before reaching retirement age.

For more information on the Social Security disability program and both medical and work requirements, visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and ask for the Social Security pamphlet "How You Earn Credits."

Social Security Online

Today, with just a click of your computer's mouse button, you can bypass highway traffic and office waiting lines and conduct business with Social Security. Not surprisingly, this electronic service option is rapidly becoming a preferred way of doing business.

The numbers tell the story. In 2002 about 220,000 people completed Social Security transactions online; last year, that number rose to 611,000. The reason for this rapid growth of online business is clear—convenience, speed and security.

Here are just a few of the many things that people can do when they visit Social Security's Web site.

Screen for Benefits. Many people visit the Web site to see whether or not they qualify for benefits. This can be done quickly by using our Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool. Just answer a series of questions to determine if you are eligible for retirement, disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program benefits. You can also find out if you might be eligible for Medicare benefits. The entire process takes less than 10 minutes.

Apply for Benefits. You now can apply for retirement, disability and spouse's benefits over the Internet. Thousands of people have taken advantage of this convenient, easy way to apply for benefits. In fact, since the service became available

in November 2000, nearly half a million people have applied for benefits online.

Forecast Your Financial Future. Social Security's benefits planner is a convenient way to help plan your retirement or determine what benefits you or your family may qualify for in the unfortunate event of disability or death. Simply enter your estimated income for the years ahead to get an idea of what your benefit payments could be.

Get a Medicare Card Replaced. If your Medicare card has been lost, stolen or damaged and a new one is needed, it can be replaced by visiting the Web site. This eliminates the need to call or visit an office.

Change of Address

Even if you receive your benefits by direct deposit, Social Security needs to

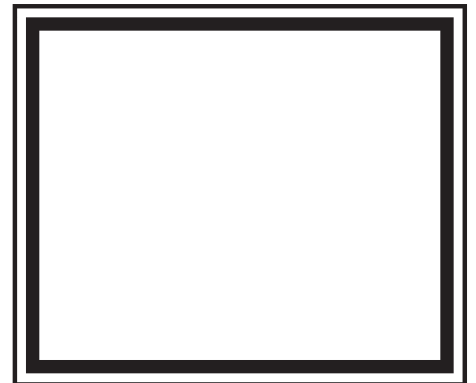
have your correct address so we can send letters and other important information to you. Your benefits could be stopped if we are unable to contact you. You should let Social Security know about your change of address any time that you move, even if you relocate for part of the year. For example, if you live in a different place during the summer than you do in the winter, you need to change your address each time you relocate.

You may be able to change your address online but not if you are a representative payee (someone who handles Social Security money for another person), or a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiary. These individuals, and anyone else who prefers, may call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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 Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are
 local times. For times on the table beginning with 1200, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. time
 (e.g., 1225 - 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 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0320	7.8	1012	0.7	1809	6.4	2218	1.3	Fri 01
02 Sat	0429	7.2	1200	0.9	1741	6.4			Sat 02
ALL TIMES ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, APRIL 3									
03 Sun	0101	1.4	0700	7.1	1424	0.6	2021	6.9	Sun 03
04 Mon	0249	1.0	0844	7.3	1527	0.9	2125	7.9	Mon 04
05 Tue	0349	0.9	0950	7.5	1621	-0.2	2219	7.9	Tue 05
06 Wed	0445	-0.9	1044	7.9	1710	-0.5	2306	8.2	Wed 06
07 Thu	0535	-0.8	1138	8.0	1758	-0.7	2351	8.4	Thu 07
08 Fri	0629	-1.1	1218	8.0	1838	-0.7			Fri 08
09 Sat	0632	8.5	0708	-1.1	1301	7.9	1916	-0.5	Sat 09
10 Sun	0112	8.4	0751	-0.9	1343	7.8	1954	-0.2	Sun 10
11 Mon	0150	8.2	0833	-0.8	1424	7.9	2026	0.2	Mon 11
12 Tue	0227	7.9	0914	-0.1	1506	8.9	2059	0.7	Tue 12
13 Wed	0304	7.5	0956	0.5	1581	8.7	2124	1.1	Wed 13
14 Thu	0346	7.2	1041	1.0	1648	8.4	2206	1.6	Thu 14
15 Fri	0437	6.6	1137	1.4	1733	8.3	2300	1.9	Fri 15
16 Sat	0553	6.6	1242	1.8	1850	8.4			Sat 16
17 Sun	0017	2.0	0718	6.6	1342	1.7	1958	6.7	Sun 17
18 Mon	0102	1.9	0817	6.7	1434	1.6	2046	6.8	Mon 18
19 Tue	0251	1.7	0908	6.8	1519	1.4	2131	7.1	Tue 19
20 Wed	0336	1.3	0951	7.0	1556	1.1	2205	7.3	Wed 20
21 Thu	0419	0.8	1025	7.1	1626	0.9	2229	7.8	Thu 21
22 Fri	0456	0.4	1051	7.2	1659	0.5	2252	7.9	Fri 22
23 Sat	0529	0.0	1120	7.3	1725	0.3	2324	8.2	Sat 23
24 Sun	0604	-0.3	1154	7.4	1801	0.1			Sun 24
25 Mon	0001	8.4	0643	-0.5	1234	7.4	1841	0.1	Mon 25
26 Tue	0042	8.5	0725	-0.5	1318	7.4	1926	0.2	Tue 26
27 Wed	0127	8.5	0812	-0.3	1408	7.2	2019	0.5	Wed 27
28 Thu	0216	8.3	0906	0.0	1459	7.0	2108	0.8	Thu 28
29 Fri	0311	7.9	1009	0.3	1501	6.8	2212	1.1	Fri 29
30 Sat	0414	7.5	1134	0.8	1722	6.8	2344	1.3	Sat 30

MAY 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0534	7.2	1257	0.8	1859	6.9			Sun 01
02 Mon	0124	1.1	0729	7.2	1406	0.6	2009	7.9	Mon 02
03 Tue	0235	0.8	0837	7.3	1504	0.2	2107	7.7	Tue 03
04 Wed	0335	0.1	0936	7.5	1558	0.0	2159	8.1	Wed 04
05 Thu	0429	-0.4	1028	7.7	1646	-0.2	2245	8.3	Thu 05
06 Fri	0519	-0.8	1116	7.7	1732	-0.2	2329	8.4	Fri 06
07 Sat	0605	-0.9	1200	7.6	1814	-0.1			Sat 07



Trolleys

Have you hopped a ride on the trolley yet? The good folks at the City Island Chamber of Commerce, the Bronx Tourism Council, and the Bronx borough president's office have put together a new (and yet not-so-new) trolley service for City Islanders. It's free, so what are you waiting for? Look out for "Big Red," as the new trolley is sure to become known, on the first Friday of every month. It will be running continuously between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. You can catch it to Bartow-Pell Mansion, to Pelham Bay or home again after a too-long day at the office. Give it a try.

Actually, the City Island Seaside Trolley is only the latest operation in a long line of trolley operations to and from our Island. For as long as the Bartow-City Island station was a functioning one for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad—today we call it Metro North—there was a need for additional service to City Island. Many residents and visitors simply walked the extra mile, but many others opted to pay the nickel for the horse-drawn carriage ride to Rodman's Neck. From there it was another nickel to City Island.

In 1910 a monorail system was completed to take the place of the old horse

and buggy. But not so fast. The overhead stabilizing rail that was supposed to keep "The Flying Lady" on its track failed. Only days into its operation the new monorail took a turn the wrong way then a tumble. About 100 passengers were injured, which effectively ended City Island's first and only monorail service. It is our understanding that the aforementioned "overhead stabilizing rail" was the first of its kind in this country. Not being railroad historians or even buffs, we would appreciate any further information anyone has on this subject (or any other). As always, we can be reached at jdsstrat@msn.com

After the embarrassment of "The Flying Lady," it was a little bit more of the horse and buggy for City Islanders and then a good, old-fashioned electric trolley. At the end of the long pole that connected the vehicle to its power source was a pulley called a troller. It is from the troller that trolleys take their name. The City Island Nautical Museum has a wonderful collection of old postcards in which you are bound to find examples of some of the past ways on and off our Island. Although they are closed for renovation until the end of April, check them out in May (open Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.) or visit their Web site (www.cityislandmuseum.org). You won't be disappointed.

Easter 1984, Age 3 Easter 1988, Age 6 Easter 1989, Age 7

Larissa Lea Demham
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Boat Show 2005: The 100th Anniversary Edition

By BILL CLANCY

New York's answer to the mid-winter blues is the annual Boat Show. It is always anticipated, loved and looked forward to by the boating fraternity of City Island and like-minded folks elsewhere. In recent years it has been scheduled on oddball dates, not at all conducive to ease of attending. Last year it started between Christmas and New Year's, this year on New Year's Day. The rental fee might be less, but, you couldn't tell me that it hasn't hurt attendance.

My crew is different though. We are ready to go to a boat show anytime, anywhere. This year we went down on the last Saturday afternoon (the NFL playoffs were the next day), the crew consisting of sons Bill and Greg and Meaghan, Greg's fiancée. She is also known as Miss Nash of P.S. 83, doing God's work over on Rhinelander Avenue, along with Adrienne O'Sullivan and Regina Murphy. The presence of a good crew cannot be understated. They bring a fresh outlook, new ideas and unlimited funding for the task at hand. This was an especially fun bunch, I knew we were in for a great day.

We started off at the Press Office, where my editor Karen had made the usual arrangements for her intrepid reporter. I spoke to the same tall, beautiful gal as last year who remembered us as being from City Island. She was a frequenter of Sammy's Fish Box and was carrying her pregnancy very well. I told her that it must be the year for tall gal babies, as I know two other Island gals expecting as well, Caroline Livingston from Pell Place and Rebecca Chenard of King Avenue. As an aside, both of those healthy babies have since arrived, and the mothers doing great (dads, too). T.G.

Pleasantries aside, we dropped off our coats and in we went. We decided to go counterclockwise around the perimeter of the main section of the Javits Center. The crowd was pretty thick, but a plan is a plan.

The very first exhibit was very interesting, a good omen for the show. A company called New Wave Dynamics was featuring the Yacht Controller. This is a wireless remote control for all boats using electronic engine controls, a small handheld unit that you hang around your neck or wear on your wrist. It allows you to walk around your craft as you are docking or coming in or out of a tight spot. Two engines and two other functions (thrusters or anchor winch) can be controlled on the one unit for \$8,000 installed. The salesman was John Albertine of Annapolis, Maryland.

I told him that I would pass the brochure to my old friend Bill Peterson, who keeps his rather large craft, *Island Current*, in Annapolis as well. Bill and his wife, Marie, are currently wintering in Charleston, South Carolina, while some work is being done on their boat. Marie, as you may recall, was one of the original staffers of this newspaper and a close friend of Sally Mac, our beloved editor emeritus.

Getting back to the subject, the only negatives that I could see with this high-tech instrument was that it ran on two AAA batteries and hopefully works better than wireless doorbells, which seem to ring more than one house at a time. Since I wasn't at all familiar with electronic controls, I asked John to give us some of the background. He said they were a byproduct of EPA regulations forced upon engine manufacturers to improve fuel and emission efficiency. When remote start became available on cars some years back, high-tech men like Joe Goonan would sometimes start more than one car in the

Legion parking lot. If boats suddenly start to move about in their slip this summer in Heritage Point (formerly Royal) Marina, I'll know what is happening. I hope John Caterson is back by then. By the way, a well deserved welcome home to aforementioned Chief Warrant Officer Joe Goonan upon his recent retirement from the Army. Joe has just completed his third active-duty, wartime tour of duty. This is a quite a rare accomplishment, definitely a first for City Island.

Next booth down was oldtimer Ed Donlin of Super Shipbottom anti-fouling paint. Ed is a very friendly chap, and we always stop to say hello. I have always been interested in his paint, as he always claims that it needs no sanding, covers everything and lasts for more than one season. I have always wanted to believe it but, now that we can't paint our bottom anymore due to Big Brother, I leave the selection up to Johnny Barron. Ed did say that there was a three-hour on-line course that one can take to qualify to paint a boat bottom. Has anyone heard of this? Not too long ago my friends and younger brothers knew they would get beer if they did the bottom. It wasn't cost-effective but it did make for many good stories. One year my brother, Dr. Tom, and Dick Knapp did a beautiful job on our 32-foot bottom using high-gloss red porch paint that they were supposed to use on the aft deck floorboards. It's a shame that we didn't have that "ship-bottom paint" then.

We were about to get into the boat section of the show when I spied a sign "Women Making Waves." As a guy who is always splashed by these waves, I went to see what it was about. It is a program in the planning stages by Genmar Industries, designed to make women more comfortable with the basics of boating: trailering, launching and driving. Learning without criticism! They are looking at a six-hour course of hands on instruction with details to be announced later in the year. Please excuse me if I do not make any comment on this course. I know too many good boating gals who would be laughing their heads off at anything I might say, all the while having their "fids" at the ready. I'm not talking about "netting needles" here, folks, I mean large Swedish hollows.

We found it very crowded in the boat section. Lines everywhere. The very first one we looked at turned out to be the most outrageous of the show, the 33-foot Sun Riva at the Marine Max exhibit. This beauty was a center-console open boat with a cushioned aft deck for tanning. Twin 370 Yanmar diesels powered it at 70+ mph, priced at \$575 thousand. I did say outrageous, didn't I? It was the type of craft you would use for the launch of your 150-footer. Its attractiveness was its extravagance. It was a sleek, beautifully lined, artfully colored piece of work with a fantasy quality about it. No practical person could ever imagine buying such a thing, but all of us would love to have it for an afternoon. It was right out of James Bond.

There was another outstanding craft in this Marine Max section, the Pershing 50. This is another product of the Ferretti group U.S.A that I wrote about last year. The firm is a superb designer/ builder of luxury yachts in the European style. The Pershing was consummate luxury, with three staterooms, twin 800 diesels and a 50-square-foot tanning deck. This feature seemed to be on all their offerings. The price tag was a pittance, \$1.6 mil.

All this luxury and fantasy was making our heads spin so we did what we train for,

i.e. belly up. My crew is very technically minded and the availability, quality, temperature and economy of certain products always interest them. A cold Big Bud at \$4.50 answered all the questions. It was great! It is a shame that the human mannequins we saw on those tanning decks were not serving the beer. They would have sold more. People serving refreshments just have to be open and friendly. A big smile goes a long way, especially in the tip jar.

Back to business, we stop at Silverton. They had three big models, a 34-, 42- and 48-footer. The big one had twin 715 hp Volvos, 16,000 btu of AC and a \$797 thousand price tag. All nice. Chris Craft had seven models and was going with the same production run of 250 boats as last year. We spoke with a great salesperson, Jennifer Eich, who told us that the total order was almost full. They did very well last year, and if it continues the same in '05, they might expand the production run next year. The designs of the middle-sized boats, the 36- and 43-footer, were based on the lines of the old Chris Craft Commander from the 1950s and '60s. Next to the Constellation, it is one of the classic designs of all time. I always have a special place in my mind for those builders who made the transition from wood to glass. Not all made it, but the ones that did just have that special look. I'm thinking of Hatteras, Egg Harbor and, of course, Chris Craft.

While I was speaking to Jennifer, the rest of the crew went over to Sunseeker-Yachts of Distinction. They are always among the best-looking boats in the show, year in and year out. City Island's own Jim Ross is the owner of the dealership operating out of Davenport Avenue in New Rochelle and Miami. His featured craft this year was the Manhattan 50 with twin 710 hp Caterpillar diesels which cruises at 23 knots. A truly beautiful craft for \$1.2 mil. The catalog of the various models available from 72 to 43 feet was a beautiful, glossy coffee-table-type publication. It was fun to read about all the available options on the various models.

All day as I was walking around, I was carrying an advertisement that I had cut out of "Go Boating" magazine. It was an ad for Interceptor, a line of smaller speedboats. It said "100% Wood Free Construction," "No Wood. No Rot. No Worry," "No Wood Is Good." In my whole life I have never heard such nonsense and was looking for this Interceptor crowd. Well, it turned out that they were not at the show. Maybe someone discovered a solvent for their type of fiberglass.

It is a good thing that none of the oldtimers are alive to hear such heresy. The City Island saying is and has always been: "Wood is good; use it if you could." City Island-built boats and ships sailed across every ocean and sea, to every continent and port for every purpose one could imagine, from war to fun. Adolph Koesler, Bill McDaniels, Bill Hodges, John Castro, Jerry Moen, Mr. Hitchcock the patternmaker, Nils Halvorsen and my chief mentor, Bill Fetzer, would, among many others, be apoplectic upon hearing this blasphemy. I smile to myself as I think how times have changed, nowhere more so than in boat building.

In 1959 an outside contractor came to Minneford Yacht Yard to build nine fiberglass hulls, 32 feet long. They were to be used in the Trapper Boat ride in Freedomland Amusement Park, which was being built where Co op City is now. I was in the carpenter gang who built what was called the "plugmold." The mold was built with strip planking over closely spaced frames, and the contractor kept telling us to not waste time fitting the planking. The wood we were using would normally be burned in the pot-belly stove and no one knew what was going on. When we finished with this plugmold, the contractor troweled an auto-body filler-type compound all

over this hull and had us sand it down to a smooth finish. He then sprayed a series of coats of resin and glass cloth on the hull till it was half an inch thick.

This whole operation was both messy and foul-smelling. What we had witnessed, however, was the building of the first female mold that anyone had ever heard of, much less seen. The next day George Sadler's chain gang lifted the female off the plug and turned it upside down. The contractor repeated the process on the inside of the female, and three days later a 32-foot hull was pulled out, perfectly finished on the outside.

I will never forget the look of bewilderment on the faces of the older men. One of my favorites, Jack Fairgreaves, who lived on King Avenue, was running his hand along the hull and asking "What is holding it together? It has no stringers, no fasteners." Although we did have a few more wood hulls built, along with a few aluminums, in the next 10 years, that day in mid-winter 1960 was the beginning of the end of the boat-building era that is so fondly remembered. Please excuse my reverie, dear readers, but those wacky slogans set me off. My brother Gerry's letter in the last issue did it, too.

Back to business now. We stopped to talk with Victor Mooney, who I reported last year is going to row from Senegal in West Africa to Brazil to the Barbados to New York. An 8,000-mile trip that he has dedicated to AIDS Awareness. His journey started on February first and is scheduled to last nine months. Go, Victor!

Major Mike Clancy—USACE—reports from Baghdad that the famous Tigris River is not the boating paradise a lot of people thought it might be. It was historically navigable as far north as Baghdad but is in dire need of a dredging now. There are no aids to navigation, and only remnants of piers are to be found. Although it is about 400 feet wide in Baghdad, its primary use is as a sewer. I guess Saddam was not into boating. Finish up those projects soon, Mike, Lloyds Neck is calling. Billy Gerhardt is planning a redux of one of the extravaganzas. Diane O'Sullivan will be called in as a consultant.

Another item I reported on last year was the annual Hidden Harbor Tours. Did anyone ever attend? It will be held on Maritime Day, May 21. The date goes back to 1819 with the sailing of the *Savannah*, the first oceanic steamship. Tours will start from Pier 63, West 23rd Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sailing tidbits: Also reported last year was the upcoming challenge for the Jules Verne Trophy for the fastest sailing trip around the earth. Steve Fossett, the American adventurer who recently flew solo around the world, was leaving last year with a crew of 12 on his 125-foot catamaran, *Cheyenne*. This is some craft, with a 60-foot beam and a 147.5-foot mast. The sails are by North, made of Spectra, Cuben and Kevlar. Does anyone know if they beat the old record, which was 64 days, 8.5 hours? There was a report recently of a 28-year-old British woman, Ellen MacArthur, who sailed solo around the world in a 75-foot trimaran. We have a lot of good City Island sailing women like Faye Jordain, Claudia Deich, Judy Coar and Dotty Payne, whom I am sure would give a trip like that a good shot. If only God would give us back Marge Quilty to take the helm.

Last sailing item: Boston Kev, my older brother, is having his new 42-footer, *Alacrity 2*, built in Bass, Maine by Morris Boat Works. It is scheduled for a late April launch. Will it ever reach City Island?

My dear copy editor Barbara is calling, so I'll say so long till next year. Sorry for being so late after the show, but hopefully you'll be reminded to get an early start on your spring routine.

SCOUTS ADVANCE AT BLUE AND GOLD



Leaders Pat Branley and Rosie Cierro flank the scouts who completed their requirements to receive the Wolf badge: Michael O'Connor, Marcello Cierro and John Branley.



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The Cub Scout Pack 211 annual Blue and Gold Awards ceremony was held on Friday, March 18, 2005, at Trinity Methodist Church. The lighting of the ceremonial candles by the Arrow of Light recipients (shown above) is the culmination of their Cub Scout years. After these Webelos trained under the direction of leader Tina Ruggiero (right), they crossed the scouting bridge and were officially welcomed as Boy Scouts. The second year Webelos are (l. to r.) Kyle Williams, Kevin Whalen, Mitchel Santiago, Nicholas Ruggiero and Dan Masterson.



The Tigers Cubs, shown above at the ceremony with their proud leader, John Nagy, are: David Verghese, Jack Green, Kresnik (Nicky) Lajqi, Michael Labriola, Jack Degro-seilliers, Michael Bellocchio, Robert Weyhrauch, Jonathan Nagy, Nicholas Labriola and Nicholas Gvonaj.



Shown with their leaders, Pete Green and Angelo Bellocchio, are the enthusiastic Bear Cubs: Dan Green, Cian Byrnes, Nicholas Bellocchio, Andre Brown and Michael Bellocchio

Dudley Is Returned

Continued from page 5

Rochelle, Morris Park and Westchester Avenue.

Tom Nye at UK Sailmakers made banners out of sailcloth with grommets for hanging, and the City Island mail carriers carried the poster on their rounds. Yolanda Cirulli searched and called the Werkhovens every day, and people stopped to tell the family that they were praying for them. Mrs. Lopez, the principal of P.S. 175 even made an announcement on the Monday after he disappeared.

It turns out that people the Werkhovens didn't even know were looking for Dudley daily at Orchard Beach. City Islanders were stopping people walking with white dogs to ask them if they owned the dog or if they had found him. People e-mailed Christine everyday after scouring the found-pet ads to try to reunite the family with their dog.

As Christine puts it, "You fellow City Islanders blew us away with your concern and with the time you spent putting up signs, calling for him on your walks, calling us to see if we had found him and just asking if we were okay when you saw us on the street."

Finally, on Tuesday, March 1, Christine tried to go back to work but she only lasted until noon. She took posters to Lydig Avenue and was in the process of hanging them when her cell phone rang. It was Andy exclaiming "We got him!"

"You do not!" Christine screamed in

disbelief, and everyone on the street nearby looked at her as if she had gone insane. "Yeah, I do," Andy said.

"Do you have him in the car? Are you holding him right now?"

When Andy said "Yup," Christine screamed and grabbed the mail carrier standing next to her. "They have my dog!" she shrieked. He looked as if he were going to weep even though he was completely bewildered by her behavior. "God bless you," he said. "He did," Christine replied.

Earlier that afternoon, Andy had received a telephone call from a woman on 132nd street in Harlem. She said that she was dogsitting for a friend, and she believed the dog she was watching was Dudley. Andy went to meet her and Dudley leaped out of her arms and ran for him. After he got Dudley into the car, he called Christine to give her the good news.

The woman got her reward, and after two weeks and two days the Werkhovens finally got their Dudley back. They all nearly burst with joy. As soon as Andy got back to City Island, he and Christine went to P.S. 175 so that Dudley could see Isabel and Reese. Isabel's teacher, Mrs. Ruth Eisen, a poodle owner herself who had suffered right along with the family, was in tears at the reunion!

The family is deeply grateful for all the well-wishers who called and prayed for Dudley's return and wants everyone to know how much their support and concern meant to them.



The first year Webelos who received their awards at the March 18 ceremony are shown above with their leaders Mervette Lajq and Regina Kreig. They are: Kevin DeCuffa, Haxhi Lajqi, Kyle Kreig, Andrew Clark and Ryan Fitzpatrick.

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Six Essentials of Social Security Benefits

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

When I was in the grocery store check-out line the other day, I noticed the headlines on several magazines that were displayed above the countertop. In almost every instance, there was a reference to "the 4 things you should know about..." Or the "10 top reasons that..."

I thought there must be a reason why people feel compelled to read those articles (I know that I did!). So here is what I would consider the six essentials that everyone should know about Social Security.

Retirement

Benefits are payable at full retirement age (with reduced benefits available as early as age 62) for anyone with enough Social Security credits. The full retirement age is 63 for people born before 1938; the age gradually rises until it reaches 67 for people born in 1960 or later. Those who delay retirement beyond full retirement age get special credit for each month they don't receive a benefit before they reach age 70.

Disability

Benefits can be paid to people at any age who have enough Social Security credits and who have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to prevent them from doing "substantial" work for a year or more, or who have a condition that is expected to result in death. Generally, earnings of \$810 or more per month are considered substantial. The disability program includes incentives to smooth the transition back into the work force, including continuation of benefits and health-care coverage while a person attempts to work.

Family Benefits

If you are eligible for retirement or disability benefits, other members of your family might be eligible to receive benefits too. These include your spouse if he or she is at least 62 years old or under 62 but caring for a child under age 16; and your children if they are unmarried and under age 18, or under 19 but still in school, or 18 or older but disabled. If you are divorced, your ex-spouse could be eligible for benefits on your work record.

Survivors

When you die, certain members of your family may be eligible for benefits if you earned enough Social Security credits while you were working. Family members include: a widow(er) age 60 or older,

age 50 or older if disabled, or any age if caring for a child under age 16; your children if they are unmarried and under age 18, under 19 but still in school, or 18 or older but disabled; and your parents if you were their primary means of support. A special one-time payment of \$255 may be made to your spouse or minor children when you die. If you are divorced, your ex-spouse could be eligible for widow(er) benefits on your earnings record.

Only three major categories of benefits are actually paid for through your Social Security taxes: retirement, disability and survivors' benefits. Because Social Security also administers the Supplemental Security Income program and enrolls people in Medicare, a short synopsis of benefits due under those programs is also included below:

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI pays monthly benefits to people with low incomes and few assets if they are 65 and older or disabled. Payment amounts depend on a person's living arrangements and on their other income. Some states add money to the basic federal payment. To find out if you are eligible for SSI, contact your local Social Security office. (Note: SSI is not a Social Security benefit, and its benefits are not financed by Social Security taxes. They are funded by general tax revenues.)

Medicare

There are two parts to Medicare: hospital insurance (sometimes called Part A) and medical insurance (sometimes called Part B). Generally, people who are over age 65 and getting Social Security automatically qualify for Medicare. So do people who have been getting disability benefits for two years. Others must file an application. Part A is paid for by a portion of the Social Security tax paid by people still working. It helps pay for inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care and other services. Part B is paid for by those who are enrolled through monthly premiums (currently \$66.60) per month and from general revenues. Part B of Medicare helps pay for such items as doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits and other medical services and supplies.

To find out if you might be eligible for any Social Security benefit, or for SSI payments, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov. Medicare information is available online at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

TAX TIPS

From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.F.A.

The Costs of Household Employees

Although most accountants are aware of the need to file payroll reports for household employees, their clients may not fully understand the risks of not reporting wages paid to household workers.

Despite the publicity about the "nanny tax" (which includes Social Security, Medicare (collectively known as FICA) and federal unemployment tax (FUTA), many household employers still pay their babysitters and housekeepers in cash, without withholding taxes or filing the correct forms. Indeed, employees often specifically request cash, and employers are happy to avoid paperwork. Some employers may assume that low-income workers are not required to file a return (and thus do not need a W-2 form), but some simply want to save employment taxes by paying compensation "under the table."

A taxpayer who paid a household employee more than \$1,400 in cash wages in 2004 most likely owes the nanny tax. Even if annual compensation is expected to be less than the threshold for withholding, tax should be withheld—the employer can later refund the withheld taxes if the worker does not meet the filing threshold.

However, many low-income employees have discovered they can claim the earned income credit (EIC) based on their household wages. Most who know about this will request a W-2 form from their employ-

ers, even if they previously agreed that no tax forms would be filed.

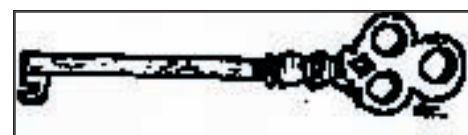
The EIC is treated as a tax payment, and any excess over the employee's tax liability is refunded. Refundable credits can be significant and provide quite an incentive for an employee to report wages on form 1040.

Employers may face the following additional costs in this situation:

FICA tax. An employer normally pays half (7.65 percent) of FICA and withholds the other half from the employee's wages, under IRC sections 3101(a) and (b) and 3111(a) and (b). However, if no taxes were withheld, the employer is liable for the entire 15.3 percent.

FUTA. Under section 3306(b) an employer generally pays FUTA on the first \$7,000 of an employee's annual wages, at a rate that can be as high as 6.2 percent of taxable wages.

State unemployment taxes. These



rates vary depending on the state and the employer. Also, the state most likely will assess interest and penalties for late filing.

Underpayment penalties. FICA and FUTA are reported on an employer's personal income tax return and deemed part of the employer's personal income taxes. Thus, if the employer's taxes were underpaid because employment taxes were omitted, the IRS may assess underpayment penalties and interest.

W-2 form penalties. An employer's failure to timely file an employee's W-2 form each year may result in a per-form penalty up to \$50, under section 6722.

Accountants and taxpayers must be familiar with the issues and risks of household employment and should encourage clients to comply with the filing requirements. Failure to do so can be costly.

Obituaries

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

Edward Loughman

Former Islander Edward Loughman died on March 4, 2005, in Cairo, New York. He was 89.

Ed was born on City Island on July 7, 1915, and graduated from P.S. 17 in 1928. He was a New York City fireman for 21 years and then operated the lumberyard on City Island Avenue for his father for many years.

He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Loretta, and eight children: his sons Ed of Virginia; John of Cairo, New York; Thomas of Danbury; James of Teaneck, New Jersey; Daniel of Acra, New York; and William of Lawrenceville, Georgia; and his daughters Ann of Albany, New York, and Lore of Sterling, Virginia.

He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

His interment followed a mass at Sacred Heart Church in Cairo.

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CLEANING SERVICE. Residential and commercial. References upon request. Please call Ann at 631-523-2066.

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INVISIBLE? ISOLATED? If you are a widow and would like to be visible, join our City Island Start Up group. Call Helen at (718) 885-3104.

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FOR SALE: Flamenco shoes purchased from Creed's of Manhattan. Black suede, size 8-1/2-9. worn twice. Paid \$120 asking \$75. Large ceiling fan 5 walnut toned blades, 5 individual light casings of frosted/clear glass surrounding 12inch glass dome. \$100. Drafting board: 40 X 42 X 36 \$50.00. Hiking gear: 2 large backpacks \$25.00. 14K gold ring - adjustable band with small citron/topaz stones \$50. Call Angela 885-0015.

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As the long winter comes to an end we are preparing for spring and baseball. Our winter program was a great success, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Michael Challinor and Mrs. Dennehy for allowing us to use the gym at St. Mary's. We have begun to select our teams for the Minor and major leagues. We will also be sending a Junior league team to compete against other Bronx Little Leagues. We look forward to another exciting season of baseball here on City Island.

FACING LIFE WITH A SONG

By MONICA GLICK

Her voice is crystal clear; her lyrics speak to the experience of us all, about life with all its ups and downs, joys and disappointments.

Theresa Sareo is a singer-songwriter who performed recently at the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, with selections from her latest CD, "Alive Again." The 10 songs speak specifically of how we respond to the twists and turns of human relationships and daily living.

Ms. Sareo's life took a big turn when she lost her right leg after being hit by an impaired driver in New York City in June 2002 as she was on her way to drop off publicity information with a booking agent on Fifth Avenue. Life was looking good for her until that moment. With two CDs to her credit, she enjoyed name recognition that helped guarantee a good turnout in the Manhattan clubs she played, including the Bitter End, the Bubble Lounge and CBGB's gallery.

"It was an assault on my life," Sareo told the *Island Current*, but she fought her way back. "I didn't push myself, however," she said, explaining that she started writing down thoughts in the form of poetry. Six of the songs on "Alive Again" resulted when her poetry was put to music; the other songs had been written before her accident.

Some of the poetry-turned-lyrics speak directly to grief for a lost way of life, feelings that all of us can relate to in our own life experience. In "I Am the Light," Ms. Sareo ponders: "It's so unclear / it's all so uninvited / it wasn't anything predictable / am I to blame / could I have missed

Registration for Minors (ages 7-9), Majors (ages 10-12) and Juniors (ages 13-14) are closed. However, registration for our instructional league is open at any time. Interested parents of five- and six-year-olds can join us on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m.

Our annual opening day parade and ceremonies will be held on Saturday April 23, 2005. All players, coaches and marchers are to meet at 10:45 a.m. at Catherine Scott Memorial Park near the bridge. We encourage all members of the community to join us and celebrate. Also feel free to join us at any time to enjoy a game or just say hello. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us by phone (718-885-3875) or e-mail cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com.

a warning / just when I thought I was invincible." But in the same song, she vows: "I won't hang my head in sorrow anymore / I won't let my disappointment keep my head from looking up"; and later she sings: "I am the hope that I am reaching for."

Theresa Sareo holds out that hand of hope to others as well, speaking to and leading support groups for those who have lost limbs.

A number of Sareo tunes are just downright fun, like "Get Over Yourself," the pulsing "Amazing," and, from her previous CD "Embrace," the quirky "Breaking Up With Mary."

Ms. Sareo grew up in Elmira, New York, and is now a Manhattan resident. It was her time living in the Bronx, on Allerton Avenue, that "cited" her, she says. "I have great memories of coming to City Island during those years," she recalls. "The atmosphere is the same today as then—very artsy, very welcoming—and, of course, filled with great seafood restaurants."

Described by reviewers as "tender to powerful, sensual to gutsy," Ms. Sareo is the first solo female singer-songwriter to play the Starving Artist, and she returned again on Sunday afternoon, April 3, at 3 p.m..

Starving Artist proprietor Elliott Glick, a musician and songwriter himself, has gradually been expanding the art featured at his gallery to include musical arts. He understands how it is sometimes difficult to find places willing to showcase musicians and their original work. "I want to provide that forum for them and offer that experience to my customers," he says. He is toying with the idea of starting a singer-songwriters' workshop at the gallery.

In the meantime, Theresa Sareo's CDs are available for purchase at the gallery or on-line at www.starvingartistonline.com. And just as the title track to "Alive Again" unlocked the block for this songwriter, all who listen to this innovative talent will surely open their hearts and minds to heal and hope, no matter the circumstances.

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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 4 birthday to Frank Ramftl, with love from Mom and Dad, Fred and Gram.

Happy sixth birthday to Joseph Mancuso, with love from Mom and Dad, Alaura and Michael.

Look for DUG at B&B's on April 2 and April 30!

Attention, clam diggers, mussel suckers and smoke eaters! According to an unofficial census conducted by Bay Street resident and FDNY Battalion Chief, Steve O'Donnell, City Island is home to approximately 40 active and retired New York City Firefighters. Steve is organizing the first-ever gathering of City Island firefighters interested in networking, sharing experiences and camaraderie. All those interested in meeting with their brother firefighters are invited to the Snug at 302 City Island Avenue on Tuesday, May 3, at 1900 hours (7 p.m.). For further information, please call Steve O'Donnell at 718-885-1288 or at 718-430-0227.

Happy April 27 birthday greetings to Kim Zapata and to her daughter Emily, who turns four on April 30.

Birthday greetings to Buckley Street's Matthew Sasko, who turns 13 on April 28.

Good luck and special blessings to Earley Street's Austin Dooley Jr., who has announced his engagement to the lovely Magda, received a new promotion and has been relocated to Rotterdam. Good things come in threes. Your family and friends are so proud of you, Austin!

Congratulations to Terrace Street's Rich Patterson, from City Island's own Engine 70, Ladder 53, for his promotion



Photo courtesy Joyce Hickey

Jacqueline Hickey-London, vice president of the Quantum Group, recently met with Colin Powell, former Secretary of State, in Washington, D.C..

to captain. Captain Patterson, a 9/11 hero, will be stationed in Staten Island, Division 8. At a celebration given at Artie's by his City Island fireman brothers, his dad, Thomas Patterson, who flew in from California, made a poignant toast. In turn, Captain Patterson gave a moving homage to his friend and fallen 9/11 hero Lieutenant Kevin Donnelly. Your friends and fam-



ily are proud of you, Rich!

Happy birthday to our "sugar weasel," Alice Donovan, who will be 10 on April 15. You're growing up way too fast! We love you, Bob, Susie, Tanya, Amanda, Mary, Cathy, Anna, Masie and Joe.

Congratulations to those hardworking Kraemer twins. Amanda Kraemer is working with CBS as a segment writer, and Tanya works as a docent at the Bartow-Pell



Captain Rich Patterson

Mansion Museum.

Happy birthday to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, who will celebrate her big day on April 23.

Happy anniversary on April 26 to Marcy and Chris McGuire, with love from your family and friends.

A happy belated birthday wish to Janet Hickey, whose big day was March 10, with love from her family and friends.

Congratulations to Jacqueline Hickey-London on her promotion to vice president of the Quantum Group, a common health company located in Parsippany, New Jersey. Jackie resides in Mendham, New Jersey, with her husband, Tom, and her daughter, Jocelyn. The Hickey family has lived on City Island since 1960. Jackie relocated to New Jersey to further her career in creative marketing.

And last but not least, Happy birthday on April 25 to the Talebearer, Maria Swieciki, who is going to start counting

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