

The Island Current

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One Dollar

HISTORIC P.S. 17 BUILDING DAMAGED BY FIRE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



On a warm summer evening in July—Friday the 13th, as it happens—the residents of east Fordham Street were startled just before sunset by the noise of firecrackers, which was followed almost immediately by the sight of flames shooting 80 feet into the air above the façade of the historic school building at 190 Fordham Street. The fire department responded promptly to the 911 call, and within half an hour several trucks and dozens of firefighters were on the scene trying to control the blaze. In spite of their efforts, the porch in front of the building was destroyed, and there was considerable dam-

age from smoke, heat, and fire to the foyer and hall of the City Island Nautical Museum housed on the first floor.

Deputy Fire Battalion Chief Kevin Scanlon estimated that at least 75 firefighters were present, with at least 12 fire trucks, several of which had difficulty getting onto the Island because of restaurant traffic in the fire lane. Residents from all over the Island gathered at the scene, many of them graduates of P. S. 17 who were visibly distraught by the sight of the damaged building.

After the fire was brought under control, Tom Nye, president of the City Island His-



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MARK NANI

On Friday, July 13, 2007, flames shot 80 feet into the air above the façade of the historic school building at 190 Fordham Street. At least 75 firefighters were required to contain the blaze, which the Fire Department declared “suspicious” and has under investigation. Residents from all over the Island gathered at the scene, many of them graduates of P. S. 17, and many were visibly distraught by the sight of the damage to the Nautical Museum, the Community Center and the condominium apartments housed within the structure.

torical Society, which operates the museum, where considerable smoke and heat damage was noted. Most of the collection, however, was in good condition, thanks to the sturdy walls and doors in the building. Exhibits in the hall, however, were destroyed, and it will likely take a few months before the museum can reopen its doors to visitors.

The building also houses 16 residential units, and a number of doors were damaged by firefighters attempting to keep the fire from spreading. The most seriously damaged unit was the apartment directly above the museum. David Cook and his wife, Jo Heck, were especially distressed by the broken win-

dows, the damaged window frame (originally part of the school’s auditorium), destroyed computers and kitchen appliances, and the fact that their gas line could not be restored for over a month.

The City Island Community Center in the basement of the building also suffered damage from water that had poured through their ceiling onto the new wooden floors. Several officers of the center were on hand late Friday night to mop up the excess water in the hope of preventing further damage. However, they were forced to cancel all of the center’s activities for children for the foreseeable future because of the damage.

Continued on page 7



Photo by MARIA A. SWIECIKI

On June 29, 2007, altar servers from St. Mary, Star of the Sea were treated to a day of fun at Rye Playland. The happy group boarded a chartered bus that morning and were chaperoned by Deacon Bill Mueller, his wife, Angela, and a contingent of parent volunteers. A great time was had by all.

BRIEFLY...

8TH ANNUAL BRONX ROTARY CLAMBAKE takes place on Friday, Sept. 28, 2007, at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club starting at 5 p.m. The \$15 per person ticket price (until Sept. 14, \$20 per person after Sept. 14) includes all the clams, chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, ethnic specialties, beer, wine and soda you can eat and drink. Children 12 and under are free. Included will be a magic show, face painting, crafts, a fishing pond and a DJ all in a beautiful waterfront setting. For more information or tickets contact Jim Romeo/HiSpeed printing at 718-617-1600, Mike Carew/Captain Mike's Diving Services at 718-885-1588 or Nancy Wallace at 914-949-6217.

CITY ISLAND FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR will be held Sept. 8 and 9 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., featuring up to 50 juried artists, craftspeople and local businesses set up on the sidewalk of the central four blocks of City Island Avenue. Musical entertainment will be offered daily by the Lickety Split Band. For vendor applications or more information visit www.cityislandchamber.org or call Exotiqua International Arts at 718-885-3090.

AUDITIONS FOR A C.I. VOCAL ENSEMBLE will be held the week of Sept. 10. Former experience in choral or part singing is required. This is open to both male and female singers. To set up an appointment, call Diana at 718-885-2091. Auditions will be held at her home.

FREE CITY ISLAND SEASIDE TROLLEY rides again on Friday, Sept. 7, every hour from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The trolley starts at Pelham Bay Train Station (#6 train) and travels to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum for a reception and tours at minimal cost, and on to City Island for an evening of gallery openings, store sales and restaurant specials. Ride the trolley to pick up your trolley flyer for discounts and promotions. Focal Point Gallery is having an opening of Artists' Choice works in a variety of media. Exotiqua International Arts, Midtown Antiques, Quality Antiques and Lickety Split Ice Cream Parlor are each offering special discounts to Trolley riders. The Black Whale Restaurant is offering a free bottle of wine with any two dinners and the Tree House restaurant is offering a free house dessert with any dinner.

ANNUAL BEACH CLEAN-UP: Volunteers are invited to participate in the 10th annual National Beach Clean-up sponsored by the American Littoral Society on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, rain or shine. Our goal is to remove all litter, flotsam and marine debris from the City Island Bridge and the beach area east of the bridge, and to record the amount and type of material collected. We will be meeting at 9 a.m. on the City Island side of the bridge. For more information, call 914-882-9578.

WAR STORIES: Watch for City Islanders' stories among those documented in the upcoming broadcast "New York War Stories" on Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. on WLIW Channel 21 and at 9 p.m. on PBS Channel 13. This local documentary is a prelude to "The War: A Ken Burns Film," which premieres on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 9 p.m. on Channel 13. Islanders' stories were sent in as part of a search for local World War II memories.

Car and Truck Mishaps



Photos by MARK NANI and RUSSELL SCHALLER

A night of mischief left cars right in the middle of several City Island streets on Aug. 6, 2007. Residents awoke to find cars blocking Carroll and Terrace Streets, along with William Avenue near Bay Street, preventing drivers from passing (see photo). Surprised residents who owned the cars had to be awakened by neighbors asking them to re-park the cars in their original positions. Older Islanders speculated that the mischief makers "bounced" the cars sideways to the middle of the streets. Meanwhile, a cement mixer truck overturned at the City Island traffic circle in August, drawing police and firefighters to the scene. No injuries were reported by police and the truck was soon righted and removed.

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ISLANDERS GET ACTION ON CELL PHONE ANTENNAS

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT

About 50 demonstrators, including residents, students of PS 175 and local politicians, gathered on Saturday, July 14, 2007, to protest the installation of multiple cell phone antennas on top of 205 City Island Avenue, the four-story apartment building across from the school. Among the speakers were Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (top photo) and organizers of a new group called F.A.C.T.S. (Families Against Cell Towers Near Schools).

A demonstration on July 14 near Public School 175 to protest the placement of cell phone equipment on the roof of a building across the street from the school was followed by a response on the part of one of the phone companies involved but fell short of residents' requests to remove the equipment entirely.

About 50 demonstrators, including residents, students and local politicians, gathered on the hot Saturday morning to protest the installation of multiple cell phone antennas on top of 205 City Island Avenue, a four-story apartment building above the Island Café. Some of the demonstrators waved placards that read "I'd Rather Grow Than Glow" and "Take the Cell Towers Down."

According to New York City Councilman James Vacca, "I understand that AT&T moved one or two of the antennas nearest to the school [after the demonstration]." Mr. Vacca had written directly to AT&T asking them to be "sensitive" to the concerns of parents regarding the installation of cell phone equipment near schools, in particular P.S. 175.

Islanders are worried about the effects that unregulated transmissions might have on residents, specifically the children who attend the school five days a week or play in the adjacent playground and Little League field. According to one of the demonstration organizers, Christine Scheurich Werkhoven: "This is not an issue of aesthetics. The radio frequency rays from this proliferation of antennas has been proven, in studies done by the World Health Organization, among others, to cause serious health concerns, including but not limited to vision problems, DNA strand interruption, increased growth in brain tumors of laboratory animals, [and] memory problems."

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, who spoke at the rally and has been in touch with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about this issue, is sponsoring leg-

islation for a New York City-based study on the potential dangers of radio-frequency energy (RF), the type emitted by cellular phones, phone towers, cordless phones and wireless Internet services. He applauded the efforts of the demonstrators, saying, "the combined voices of City Islanders and Queens residents who are also demanding health department studies before cell towers can be installed will hopefully start a snowball effect and get legislation onto the floor [of the New York State Assembly] and passed."

The July 14 demonstration capped several months of efforts on the part of frustrated Islanders who have tried to communicate with the owner of the building and to get answers to their concerns. Centre Streets residents Helen and Nancy Friedman were awakened at 3 a.m. on May 22 by noise from a truck and work crew. The workers appeared to be "drilling and installing antennas or cell phone towers" on the roof of the apartment building next to Chase Bank.

During that same week, the contractor also went into Chase Bank on the other side of the building and told bank officers that the parking lot must be cleared so they could put up their crane. When bank staff questioned who authorized this, the contractor said that they had clearance from Chase security. Skeptical, the officers called their security division and found out no such permission had been granted. "They were lying," a representative from Chase told *The Current*, and the bank's staff refused to allow the contractor into the parking lot.

Meanwhile, some tenants in the 205 building voiced their concerns to building management. "We were notified that cell phone antennas were being installed on the roof, but we couldn't believe it when work began in the middle of the night," one tenant said. This tenant said they tried to ask building management about the safety of these installations and inform them that there was a family with a baby living in the apartment right below the roof. "I was told 'if you don't like it move,'" the tenant said.

Despite the underhanded way in which the latest installation was conducted, the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) had approved the permit request for "additional telecommunication cabinets and related antennas on the roof" of 205 City Island Avenue filed by DGL Realty. A representative from the realty company reportedly said, in response to safety ques-



tions, that their hands were tied by a lease agreement with AT&T.

In fact, there are two other locations on City Island with cell phone towers and equipment: 30 Pilot Street (Pickwick Terrace) and 551 City Island Avenue, according to DOB records. All eight installations (beginning in 1996) were approved by DOB, except for the most recent request by the owners of Pickwick to install more equipment. This request was rejected on July 13, 2007, but it is not known whether this was in response to concerns voiced by Islanders.

Mr. Vacca continues to press for a meeting with the "appropriate people at AT&T. There is no consensus that cell phone towers pose a health hazard, but we also don't have enough studies stating that they aren't hazardous in the long term, especially for children. Local communities should have the right to limit the amount of equipment placed near schools." He cited one study conducted two years ago by an independent engineer on behalf of P.S. 175, which concluded that there was no risk to the students from the antenna across the street. However, the study was done before additional equipment was placed on the roof of the building.

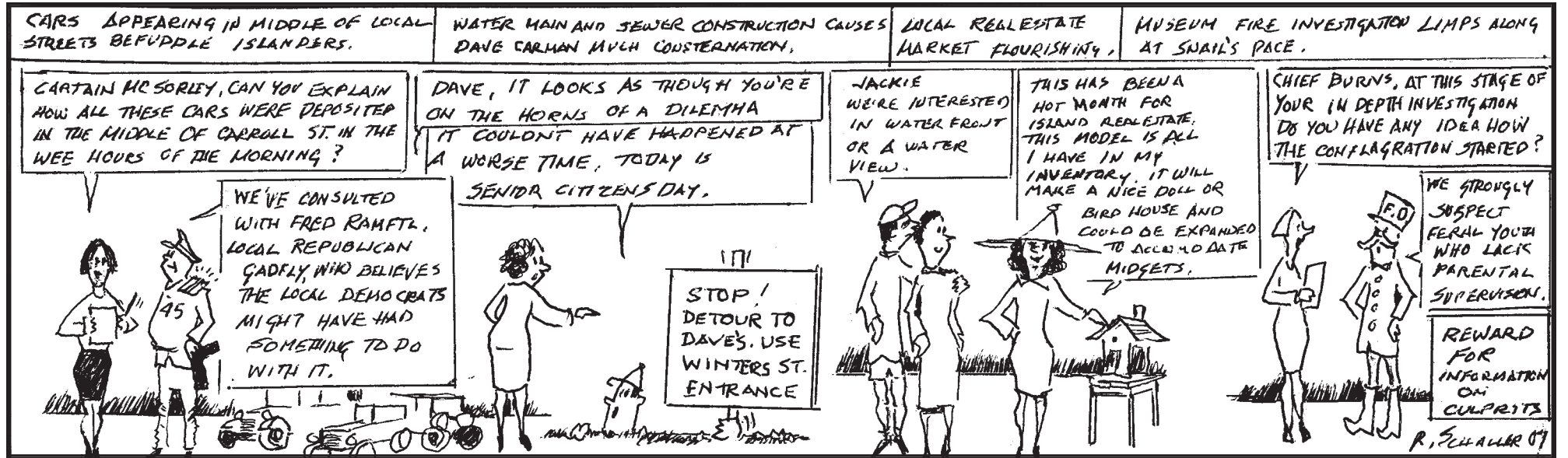
Islanders intend to keep the pressure on, according to another one of the organizers, Jo Heck. The recently formed group F.A.C.T.S. (Families Against Cell Towers near Schools) is planning further dem-

onstrations, including one near the home of the owner of 205 City Island Avenue, Elizabeth Chiechi, who resides in New Rochelle. They are also planning to test the school and playground for the level of "non-thermal rays" coming from the antennas. According to Ms. Heck, the phone carriers supposedly performed a test showing that the "thermal rays conform to the 1986 FCC standards," but these tests may be incomplete.

The issue of the rapid cell phone equipment expansion is something of a Catch-22. The FCC forbids local governments from "unreasonably restricting access to telecommunications equipment," according to Mr. Vacca. However, when it comes to inspecting and overseeing the actual installation, the FCC leaves it to local government agencies, like the Department of Buildings. It may not be possible at this time to enact local legislation to limit the proliferation of equipment near schools.

In addition, there are other sides to the debate, namely the residents and business owners who demand improved cell phone service. Many Islanders find that there are "dead spots" along City Island Avenue and other roads nearby where cell service is interrupted and have been pressing the cell providers to improve service. However, some of the demonstrators have pointed out that the towers at 205 City Island Avenue are actually serving Port Washington, not City Island.

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Cell Tower Protest

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To Assemblymember Benedetto:

I urge you to take action to force the removal of the huge cell phone towers that have been erected by Verizon on the roof of a residential building across the street from the City Island School (P.S.175). As a parent of a fourth-grade student, I am outraged that, with no notice to the community, these towers have been erected in the worst possible location on City Island.

I am also outraged that our elected officials have been so unwilling to stand up for the people against the powerful telecommunications companies. The suspect way in which these towers have been put up, with work going on without permits at 3:00 a.m. by construction crews that lie to residents who ask questions, is shocking to the conscience and reveals that something illegal is probably taking place. I join with many of my neighbors in demanding action against this blight on our community.

Charles Lacina

Grateful Islander

To the Editor:

On June 21, 2007, I said goodbye to my husband, Charles. He was my love and my best friend, the father of our two precious sons, Charles and Jim, and the one I shared my life with since I was 15 years old.

To all my neighbors, friends and clients, thank you for your sympathy and comfort during a very difficult time in my life.

Bette Lacina

Heartfelt Thanks

To the Editor:

The Bunyan family would like to express heartfelt thanks to all those who sent cards or expressed kind words of sympathy to us regarding the passing of our husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend—John Patrick Bunyan. He was a wonderful man.

We are particularly grateful to all those who attended the memorial Mass on Saturday, Aug. 4, at St. Mary's Church. Special thanks to Fr. Alex and Deacon Mueller and to Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Kristin, who made the service so beautiful and meaningful.

Lastly, thanks to Bill Kenny and the staff at the Black Whale Restaurant, who did such a terrific job providing us with food and refreshments.

The Bunyan Family

Thank You, Friends

To the Editor:

We all felt so embraced, supported and blessed by the outpouring of love and sympathy from our family, friends, City Island community, members of the congregation and the New York Conference of the Trinity United Methodist Church, co-workers, and others who crowded the Trinity United Methodist Church during the memorial service for our father and grandfather, George Kenneth Chadwick on Aug. 25, 2007.

We thank you all for the many cards, donations to favored causes, and gifts of food to our family in the days following his passing. Your expressions of care have made our sadness easier to bear.

We must give special acknowledgment to the team of women from TUMC, led by Linda Nealon and Joyce Rizzuto, who cooked, baked and worked so hard to set up the church and serve the refreshments after the service.

With love and deep gratitude,
The Chadwick Family

Museum Fire

To the Editor:

The volunteer staff of the City Island Nautical Museum was as horrified as everyone else on City Island when the front of the old Public School 17 building on Fordham Street went up in fire and smoke on July 13. To see our precious collection and exhibits come so close to destruction was bad enough, but to see the beautiful entrance to the building destroyed was particularly painful. This structure is one of City Island's gems, with the honor of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Needless to say, we hope that the Fire Department is able to find the perpetrators, and we hope to learn that the fire was more of an accident than a deliberate act of violence. In the meantime, we are grateful to the Fire Department, which was able to keep the fire and smoke damage to a minimum and to the Police Department for offering security on the night of the fire when our doors had been destroyed.

We are also grateful to the City Island Civic Association for voting to put up \$1,500 toward a reward for anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for the fire, and to our community officials for expressing concern.

Most of all, however, we have been heartened by the response of Islanders past and present who have offered assistance in various ways—from helping us clean smoke-damaged pictures to helping with the restoration of the building. We are hopeful that the building's insurance company will cover the costs of rebuilding the entrance, but we will need other funds as well as volunteers to help us reinstall our exhibitions as soon as our electricity is turned back on and we can get to work.

We do not have access to our membership list nor to our list of donors, but we are hopeful that museum members, friends, and graduates of P.S. 17, wherever you are, will want to help us reopen our

doors as quickly as possible. If you wish to send a donation (which is tax deductible), please send it to City Island Historical Society, P. O. Box 82, City Island, NY 10464.

Gratefully,
Tom Nye, President

Fordham History

To the Editor:

Thanks for the great articles about City Island and its history. Although we've been physically gone from there for some time, you never really leave, and your publication keeps me and my family connected to the Island.

Regarding the article on page 17 of the May 2006 issue ("Aw Shucks") about early oystermen of City Island, I have a correction, be it small, regarding my great-great-great-grandfather Orrin Fordham.

In the article, you state he came from England when in fact, it was his great-great-grandfather Reverend Robert Fordham who came to American from England in about 1631. Orrin Fordham was the son of Rufus Fordham and Rebecca Shipman. He moved to City Island in 1837 along with his wife, Leveina (Billar) Fordham, from Saybrook, Connecticut, where he was

a ship's carpenter, fisherman and farmer.

My father, Nelson P. Fordham, now deceased, was the last of the Fordhams to oyster as well as one of the last clam diggers—as people born on City Island were called. He told stories of oystering with his grandfather in the 1930s, I believe. In fact, I just emailed the Nautical Museum to identify Harry Glasier (fourth from left in the photo) and I believe my father (boy sitting on the right) is in the photograph printed with the article.

Will Fordham

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Sewer Project Half Finished

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although some residents feared that the sewer project would impact negatively on traffic and quality of life issues on City Island during the summer months, the continuing work on City Island Avenue in front of Public School 175 has actually had a number of positive effects, not least of which is the fact that the job is scheduled for completion within the foreseeable future.

First of all, the sewers were replaced in front of the school during vacation, when the children would not be affected by dust, gaping holes in the street and the reduction of traffic lanes. And Islanders were comforted by the fact that the city was attending to City Island's infrastructure, a subject that has attracted enormous attention recently because of such tragic events as the collapsed bridge in Minneapolis and the exploded steam pipe in midtown Manhattan. And, third, with the tremendous rainstorms this past summer, the flooding has been minimal, compared to years past.

To date, Carp Construction, which is the contractor engaged by the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Environmental Protection, has replaced all the water mains along City Island Avenue and in Pelham Bay Park, and they expect that all mains will be replaced along King and Minneford Avenues, as well as Carroll, Bowne, and Cross Streets by the holidays of 2007. The storm and sanitary sewers have been completed between Cross Street and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and additional work on these sewers will resume in September.

Work in front of P. S. 175 began the second week in July with the replacement of the water main, but the workers hit a snag when they discovered that Con Ed had to abate some abandoned gas mains covered with coal-tar wrap. Because of the ex-

plosion downtown, Con Ed was delayed by two weeks from completing this work, but they managed to do the job in two days, enabling Carp Construction to continue with their work on the storm and sanitary sewers along this strip of City Island Avenue.

Interestingly, the contractor found that there were at least seven buildings between Earley and Centre Streets, including a number of multifamily dwellings, with illegal connections to the storm sewers instead of the sanitary sewers. These connections, of course, create pollution at the storm sewer outfall on east Schofield Street during heavy rainstorms and pose a health issue. However, the contractor is correcting these illegal connections as they progress along the avenue and this should solve the problem.

Other delay-causing problems facing the contractor involve the illegal parking of cars along City Island Avenue. During the work in front of the school, the traffic had to be restricted to two lanes, one of them the parking lane in front of Carman's Service Station and the Post Office. In spite of the posted signs, the obvious traffic restriction and verbal warnings from workers, some residents insisted on parking in the roadway anyhow. One of the workers reported that a resident refused to move her car from in the front of the Post Office and simply handed a \$10 bill to him telling him to purchase a book of stamps for her.

It has occasionally been necessary for the contractor to tow cars that are in the way, but they are moved only a block or two and not given tickets. Nevertheless, drivers are asked to observe the parking signs and try to find spaces on the side streets in order to keep the project moving forward without unnecessary delays.

After Labor Day, the work will continue on City Island Avenue, between 7 a.m. and 3:30 or 4:30 p.m., between Carroll and Hawkins Streets, on Schofield Street, and from Pilot to Horton, with an outfall being constructed at Belden Point.

For updates on the project, consult the Reconstruction Newsletter, which can be obtained at Chase Bank and Connie's market, or visit the Web site www.nyc.gov/buildnyc. Or you may call the community construction liaison Andy Macagnone at 718-885-0308 or visit the DDC office at 261 City Island Avenue.

NY Salutes America



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The annual fireworks extravaganza burst into flames on Monday, June 25, 2007, to the delight of residents viewing from the bridge and other points on the north end of City Island. The sparkling event, billed as "New York Salutes America," was sponsored by Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and State Senator Jeffrey Klein.

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Photo courtesy of the Office of James Vacca

The Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) came to the City Island Library on Thursday, July 26, for a Senior Service Day sponsored by Council Member James Vacca. The two-hour event was attended by about 50 City Islanders, who were given advice and information on health-related issues. Standing (l. to r.) are Jeff Levine of VNSNY, Council Member Vacca, and Pamela Franklin-Greenway, Elizabeth Brennan, Ida Degiorgio, and Minerva Velazquez-Munoz, all from VNSNY. Council Member Vacca also announced recently that the City Council has allocated enough funding in the budget to allow public libraries in the city to remain open six days a week.



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.

Islander and *Current* columnist **Edward D. Heben** has joined **Citrin Cooperman & Company, L.L.P.** as a partner as of Aug. 1, 2007. The accounting, tax and consulting firm is ranked among the top 35 CPA firms in the country and maintains three office facilities in New York. Mr. Heben will be working out of the White Plains office at 709 Westchester Avenue and can be reached on his cell at 914-424-2900 or at his new office number, 914-949-2990. By joining the entrepreneurial firm, he broadens his ability to serve Islanders and their referrals with traditional accounting and tax compliance services, estate planning, succession planning, business valuations, fraud analysis and more. Until further notice, Mr. Heben's former Rye, New York, telephone and fax numbers will be automatically forwarded to the new location. You can visit the Citrin Cooperman Web site at www.citrincooperman.com for more detailed information about the firm. Mr. Heben looks forward to providing current and future clients with even more comprehensive services for many years to come.

The **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718 / 885-3779) begins the fall season with plenty of music and art "on the menu." The month starts with a double dose of singer-songwriters when awesome talents Fred Gillen Jr. and Matt Turk take the stage on Saturday,

Sept. 8, at 8 p.m. That Sunday, Sept. 9, relax to the sweet sitar sounds of John Martino, beginning at 3 p.m. The following weekend begins with the debut of singer-songwriter Paul Sachs, on Friday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. Then it's the Beatles—the Rubber Soul Starving Artist version, that is—with two shows, at 6 p.m. and at 9 p.m. At press time, a few seats remained for the 6 p.m. performance, but the 9 p.m. show is sold out. That weekend finishes with the smokin' Lou Volpe Starving Artist Jazztet on Sunday, Sept. 16, at 4:30 p.m. The Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick, takes the stage for a third time at his own cafe / gallery on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m. The Friday before, Sept. 21, at 8 p.m., singer-songwriter Newspaper Joe is in the spotlight. On Sunday, Sept. 23, singer-songwriter Theresa Sareo, the "sweetheart of the Starving Artist," performs at 3 p.m. Finishing off September, there is the ever-popular and usually packed "take the stage" open mike night (always last Friday of the month) for songwriters, poets, and comics, on Friday, Sept. 28, at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. there are the sweet harmonies of Project Mercury. The month ends with the City Island Jazz Quartet on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m., led by City Island's own Roger Scala. For more on our schedule through December, visit www.starvingartistonline.com.



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
88 Marine Street	1/26/07	\$640,000	1 Family
77 Pell Place	4/23/07	\$555,000	1 Family
64 Hawkins Street	6/22/07	\$632,500	2 Family
164 Horton Street	6/29/07	\$498,000	1 Family
170 Schofield Street	7/2/07	\$350,000	Condo
640 Minneford Ave.	7/20/07	\$742,000	2 Family
225 Ditmars Street	7/24/07	\$605,000	1 Family

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Special Events at Bartow-Pell

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road, in cooperation with the Pelham Art Center, will unveil an exhibit called "Botanicals: Bloom and Blossom" on Friday, Sept. 7. The exhibition, which will continue through Sept. 28, includes a collection of graphite drawings and watercolors by the Pelham Art Center's botanical illustration students, who visited the museum's gardens during the summer under the guidance of artist Janet Helen Shean.

A free opening reception, featuring crafts, refreshments, the music of Stefynie Rosenfeld and an opportunity to meet some of the exhibiting artists will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening coincides with the free Bronx Seaside Trolley, which travels to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and City Island.

Classes to be held this fall include "Yoga in the Garden" on Tuesdays from 8:45 to 10 a.m. with Sydney MacGinnis. Start your morning on the Bartow-Pell's beautiful grounds with stretching and balancing postures, breathing exercises, deep relaxation and brief meditation. Bring a mat or a towel and wear comfortable clothing. There will be two sessions (A: Sept. 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2; and B: Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30); the fee for each session is \$175 (\$158 for Bartow-Pell and Pelham Art Center members) or for both sessions \$298 (\$268 for members). Call the Pelham Art Center to register at 914-738-2525.

On Thursdays in October (4, 11, 18 and 25), from 8 to 9 a.m., enjoy Tai Chi with Master Domingo Colon. Practice con-

tinuous and gentle physical exercises and deep breathing exercises, which reduce stress and increase your peace of mind, while developing your spiritual awareness on the beautiful grounds of Bartow-Pell. The four sessions will cost \$160 (\$144 for Bartow-Pell and Pelham Art Center members). Call the Pelham Art Center to register at 914-738-2525.

On Tuesdays in October from 3:30 to 5 p.m. draw with Janet Shearn in her "Nature's Notebook" classes. For information about fees and to register, call 914-738-2525.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m. join Dr. Harriet Davis-Kram, assistant professor at Queens College, to investigate "Murder Most Foul! A Peek at the Underside of American Victorian History." Crime was an everyday affair during the American Victorian era, and neighborhood residents often relied on gangsters and corrupt political organizations for aid in emergencies. The lecture is free with admission to museum; registration is requested. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

Volunteer Day at the museum will take place on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you love the Bartow-Pell grounds and want to help keep them beautiful, come out and help during our first biannual clean-up day! Light breakfast will be available. Bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and long pants. Please sign up by calling 718-885-1461, or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

Regular tours of the museum will be held every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 718-885-1461 or visit the museum's Web site at www.bpmm.org.

HUTCH RIVER NEEDS HELP

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A new organization has recently started up to work with local residents and with state and local government officials on behalf of the Hutchinson River. The purpose is to help clean the river and improve the condition of its banks, in order that it might become the great community asset that it should be.

For many years, the river has been heavily polluted from various sources, including fertilizer run-off from residences and oil spills caused by businesses located along the river, which slows into Eastchester Bay along the west side of City Island before it runs into the East River.

The group, which includes a number of City Island residents, wants to learn more about the river and work to rid it of the pollution. With community participation, they believe, it will be possible to get state

and local elected officials and environmental agencies to stop the dumping and turn waste stretches of the river into beautiful parkland.

Island members include Eleanor Rae, who is the founder of the group, Carol and Jack Ullman, Violet Smith, Helen Friedman, Susan and Peter Bellinson, Toby Lieberman and Inge Otto.

To add your name to the list of supporters, to work actively and attend meetings, or simply to learn more, call Eleanor Rae at 718-885-9653 or e-mail cwedd@aol.com. Also visit the blog at www.hutchinsonriverproject.blogspot.com.

There will be a meeting of the organization on Sept. 20 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Carol and Jack Ullman, 98 Pilot Street. Those who wish to attend are asked to call Eleanor Rae in advance.



Photo by KAREN NANI

In August, the Parks Department added a new attraction at Orchard Beach: a balloon ride. The large balloon and basket took beachgoers for a brief ride straight up in the air (the balloon remained tethered to the ground). Islanders are wondering what will happen to the balloon if a squall or hurricane comes along.

Museum Fire

Continued from page 1

The P.S. 17 building is one of only three buildings on City Island to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its handsome porch has been a familiar sight to residents since the building was constructed by the city of New York in 1897-98. That porch will have to be completely rebuilt, but insurance adjusters hired by the condominium board are confident that the insurance company will cover the costs of restoring the building to its original appearance.

There has been much speculation as to the cause of the fire. Fire marshals visited the site at midnight on the 13th and made a follow-up visit the following week, and they determined that the cause was suspicious. They found no evidence of an accelerant such as gasoline, but they noted that the condition of several hollow, rotted columns could have served as "chimneys" for a fire caused by fireworks. The case is still under investigation, although many residents are convinced that the culprits were Island teens, who often use

the front porch of the building as a hangout, where they have been reported vandalizing the property for at least two years.

At its meeting on July 31, the City Island Civic Association voted to put up \$1,500 to establish a reward for anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the fire. Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, will approach other community organizations and businesses to join the effort.

In the meantime, the City Island Historical Society is applying for grants to help fund the cost of restoring the interior of the building, as well as to help restore the façade, and to install security cameras to prevent future vandalism to the property. The Community Center has also sent out an appeal letter requesting help. Those who wish to help by either donating funds or time to the Nautical Museum are asked to call Barbara Dolensek at 718-885-0507, or to send checks to the City Island Historical Society, P. O. Box 82, City Island NY 10464. Checks for the Community Center may be sent to P. O. Box 135, City Island NY 10464.

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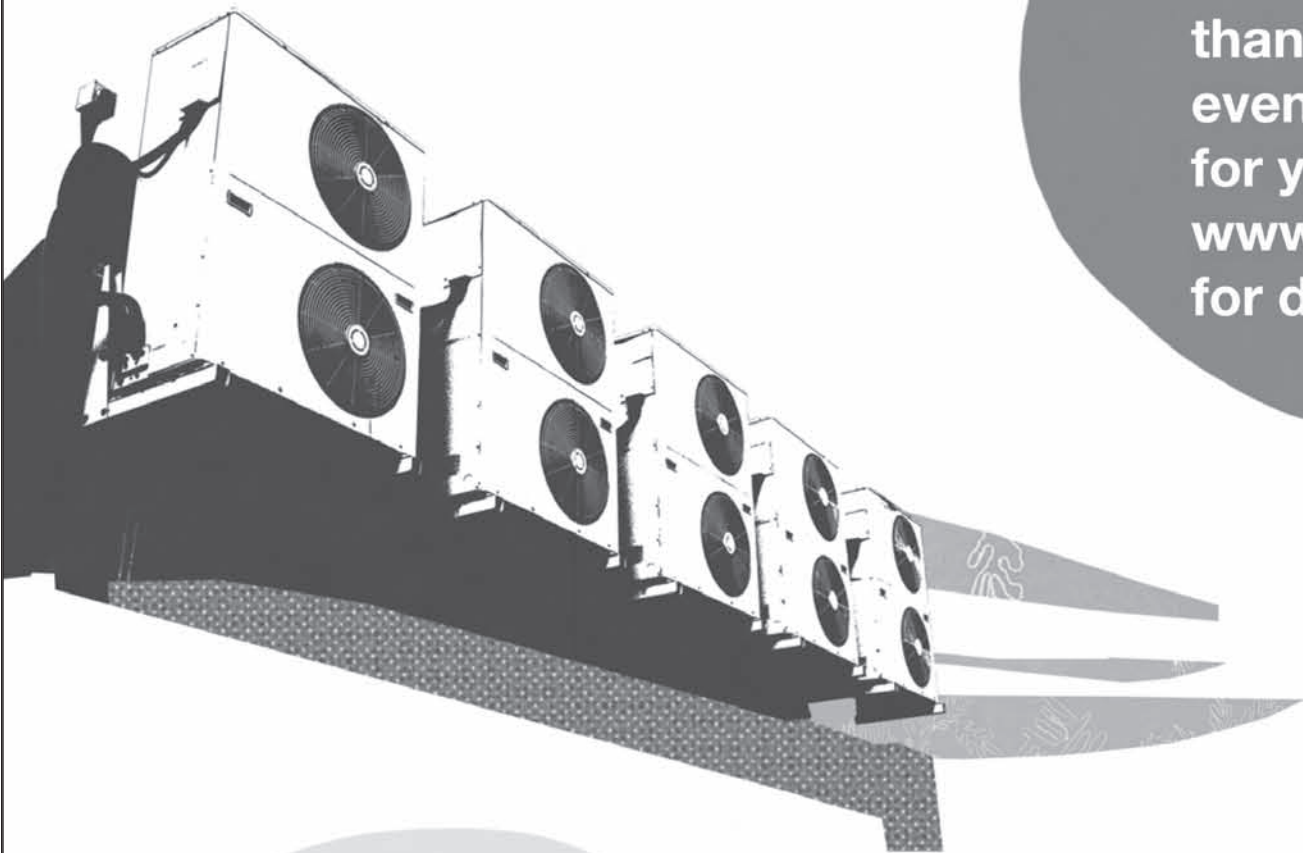
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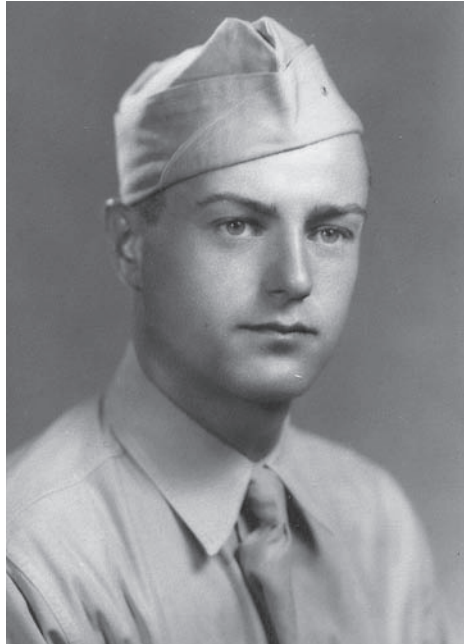
By CANDACE TAUBNER

If my father, Bill Pfleeger, told war stories while I was growing up, I have no memory of them. I suspect that most members of the Greatest Generation wanted to put World War II behind them and get on with the business of living, having risked their lives to provide a safe and secure world in which to raise families.

By the time my brother and I were old enough to ask questions, the Vietnam War had ushered in an era of anti-war protests, and it was hardly the time for us to have a dialogue on any war. That being said, we were always quite proud of our Navy pilot dad, and we knew that he had served honorably and bravely.

Fast forward two generations to Bill's grandchildren, specifically my son at about the age of 10. He was studying about the World Wars, and his feelings for his grandfather were nothing short of hero worship. While looking through a book on World War II planes ("PBY Catalina in Action" by Captain W. E. Scarborough, U.S.N.), he casually announced that Papa Bill's plane was pictured on page 26. I felt it was now necessary to risk shattering his belief that the war was single-handedly won by his grandfather by explaining that it was probably just a similar plane. However, we did find Lt. Pfleeger's plane on page 47, and on page 67 there was a description of one of his rescue missions, along with a dramatic picture, all of which supported my son's conviction!

(Note: PBYs were twin-engine sea planes with a crew of approximately nine men. They were also known as Catalinas and later termed Black Cats. PB stands for Patrol Bomber, and Y identifies the manufacturer. The boat was equipped with depth charges, bombs, torpedoes and .50-caliber



Photos courtesy of CANDACE TAUBNER
Lt. William Pfleeger

machine guns and was one of the most widely used aircraft of World War II.)

A couple of years later, while touring the Tillamook Naval Air Station Museum in Tillamook, Oregon, my brother's son ran up to the family and announced that he had found Papa Bill's plane. Everyone thought it was a little boy's fantasy until they were led to an exhibit that featured Lt. Pfleeger's VP-34 Black Cat #69 during a Dumbo mission on June 11, 1944. (PBYs were known for their Dumbo missions, in which airmen were rescued from life rafts at sea or from the beaches of remote islands. The term "Dumbo" came from the flying elephant of Walt Disney fame.)

It is hard to imagine such times when everyone was united in a fight to insure our country's very existence. There are so many stories to tell, and some are already lost to us. Now that my father's story has slowly unfolded, we are happy to share it.

My parents ("Dimples" Wickman and Bill Pfleeger) grew up on City Island during the period sandwiched between the two wars, with the memories of the Great Depression casting a vague shadow on their early years. My mother's City Island roots go way back to the early 1900s, when her grandparents came from New York City to spend the summers here. She was raised in a house on Buckley Street, and then she raised her own family there, leaving in



PBY Fleet Air Wing 17 flown by Lt. Pfleeger.

1973 when my father's business necessitated a move. My father was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, and moved to Bay Street in 1932 to attend seventh grade at P.S. 17.

The childhood stories my parents tell come from a more innocent time when neighbors were extended family and the only organized sports or after-school activities were the ones you put together yourself with the other children in your neighborhood. During hot summers, a daily swim was timed around the high tide when everyone would gather at the foot of the street. Even on some steamy nights when sleep was impossible, a dip in glowing phosphorus would cool you down, and you'd fall asleep with salty skin.

This was also the time when Robert Moses created Orchard Beach, which featured big bands along with its magnificent crescent of white sand, as did the famous Glen Island nearby. By 1942 World War II had disrupted this idyllic time, and Bill came home from Rensselaer College to enlist in the Navy. One night, shortly after his return, Bill went to a local hangout in New Rochelle called "Ship Ahoy." There he saw a beautiful blonde freshman from Good Counsel College among a group of City Island friends. He asked her to dance, and when she, in turn, asked him to attend a college formal, of course he accepted. As he drove toward White Plains on the Hutchinson River Parkway, there was a blackout (common for the times), which made him late, but it turned out to be the date of a lifetime. They have been happily married for over 60 years.

When the Navy accepted Bill in the spring of 1942, he applied for naval aviation, and by that summer, he found himself in a three-month physical training program at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. After this, he was 20 pounds lighter and on his way to Peru, Indiana to fly the "Yellow Peril," or Stearman (a Navy N2S biplane). Bill was part of the first graduating class from Peru in November of 1942, and final training took place at the naval base in Pensacola, Florida, where he received his flight wings in March 1943. By April Bill was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, assigned to Squadron VP34 which consisted of fifteen PBYs.

Two months later, the squadron was in San Diego preparing for their assignment to the South Pacific. In July 1943, they left San Diego on a 19-hour non-stop flight to a naval base in Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii, where they were outfitted for duty. The summer was spent patrolling the ocean for any Japanese activity, flying from various islands, such as Canton, Palmyra and Johnson Islands. By October they were headed for Perth, Australia, for air search in the Indian Ocean.

After two months, the squadron started the flight back to the Pacific and on Dec. 26 landed at Samari Island, a little island off the southern end of New Guinea. Now

the squadron entered the thick of the war, since the Japanese occupied most of this area. From Samari Island, the PBYs did their anti-Japanese sea operations at night, which earned them their special designation as "Black Cats." My father told me that one night, as they were heading south back to Samari Island, they flew into a thunderstorm. A violent downdraft brought the plane from an altitude of 10,000 feet to 3,000 feet in one minute. But the most remarkable thing to me was his description of the illuminated edges of the airplane propellers, a phenomenon known as St. Elmo's fire.

As MacArthur's armed forces took back the New Guinea coast, the Black Cats expanded their bases up to the northern end of New Guinea. It was here in the vicinity of Admiralty Island that Lt. Pfleeger flew a memorable Dumbo mission and rescued three survivors of a B-24 that had ditched when it was returning from a strike. The survivors were picked up at sea and returned to their base. When the Black Cats had finished their mission in New Guinea, they went on to the Philippines, and after an active tour of duty there, Squadron VP34 finally went home.

I found the following quote about my father in an old newspaper article that sums up his World War II naval career:

"His squadron made night attacks against Japanese shipping and shore installations and air-sea rescue duties, and for these operations was awarded a Presidential unit citation. He also was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and three air medals. He is credited with six enemy ships sunk or damaged with rescuing more than a dozen of our own and Allied airmen."

The following article by Leo Cullinane, called "Navy's 'Black Cat' Flyers Spread Nightly" and dated May 14, 1944, is a good description of what the Black Cats were all about.

"Among the greatest heroes of this war, yet the least known, are the Navy's 'Black Cat' squadrons, the airmen who nightly patrol the Pacific skies, hunting the Japanese at sea, or land and in the air.

"With their big twin-engined Catalina flying boats, named 'Cat' for short and painted jet black for night flying, a typical squadron nicknamed 'Fly By Night' recently sank 58,000 tons of Japanese shipping and damaged 20,000 more in a four week period, the Navy revealed. These big patrol bombers, like vengeful nighthawks, fly hour after hour on the most hazardous missions to strike the Japanese wherever they can be found."

Anyone who has memories to share regarding the Black Cats or who wishes to be in touch with the Pfleegers is invited to e-mail pelcat1015@aol.com or write to *The Island Current*, Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

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Thanks from Dianne & John O'Sullivan

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sat., and Sun., Sept. 8 and 9, **Arts and Crafts Fair** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sat., Sept. 15, **Annual Beach Clean-Up**, sponsored by the American Littoral Society, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at the City Island Bridge.

Tues., Sept. 25, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Sept. 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.

OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 5, 6, and 7, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

City Island Republicans

This has been a long and busy season. We hope everyone had a nice summer.

Petitions were successfully circulated around City Island. We would like to thank not only those who signed the petition but also all who helped carry the party petitions.

According to the Board of Elections, as of right now there is no primary in the Bronx for any political party. Although this year may not be the busiest of election years, City Island voters will still see the office of Bronx county district attorney and at least one judgeship for the northeast Bronx.

I am happy to report that we have most of our poll worker slots filled, and for the first time in anyone's recent memory we had some of the poll worker classes taught on City Island. If anyone is interested in being a poll worker, there are a few spots still available; call Fred Ramftl at 718-885-0984.

Our next meeting will most likely be in early October. Stay tuned to next month's issue for further details.

Fred Ramftl

Cub Scout News

Hope every one is enjoying this great summer. Cub Scout pack 211 is about to begin another exciting, fun filled adventurous season with camping trips and visits to West Point, Battleship Cove and Aquariums, etc are planned.

Registration will be held on Sept. 11, 2007 at Trinity Methodist Church on Bay St at 6:30 p.m. The application fee is \$50. Meetings will held at the Church hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m.

Cub Scout ages are from 1st grade to 5th grade. First graders would be "Tigers" and are to be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Adult leadership roles are also available and desperately needed to be filled.

Any questions or comments can be answered by emailing CUBSCOUTPACK211@AOL.COM.

Angelo Bellochio

City Island Theater Group

We are pleased to announce that the City Island Theater Group will be installing a brand new curtain, which will be ready for use for our fall 2007 production. As many of you know, the curtain we have has been broken for some time and we have not been able to use it. This curtain is being paid for jointly by Grace Episcopal Church and CITG.

We would like to thank the supporters who contributed to our Curtain Fund, as well as Council Member Jimmy Vacca,

who also provided funding, and, of course, Grace Church. We are looking forward to raising the curtain on many more wonderful productions there!

We will be closing our 2007 season with the acclaimed comedy "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" by John Bishop, an ingenious and wildly comic romp that enjoyed a long and critically hailed run both on and off Broadway. Poking antic fun at the more ridiculous aspects of "show biz" and the corny thrillers of Hollywood's heyday, the play provides a non-stop barrage of laughter as those assembled (or at least those who aren't killed off) untangle the mystery of the "Stage Door Slasher."

Performance dates are Oct. 26, 27 and Nov. 1, 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

As always, we are looking for help behind the scenes! If you are interested in stage managing, lighting, set design, costume design and helping on performance nights, please call us at 718-885-3066. If you would like to become a member of CITG, please send a \$10 check to CITG, P.O. Box 45, Bronx, NY 10464. Members are allowed to vote for board members and to run for the board once they have been a member for a year.

We will announce our 2008 Season shortly. See you at the theater!

Nicholas Sala

Trinity United Methodist Church

It's fall again, and we welcome everyone back. Things are beginning to heat up again, here at Trinity. Our Lay Leader, George Cavaleri, will conduct his group bible study from Oct. 14 through Nov. 18. This study, which will focus on the book of Hebrews, will be held on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, and no prior registration is needed.

Sunday school will resume on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m., during our regular church service. All are welcome to join us every Sunday.

Budget shop will reopen on Sept. 11. We have a lot of new merchandise, and we look forward to seeing all our regular customers. We also welcome all our new customers. We at Trinity would like to make another appeal to anyone who would like to help out here at Budget. We are severely understaffed and really need help to keep our doors open. If you can find it in your heart to give of some much needed time, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated.

Anne Sill

AARP 318

AARP Chapter 318 will hold its first meeting of the season on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Fellowship Hall at 113 Bay Street.

Membership in the chapter is open to anyone who is 50 years of age or older. In addition, to be a member of the chapter, one must be a member in good standing of the national AARP organization.

Blood pressure readings are taken at the first meeting of every month.

A notary public is available before and after each meeting to notarize your documents. There is no charge for members.

If you are not a member of AARP, why not join us at our first meeting and discover what we are all about? Everyone is welcome.

Carmelia A. Ramftl



Photos by EYVONNE BAKER

City Island's own Vacation Bible School was held during the week of July 2 to 6, 2007, with 22 children attending. Led by Mother Patricia Alexander of Grace Episcopal Church and Pastor Susan Chadwick from Trinity Methodist Church, the children participated in crafts and singing (with help from Ann McGuire and Steve Marcus), as well as games related to bible stories. There were even pony rides on the last day to wrap up a blessed week of fun.



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

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

SAVE OUR SPACE

The City Island Community Center needs your support NOW more than ever! We have suffered significant damage as a result of the fire in our building. The best way for you to show your support is to become a member now or to donate funds. We are truly grateful for any support offered. If you would like to contribute to the fire/water damage relief effort, please send your donation (\$25 or more for a membership) to CICC, P.O. Box 135, City Island, NY 10464.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration Fair: Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Demos and free classes throughout the day. \$2 Mini Haunted House.

Rocky Horror Picture Show Auditions: Be a part of our one-night-only performance. Become your favorite character. Don't just see the show—be the show. Auditions will be held on July 10 at 8 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room. We need cast members, stage crew, make-up artists, costume and wig donations. For more information visit us at www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com, e-mail us at cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com or call 718-885-1145.

Indoor Community Tag Sale: Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEW CLASSES

Drama Club: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. starting Sept. 19, for ages 8 to 12. Activities will be planned for each evening. Participants must be prepared to do just that—participate! We will do relaxation and voice exercises, recite limericks and tongue-twisters, improvise with props and costumes, and act out scenes from plays and stories. The emphasis will be on fun! Dues will be decided after we get a group together to cover Center expenses. One parent will be expected to volunteer to stay each evening. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Art Class: Creature Feature for Grades 4 through 7, Tuesdays 3:30 to 5 p.m., starting Sept. 18. Students will use taxidermy models to create their own mythological creatures, adding scales, wings, claws, eyes, fake fur and other materials. A variety of mythological beasts will be discussed, and working sketches will be made. Each student will design a base to support their creature and create an environment for it. Ten classes at \$10 per class plus \$40 materials fee; \$140 total. Limited to eight students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Art Class: Experiments with Paper and Paint for Grades K through 3, Thursdays 3:30 to 5 p.m. starting Sept 20. Students will do a variety of projects, learning about color, pattern, paper folding, weaving and creating texture. 10 classes at \$8 per class; \$80 total. Limited to eight students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Art Class: Storytime Art for children ages 2_ to 5. Tuesdays, 1 to 2:15 p.m. starting Sept. 18 or Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., starting Sept. 20. The same projects

will be done on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so sign up for one day only! \$60 for ten classes, \$8 for individual classes. (Please call the day before.) Registration on first day of class.

We will read stories and learn songs and rhymes with the help of puppets, and we will make art projects about the stories we have read. To sign up in advance, call 718-885-3202 and leave a message! This is not daycare; caregivers are expected to stay. No more than three children per caregiver, please.

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

Class Forming: "Shimmy By The Sea" is a group of women learning and dancing together. We are planning future workshops and classes in the art of belly dance. For information about classes, call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Wonderkind Preschool: Where learning is child's play. Ages 2 _ to 5 years. Monday through Thursday, 12 noon to 3 p.m.; Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Eight-week sessions. Class size is limited to six children per session. To register and for continuous and up-to-the-minute information, go to www.wonderkind-preschool.com.

Ice Skating Ballet: Off-ice jumping and conditioning and introduction to ballet. The cost of the class per week per student is \$24. If you have any questions or to register, please call Gina Robinson at 914-715-3229 or Lindsay Palazzo at 914-844-5424.

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

Martial Arts: Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Ages 7 and up. Mondays. 5 to 7 p.m. Call José at 646-671-7264.

Sally's Playground: Birth to 5 years. Beginning Sept. 17; Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Playground available for party rentals. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

Girl Scouts: "Where girls grow strong." Troop #1075: A place for girls to come together and develop strong friendships to last a lifetime. Camping, father-daughter dance, Girl Scout cookie sale, Hall of Science visits and sleepovers are just a few exciting events that take place throughout the year.

Youth Center: Saturday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 or Deana Weyhrauch at 917-418-1377 for more information. We are looking for volunteers to staff the nights. If you are interested in helping out, please call.

ADULT PROGRAM

Belly Dancing With Miriam: Thursday night at 7 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Call Miriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

Aerobics with Mary: Monday,

Wednesday, Friday: half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m.; Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

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

Knitting Club: A club for women/children to learn and share their knitting skills. Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5768).

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

Our holiday season begins on Friday, Sept. 7, at 7:30, with a Shabbat service that has a Slichot (High Holiday) theme. We will gather to join in prayer that this coming year bring goodness, healing and peace to all.

Rabbi Shohama will lead the service, assisted by Cantor Elaine.

As always, our beautiful High Holiday services are free and open to the public, but come early to get good seats!

High Holy Day Services schedule:

Rosh Hashana evenings, Wednesday, Sept. 12, and Thursday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m.

Rosh Hashana mornings, Thursday, Sept. 13, and Friday, Sept. 14, at 9:30 a.m.

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

Yom Kippur eve, Friday, Sept. 21, will begin at 6:30 p.m. (promptly) with *Kol Nidre*.

Yom Kippur day, Saturday, Sept. 22: morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. The rabbi's sermon starts at 10 a.m. and *Yizkor* at 11 a.m. Closing service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 7:15 p.m. with a breakfast. Aliza Erber, our rabbinic pastor intern, will be directing a dramatic rendition of the book of Jonah for our Yom Kippur afternoon service, beginning at 5:30.

A Shabbat/Sukkot celebration will be led by our rabbinic pastor, David Daniel Klipper, on Friday evening, Sept. 28, at 7:30 p.m. He will also lead our Simchat Torah/Shabbat service on Friday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Tai Chi-Yoga classes will resume on Thursdays in September (starting on Sept. 6) at 6:15 p.m. Led by Marc Kaplan, his exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

New this year is a Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program of classes and tutorials, headed by Dr. Aliza Erber. It's never too late to sign up your child, or yourself, for a life-changing experience by reclaiming your Jewish heritage. These classes will be held in White Plains and on City Island, and are open to all, with no membership required. For information on fees and schedules, call Aliza at 914 761-5114.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available.

Visit our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

As we begin the month of September, we bid goodbye to Fr. Alexander Iheonunekwu, who has been with us for the months of July and August. Father will return to his parish work as pastor of St. Matthias Parish in Nigeria. We also say farewell to Fr. George

Okeahialam, who returned to us this year to serve during the month of August. He hails from Nigeria but is currently doing parish work in Houston, Texas.

St. Mary's School will officially open on Tuesday, Sept. 4, when the faculty will gather for the opening Conference Day. Students will report on Wednesday, Sept. 5. With increased enrollment and an enthusiastic staff, the year promises to be a rich and exciting one.

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 19, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and grades 4 through 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Grade 8 will have a special program on Tuesday afternoon. Parents are urged to register early by mail. Dates for registration in person will be Tuesday, Sept. 11, and Thursday, Sept. 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the school gym. No registrations will be accepted on the first day of class.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, we will hold our Outdoor Mass in St. Mary's schoolyard. This year the churches of our vicariate have been invited to this special event as part of the bicentennial celebrations of the Archdiocese of New York. The Most Reverend Gerald T. Walsh, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of New York, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Reverend Monsignor Edward M. Barry, Regional Vicar of the Northeast Bronx, will concelebrate the Mass. A light supper will follow the liturgy. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this festive occasion.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is here for you! You are warmly welcomed to join us for any of our regular weekly worship services, which are as follows: Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10 a.m.; Evening Prayer is offered every Monday at 7 p.m.; and Morning Prayer is offered every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

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

Sunday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m.: Last Sunday of our summer worship schedule.

Sunday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m.: "Homecoming Sunday." Join us as we resume our schedule of 10 a.m. worship, followed by an All-Parish Picnic in the front courtyard.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 9 to 11 a.m.: Church open for special prayer in commemoration of 9/11, including the tolling of the bell at the times the Towers fell.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 12 noon: The Blessing of the Animals. In keeping with tradition, all pets (four-legged, winged, scaled, and finned) are invited to come to the Grace courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we do ask that attendees be leashed, caged, or otherwise appropriately restrained!

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Legion News

As we depart from the summer doldrums, we look forward to an active final four months of 2007. Ed Shipp has commandeered a bus to transport the troops and families to the Renaissance Festival on Saturday, Sept. 8. This fair will feature 18 stages of continuous entertainment. Arts and crafts will also be available. Contact Ed Shipp for reservations and tickets at 917-715-8379.

The fare is \$45 per person and \$35 for flag stewards and a guest of their choosing. All the proceeds will be used to purchase ladders for the flag stewards. The price includes transportation via comfortable motor coach; bagels with cream cheese, butter or jelly; admission ticket to the fair; a program; and coffee or tea and orange juice. Beer and soda will be available for the return trip. Departure will be from the Post at 9 a.m. and the bus will leave the fair at 6 p.m. An auction of an original Mark Whitcombe painting will be held on the trip home.

Calendars will soon be available. The Post Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion are working together to make this venture a success.

Continued on page 14

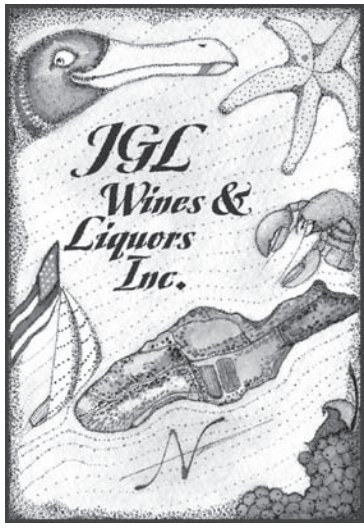
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Photos by MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER

The 15th annual 4th of July "Largest Waterballoon Fight Ever in the History of Long Island Sound" had a theme this year. Dan Green declared it to be the Patriots versus the Brits. The patriots, aboard the Amulet in the Island Boat Club, wore tri-cornered hats and flew the Don't Tread on Me standard. The Brits, aboard the Marguerite and their Whaler tender, sneak attacked at about 1 p.m. Families joining in this year were, the Montalbanos, Murphys, Greens, Hoffmans, Juners, Carberrys and assorted friends. At the conclusion, an edict condemning Benedict Arnold to hanging from the yardarm was read to the crowd by Dan Green. In spite of this, victory was claimed by both sides as usual.

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The Best of Pixar

I was never much for cartoons when I was a kid, but with the advent of Pixar Animation Studios and its first film, **Toy Story** (1995), I was hooked. Although ostensibly for children, my favorite Pixar films have plenty for an adult to enjoy, making all their films suitable for the entire family. **Toy Story** was the first feature-length film that was animated entirely by computer. In contrast to the behind-the-scenes wonder, the toys in this delightful film seem somewhat plain, but when their

owner, a young boy named Andy (Jon Morris), leaves the room, they all spring to life. The star is a pull-string cowboy named Woody (voice of Tom Hanks), who is Andy's favorite. When Andy receives a birthday gift in the form of the exciting and arrogant astronaut Buzz Light-year (Tim Allen), Woody loses his place on Andy's bed, and a rivalry naturally ensues. The supporting cast includes a neurotic dinosaur (Wallace Shawn), a piggy bank (Jon Ratzenberger), a slinky dog (Jim Varney) and my personal favorite, Mr. Potato Head (Don Rickles). In **Toy Story 2** (1999), some toys are retired and succumb to the harsh reality of yard sales.

A Bug's Life (1998) is a retelling of the Aesop fable "The Ant and the Grasshopper," which is about a colony of hardworking ants and a wild gang of grasshoppers. The main characters include the worker ant Flik (Dave Foley) and Hopper (Kevin Spacey), ringleader of the grasshoppers. When catastrophe occurs, Flik unwittingly recruits help in the form of a bug circus. Characters include a macho ladybug (Denis Leary), a stick-shaped bug (David Hyde Pierce), a black widow spider (Bonnie Hunt) and a butterfly (Madeline Kahn). There is also an ant queen (Phyllis Diller), as well as a princess (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), who is sweet on Flik. This is a message film about standing up for freedom.

Monsters Inc. (2001) brings computer animation to a new level. The audi-

ence can even see the fur on the animals. The concept of the film is that the monsters, who live in a land behind closet doors, feed on the screams of children. However, they are very fastidious about keeping their world pristine, so when Boo (Mary Gibbs), a 3-year-old girl, wanders into Monstropolis, panic erupts. It's up to two monsters—the furry purple and blue Sully (John Goodman) and one-eyed Mike (Billy Crystal)—to get her home safely.

Finding Nemo (2003) is the wonderful story about fish, including Marlin (Albert Brooks), who must search the ocean to find his rebellious son, Nemo (Alexander Gould). Marlin's traveling companions are Dory (Ellen DeGeneres), a blue tang who suffers short-term memory loss, and Bruce (Barry Humphries), a scary great white shark who is in a 12-step program to help him control his voracious appetite for other fish. When Nemo winds up in a fish tank in a dentist's office, he meets Gill (Willem Defoe), with whom he hatches an escape plan.

The Incredibles (2004) is the hilarious story of a family of superheroes who are trying to fit into society by leading normal mundane lives. The father, Bob (Craig T. Nelson), works in an insurance company, but he hangs out with his pal Lucius, a.k.a. Frozone (Samuel L. Jackson), to do some clandestine hero work. Bob's wife, Helen (Holly Hunter), the former Elastagirl, now stays home to take care of their children: Violet (Sarah Vowell), who can become invisible and create impenetrable force fields, and Dash (Spencer Fox), whose superhuman gift is speed. The family's nemesis is Syndrome (Jason Lee), assisted by the slinky Mirage (Elizabeth Pena), and eventually all their superpowers are put into play for survival.

In theaters at the time of this writing is the outstanding **Ratatouille** (2007), which tells the story of a rat named Remy (Patton Oswalt) who lives to be a cook. Coming to Paris from the countryside, he strikes up a very unusual relationship with a low-level kitchen worker, Linguini (Lou Romano), in which Remy stays inside Linguini's chef's hat and tells him what to do. Soon Linguini becomes the talk of the town because of Remy's incredible cooking knowledge and skills. Of great help to Linguini—and a romantic interest as well—is Colette (Janeane Garafalo), a tough sous-chef. Linguini is constantly chided by chef Skinner (Ian Holm), a dishonest man who wants to use the restaurant's reputation to make money selling frozen food. They are all at the mercy of food critic Anton Ego (Peter O'Toole). This is a film about dedication to realizing one's dreams.

Enjoy these films together as a family. In fact, you don't even need a child to enjoy them. And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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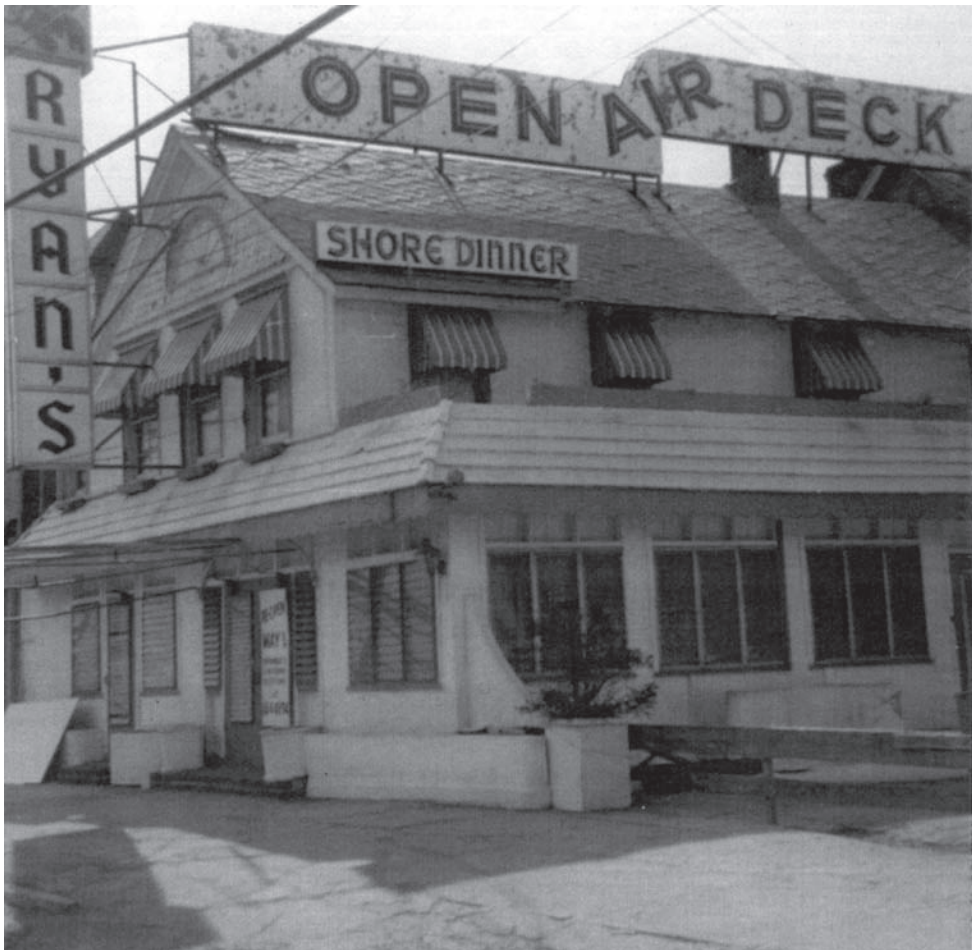


Photo by ALICE PAYNE

Ryan's Restaurant circa 1967, currently known as The Harbor Restaurant.

Legion News

Continued from page 11

The annual pumpkin sale will take place on Oct. 5, 6 and 7. Volunteers are welcome to assist in the selling of the gourds and mums.

Meetings for the month of September are: Executive Board, Monday, Sept. 10, and regular meeting, Monday Sept. 17. For October, regular meetings will be Monday, Oct. 1, and Monday, Oct. 15. An Executive Board meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 8.

And for you World War II buffs and vintage Islanders: Before entering the Army in WWII, William Holohan resided at 631 King Avenue. He attended and graduated from Manhattan College. He became a U.S. Army major and head of the Operation Chrysler mission in northern Italy. It was his job to get arms to partisans who were

fighting the Germans. He was assassinated by his underling, a Lt. Aldo Icardi, on Dec. 6, 1944. His body was dumped in a lake by Icardi and some partisans. If you knew of the major, please call me at 718-885-2087. It's a cold case.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK

Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving Time)

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0222	8.0	0841	-0.2	1443	8.6	2129	-0.3	Sat 01
02 Sun	0316	7.5	0931	0.2	1536	8.3	2237	0.2	Sun 02
03 Mon	0417	7.0	1029	0.7	1638	7.9			Mon 03
04 Tue	0001	0.5	0541	6.6	1152	1.2	1805	7.5	Tue 04
05 Wed	0120	0.7	0716	6.6	1331	1.3	1943	7.5	Wed 05
06 Thu	0229	0.6	0828	6.8	1444	1.2	2054	7.7	Thu 06
07 Fri	0330	0.4	0929	7.2	1546	0.9	2152	7.9	Fri 07
08 Sat	0423	0.2	1021	7.5	1640	0.5	2244	8.1	Sat 08
09 Sun	0512	0.1	1108	7.8	1728	0.2	2330	8.1	Sun 09
10 Mon	0555	0.1	1151	8.0	1812	0.1			Mon 10
11 Tue	0013	8.1	0634	0.1	1229	8.0	1852	0.1	Tue 11
12 Wed	0051	7.9	0709	0.3	1304	8.0	1927	0.2	Wed 12
13 Thu	0125	7.7	0736	0.5	1331	7.8	1956	0.4	Thu 13
14 Fri	0152	7.4	0746	0.8	1350	7.7	2014	0.6	Fri 14
15 Sat	0212	7.1	0801	0.9	1411	7.6	2033	0.8	Sat 15
16 Sun	0237	6.9	0831	1.1	1442	7.5	2106	1.0	Sun 16
17 Mon	0312	6.7	0910	1.3	1520	7.3	2147	1.3	Mon 17
18 Tue	0355	6.5	0955	1.6	1605	7.2	2237	1.5	Tue 18
19 Wed	0446	6.4	1047	1.9	1657	7.1	2335	1.7	Wed 19
20 Thu	0546	6.4	1146	2.0	1757	7.0			Thu 20
21 Fri	0044	1.7	0657	6.5	1253	1.9	1905	7.1	Fri 21
22 Sat	0205	1.5	0812	6.9	1408	1.6	2015	7.4	Sat 22
23 Sun	0308	1.0	0907	7.4	1519	1.0	2117	7.8	Sun 23
24 Mon	0358	0.5	0952	7.9	1616	0.4	2209	8.1	Mon 24
25 Tue	0442	0.0	1035	8.4	1706	-0.2	2257	8.3	Tue 25
26 Wed	0524	-0.4	1117	8.8	1754	-0.7	2343	8.4	Wed 26
27 Thu	0606	-0.6	1200	9.1	1842	-1.0			Thu 27
28 Fri	0029	8.4	0648	-0.6	1245	9.1	1931	-1.0	Fri 28
29 Sat	0117	8.2	0733	-0.5	1332	9.0	2023	-0.8	Sat 29
30 Sun	0208	7.8	0821	-0.1	1423	8.7	2123	-0.4	Sun 30

OCTOBER 2007

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0305	7.4	0916	0.4	1519	8.2	2234	0.1	Mon 01
02 Tue	0416	6.9	1027	1.0	1630	7.7	2352	0.5	Tue 02
03 Wed	0547	6.7	1203	1.3	1813	7.4			Wed 03
04 Thu	0104	0.7	0707	6.8	1324	1.3	1934	7.4	Thu 04
05 Fri	0209	0.7	0812	7.1	1431	1.1	2039	7.6	Fri 05
06 Sat	0307	0.6	0908	7.5	1529	0.7	2135	7.7	Sat 06



Photo by DOVELET SHASHOU

The Touring Kayak Club on Beach Street, which recently celebrated its 80th anniversary, held its annual Boot Hill Cup race, a four-mile course around Hart Island, on Aug. 4. Back row (l. to r.): Commodore Joe Mellusi; Ken Grillo, first place overall and first place men's doubles with Bill Gomes (not pictured); Jon Trambert, second place men's singles; Tim Lynch, first place mixed doubles and father-daughter divisions with daughter Lauren; and Henry Espinoza, first place men's singles and third place overall. Front row (l. to r.): Virginia Letourneau and Cinda Becker, first place, women's doubles and second place overall; Anita Sementilli, first place women's singles; Lauren Lynch, first place with Tim Lynch in father-daughter and mixed doubles divisions; Liz Jacobson, second place women's singles; and Jacqueline Guzda, who swept the canine division with Mookie (not pictured). Peeking out from the banner on the right is Heinz Laue; not peeking out from the banner on the left is Jimmy Booth.



And the Award Goes to...

The award for Sight of the Summer has to go to the deer that swam up onto the beach between Fordham and Hawkins Streets in the middle of a July afternoon. It jumped into the tall grass in somebody's yard there and then we don't know what it did. Hopefully, it made it back safely to Rodman's Neck, where it had come from. If you have a better sight than this one, we'd love to hear it. Send us an e-mail at jdsstrat@msn.com.

The Sound of the Summer probably belongs to the talking parrot on City Island Avenue. We understand that it has now taken to mimicking the squawking

of the wild monk parakeets that reside here. By the way, a new monk parakeet nest appears to be going up on the telephone lines out front of the Grace Church. What a resilient animal!

The bluefish are back. We tried our luck on the Island Current fishing boat one night and had a lot of fun but only two fish. Back at the dock, next to the bridge, seems to be where all the action is. Schools of bunker follow their plant food, which is drawn to the bridge by the currents there. The bluefish are drawn by the bunker; the fishing boats, by the blues. We counted 13 fishing boats around the bridge one morning.

Ken brought the new hot air balloon ride at Orchard Beach to our attention. Have you seen it? For a nominal fee, you get a 20-minute bird's eye view of City Island, Long Island Sound, Pelham Bay Park and beyond. Ken highly recommends it.

We highly recommend the colorful sunsets coming this fall. While you wait, look out for these colorful migratory birds in your backyard or your neighbor's: American goldfinches (the males are a striking yellow and black), northern cardinals (the redbirds), ruby-throated hummingbirds, and, for the first time that we can remember in our own backyard, Baltimore orioles. Male orioles are the easiest to identify because of their bright orange breasts.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Make Sure Your Records Match Ours

It is important to check your records regularly to make sure that the name and number on your Social Security card match up with the name and number you're using elsewhere. If you don't, it could cost you time, money and effort to resolve.

Your Social Security number and the name on your Social Security card are often used by companies and government agencies as a way to check your identity. If anything is amiss, you could have a problem. That's why you should regularly check to make sure your records match. This is especially true for people who have recently changed their names, such as new brides or adopted children.

Here are a few examples of situations where mismatches can cause trouble.

- **Timely tax refunds.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) checks your return against your Social Security records. If your name and number don't match up, it could mean a delay in your tax refund or trouble with the IRS.

- **Your vote counts.** But not if your voter registration records don't match up. Don't go to the polls only to discover that you don't have permission to vote because of a mismatch.

- **Leave the driving to us.** You'll have to if you can't renew your driver's license because of a name and Social Security number mismatch with your state's Department or Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

- **Payroll problems.** Make sure your employer and human resources department are using the correct name and Social Security number. Not only could it be a red flag to your employer when your identity doesn't match, but it could also affect your future Social Security benefits.

- **Credit where credit is due.** If your earnings are not reported to Social Security under your correct name and number, you may not get the earnings credits you're due—and that could translate to lower benefit payments in your future. Such earnings discrepancies can be corrected, but it can cause an inconvenient delay when you file for benefits.

There are many reasons why your identity records should match ours. So make sure that any time you deal with a company or government agency, they have your correct name and Social Security number as it appears on your Social Security card.

What an Accountant Might Not Tell You

There are some important things about Social Security that an accountant might not be telling you. And it's important to know them, because it could mean the difference between a quick, easy move into retirement and a more troublesome transition.

Here are some things you may not know.

- **Net, not gross.** For people who are self employed, we count your net income,

not your gross income, when figuring your credits of coverage and the amount of your future Social Security benefits. In 2007, you earn one credit for each \$1,000 of net income you earn, up to four annual credits. Net earnings for Social Security are your gross earnings from your trade or business, minus your allowable business deductions and depreciation. We also use your net income when figuring your benefit amount so a higher net income results in a higher benefit.

- **Credit where credit is due.** If you and your spouse own and operate a business together and expect to share in the profits and losses, you may both be entitled to receive Social Security credits, even if there is no formal partnership agreement. For each of you to receive credit for your share of the business income, you must file separate self-employment returns (Schedule SEs), even if you file a joint income tax return. If you don't file separate Schedule SEs, all the earnings from the business will be reported under only one person's Social Security number. In that case, only one of you will receive Social Security credits and the valuable protection they provide.

- **Household workers are covered.** If you are a household worker, your wages are covered under Social Security as long as you earn \$1,500 or more in a calendar year (including cash for transportation expenses) unless you were under age 18 during any part of the year and household work is not your main job. Household workers include babysitters, maids, cooks, laundry workers, butlers, gardeners, chauffeurs, people who do housecleaning or repair work or anyone employed in or around someone else's home.

- **Don't forget to report.** If you pay a household worker \$1,500 or more in cash wages during 2007, you need to deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes and report the wages once a year when you file your tax return. This includes reporting any cash you pay to cover the cost of the employee's transportation, meals or housing. If you do not report the wages on time, you may have to pay a penalty in addition to the overdue taxes.

Want to learn more? Just visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov to learn all about Social Security. For specific questions about taxes, visit the Internal Revenue Service at www.irs.gov. For specific information about self-employment and household workers go to our publications page at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs and look for the publications "If You Are Self-Employed and Household Workers." You can also call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request copies of these and other publications.

Social Security Answers Your Questions

Do you have a question or two about Social Security? Well, you're not alone. The good news is that we're here to answer your questions, and you don't have to call us on the phone for us to serve you. Just go to our Web site, www.socialsecurity.gov.

One of our most popular online services is our frequently asked questions section. There, we have listed hundreds of the most commonly asked questions

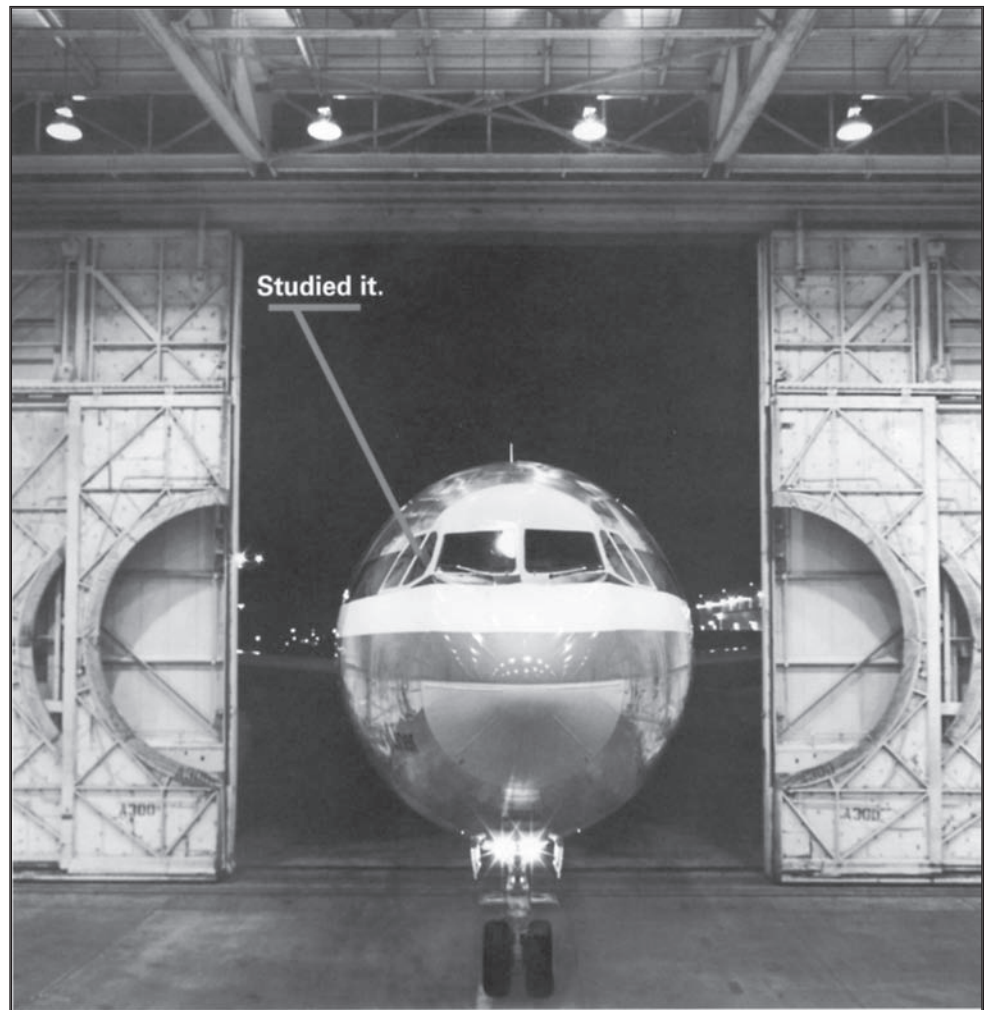
along with easy-to-understand answers in plain language.

How are my retirement benefits calculated? How do I replace a lost or stolen Social Security card? How do I apply for Medicare Extra Help? How can I get a replacement Medicare card? What are the most popular names given to babies? There are nearly 600 frequently asked questions like these and others on the

website right now.

But don't let the number of questions and answers overwhelm you. It's easy to find answers to your questions with our subject index and search features.

Of course if you don't have access to the Internet, you can still get your questions answered by calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

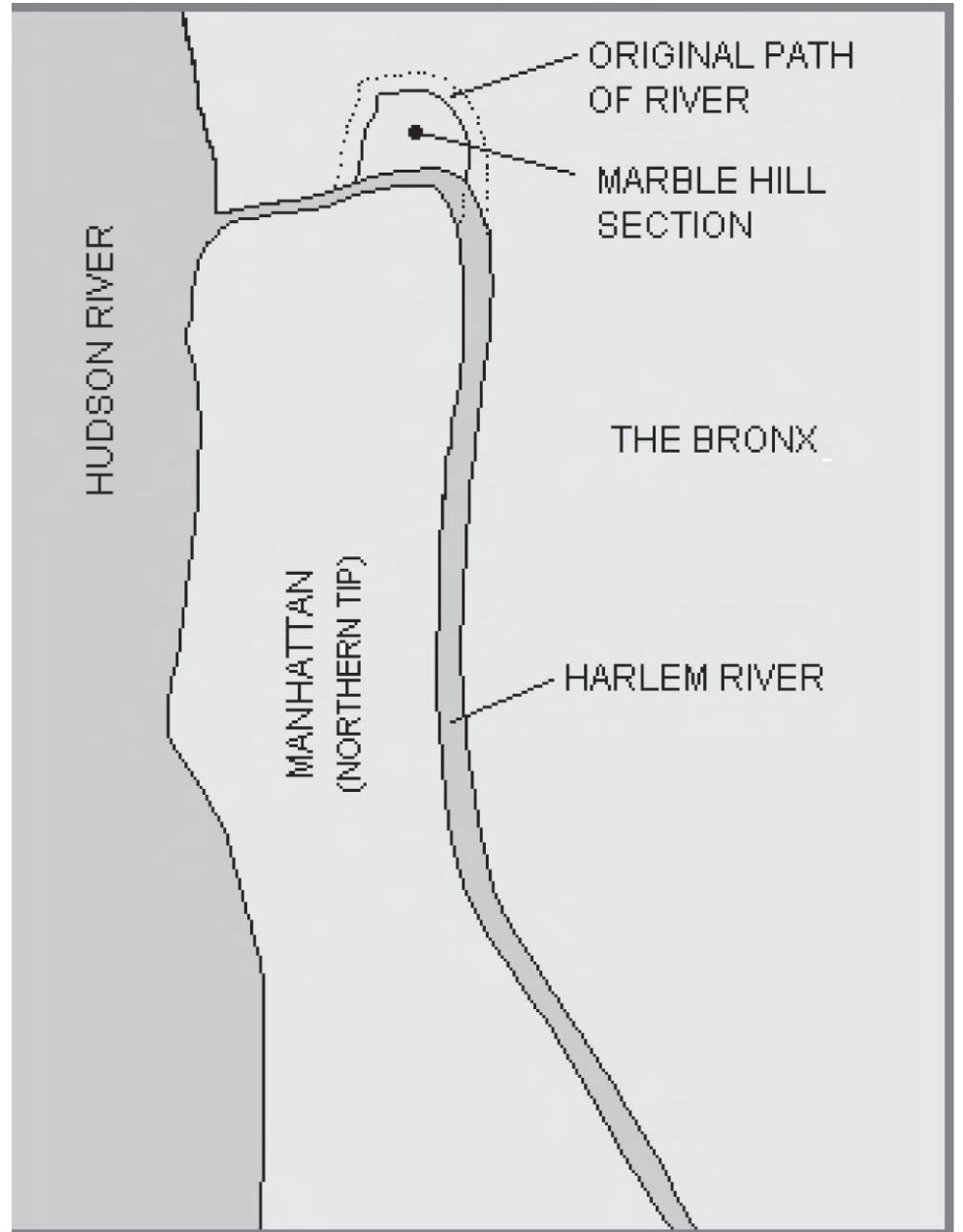
A Tale of Two Counties

I wish I had a nickel for every time I have heard someone profess: "The Bronx is the only part of New York City that is attached to the mainland United States." Unfortunately, this interesting "fact" is nothing of the kind, legally speaking, that is. A small portion of Manhattan is also attached to the North American mainland,

albeit artificially. It is the neighborhood of Marble Hill, a 52-acre piece of New York County surrounded on three sides by the Bronx and separated from the rest of the Manhattan island by the Harlem River.

It wasn't always this way. At one time Marble Hill was the northernmost part of Manhattan, separated from the mainland by Spuyten Duyvil Creek. In 1895 the construction of the Harlem River Ship Channel severed Marble Hill from Manhattan and rendered the area a small island, and it remained so for 22 years. In 1914, however, Spuyten Duyvil Creek was filled in, physically connecting Marble Hill to the borough of the Bronx and the rest of the continental United States.

In 1939 an attempt was made to legally change the "countyhood" of Marble Hill from New York County to Bronx County, but the presiding judge refused to allow it. So much for the old saying "possession is nine-tenths of the law."



is nine-tenths of the law." The Bronx Borough President at that time was James J. Lyons, and he declared the area "the Bronx Sudetenland," referring to Hitler's annexation of a region in Czechoslovakia a year earlier. On March 11, 1939, Borough President Lyons took advantage of the border wars that were raging between the two counties. As a publicity stunt he planted the Bronx County flag on the rocky promontory at 225th Street and Jacobus Place and proclaimed Marble Hill a part of the Bronx and demanded the subservience of its residents to the government of the Bronx.

But the judge's ruling held, and Marble Hill remains technically part of New York County. In spite of the legal ruling, however, the United States Postal Service considers Marble Hill a part of the Bronx. The official address of the area is Bronx, NY, and the zip code has a "104" prefix, indicating Bronx County instead of the "100" or "101" reserved for New York County. The telephone company also gives ownership to the Bronx, and the area code for Marble Hill was changed to 718 along with the rest of the Bronx, while Manhattan residents retained the 212 exchange. All municipal services for the area are from Bronx agencies, including the school board (10), community board (8), fire and police departments and the EMS service.

The issue of county designation gets confusing when it comes to local elections. Marble Hill voters cast ballots for their Manhattan Assemblyman, Manhattan City Councilman, Manhattan Borough President, and State Senator from the 72nd District in Manhattan. When serving on jury duty, they are required to go to the courthouses on Center Street in lower Manhattan.

The area gets its name for the large deposits of marble that lie beneath it. The formation, known as Inwood marble, was quarried for many buildings around New York City and was used for constructing the Federal buildings in lower Manhattan when New York was the capital of the United States in the 1780s. When Italian marble became more accessible, Inwood marble was abandoned because it was con-

sidered too soft.

At one time Marble Hill was home to predominantly Irish and Jewish residents, but today it is typically New York in its diversity. The residential area is split between the "hill," where most of the private homes are located, and the lower flatlands to the east of Broadway, site of the 1,700-unit city-run Marble Hill Houses. The "hill" shares its character with the surrounding Bronx neighborhoods of Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge Heights to the north and east and southern Riverdale, with its quaint and charming winding streets, to the west. Many houses are festooned with cupolas and have well-maintained front gardens. Of the 138 small frame houses in Marble Hill, many were built before World War I in typical Victorian and Queen Anne styles, and they have remained largely intact, except for additions and alterations.

Most of the commercial activity in Marble Hill is on Broadway, under the El (elevated line) for the IRT #1 train, from 225th to 230th Street and continuing north into Kingsbridge. In 2004 River Plaza Shopping Center opened on 225th Street between Broadway and Exterior Street overlooking the Harlem River. This retail complex has many national retail stores, including Target, Marshall's, and Starbucks, and it straddles the two county lines.

Despite the legal ruling of 1939, most residents of Marble Hill consider themselves Bronxites. The area is not only physically connected to the Bronx, but it also shares the character and rhythm of the Bronx. In many ways, it epitomizes the Bronx experience. So many residents of the Bronx originally came from somewhere else but put down roots here. My parents, for instance, were both born and raised in Manhattan and later moved to the Bronx. They fit right in and eventually came to love their new borough and proudly called it home.

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

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Obituaries

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John Patrick Bunyan

John Patrick Bunyan

John Patrick Bunyan passed away peacefully on July 18, 2007, at his home in Whiting, N.J. The former City Islander was 76.

He was born on Nov. 25, 1930, in Manhattan and grew up in the Bronx. He enlisted in the Air Force, served during the Korean conflict and was assigned to the Adak Air Force Base in the Aleutian Islands. During his years in the service, he played basketball and golf for the Craig Field Air Force Base. He met his best friend, Ross Burgess, in the Air Force, and they remained lifelong buddies.

Shortly after his discharge in 1952, John married the love of his life, Dorothy Anne Buhl, and together they raised four children on City Island. He worked for Gristede Brothers in the Bronx for 36 years with his father-in-law, Charles Buhl, and his brother-in-law Bill Wright. He then worked for eight years for the U.S. Postal Service in Mount Vernon, N.Y. After he retired, the Bunyans spent winters in Nalcrest, Fla., and then moved to Whiting in 1999.

John loved sports and continued to play softball and golf throughout his retirement. He was also an avid walker, and he enjoyed virtually all competitive activities, especially card games, checkers and anything that involved thinking and socializing with family and friends. He had a remarkable way with children and coached many of his children's sports teams. He was a parishioner at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on City Island and a member of the Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post 156.

John is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 55 years; their four children, Michael, Jack, Dorothy and Richard; his brother, Chuck; his daughters-in-law, 11 grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was a friend to all, beloved by many, and a hero to his family.

Donations in his name may be made to the Van Dyke Hospice/ Community Medical Center, 99 Route 37W, Toms River, N.J. 08755.

Charles Cheney Dennis

Charles Dennis, a longtime resident of City Island, died on May 22, 2007, at the age of 84, after a short illness.

Charlie, as he was known to most City Island "salty types," was born and raised in Manhattan, where he attended Allen Stevenson School; he then graduated from Kent School and Yale University. He enlisted in the Army and served in World War II as a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps, commanding LSTs. He retired from a long career with Condé Nast Publications to embark on a transatlantic passage on his "far-ranging American yacht" *Snow Goose*.

Charlie started sailing as a young boy under the tutelage of first his father and then his mentor, Seward DeHart. Charlie started coming to City Island in his teens to

sail with Seward and he eventually became a distinguished yachtsman himself. He enjoyed contributing to the sport by sharing his knowledge and expertise with friends and shipmates over the years.

He was a member of the New York Yacht Club, the City Island Yacht Club, the Norwalk Yacht Club the Ocean Cruising Club, Storm Trysail Club and Cruising Club of America. He was a lifetime Governor of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, and he served as Master for the Corinthians and as Commodore of the Storm Trysail Club.

Charlie returned from the United Kingdom after his transatlantic voyage to reside permanently on City Island, where he lived for the past 20 years, renewing and maintaining many longstanding relationships with friends in the sailing community.

He is survived by his wife Barbara; his son, Charles Jr., and his daughters, Meg and Faith.

An ardent sailor, Charlie Dennis welcomed any challenge, but he was most earnest with the old yachtsman's adage: "Gentlemen don't go to weather!"



George Kenneth Chadwick

George Kenneth Chadwick

George Kenneth Chadwick passed away at the age of 84 on Aug. 8, 2007, at his home on City Island, New York.

He was born in the Bronx and moved to City Island with his parents and sister when he was a pre-teen. His father and grandfather were avid sailors, and he grew up with a love for and appreciation of the water and of both cruising and racing sailboats.

He went into the Army during World War II and was stationed in Louisiana. Following his discharge, he earned his bachelor's degree in science from Carnegie Mellon University. After college he went into the family printing business, Stampograph Inc., which was located on Alexander Avenue in the Bronx. The business, which employed several City Islanders, produced heat-transfer designs and cosmetic labels.

George married June Fenton of City Island on Oct. 24, 1948. Although raised as an Episcopalian, he became an active member of June's Trinity United Methodist Church. They both loved the water and swam every day when weather permitted and enjoyed sailing a Hobie 16 together.

Shortly before June's death from breast cancer in 1979, George closed Stampograph and partnered with three others in a new printing firm in Farmingdale, Long Island, called Renown Tag & Label. He retired in 1988 and enjoyed a life of travel and participation in AARP events with his Island friends.

Even Islanders who didn't know George personally knew him as the man who was always plodding happily along on his bicycle up and down the avenue, usually to the Diner or to visit one of his children. On Sundays you could count on seeing his beloved bike leaning against the fence outside the Methodist Church. He loved the motto "Don't worry, be happy," and that is how he lived his life.

George is survived by his daughters, Rev. Susan Chadwick and Marguerite Chadwick-

Juner; by his son-in-law, Peter Juner; and his sons, Robert, Peter and George Chadwick, and his daughters-in-law Carla, Debra and Beverly, as well as his grandchildren, Benjamin and Olivia Chadwick of City Island and Sarah Chadwick of Watkinsville, Georgia.

Charles Lacina

Longtime Islander Charles (Charlie) Lacina passed away on June 21, 2007. He was 85 years old.

Charlie was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, but his family moved to the Locust Point section of the Bronx when he was very young.

Charlie became an All-City basketball player at James Monroe High School. Recruited by many colleges, he accepted a basketball scholarship from St. John's University. He always said that once he met St. John's legendary coach Joe Lapchick, he knew he had to play for St. John's. Coach Lapchick took Charlie under his wing, regularly driving his young star home after practice. During his freshman year in 1941, Charlie was the second leading scorer on his team. The following two seasons would see St. John's win consecutive National Invitation Tournaments (NIT).

Charlie, however, was not destined to be part of those squads. At the conclusion of the school year, he left college to enlist in the United States Army. Following basic training, Charlie was accepted into Officer's Candidate School. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1943.

Charlie served his nation on many islands throughout the Pacific Theater during WWII. He initially was assigned to the Corps of Engineers, and later became a supply officer. While on leave in November of 1944, he married his sweetheart, Elizabeth (Bette) Clavin. Bette also served her country during the war as a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps.

After the war, Coach Lapchick encouraged Charlie to return to St. John's. Charlie, however, made the decision not to return to

college and he began a career as a professional basketball player. He played for both the Troy Celtics and the Scranton Miners in the American Basketball League.

Charlie retired from professional basketball to join the New York City Police Department. Within a few years, Charlie's work was recognized and he was elevated to the detective bureau. Over the years, he served as one of New York's finest at several precincts, including the 41st precinct in the Bronx. Charlie worked on many important investigations during his career, including several involving organized crime syndicates. He was promoted to Detective First Grade and in the 1960s he headed up the city's security detail for Senator Robert Kennedy.

He retired from the police department to accept a position as a security officer for the U.S. Department of Defense where he monitored security at several national defense facilities. He later moved to the Federal Aviation Administration, where he spent the remainder of his career. He retired in 1986.

Charlie moved to Buckley Street in 1961. With his wife, he raised his two sons on City Island. A devoted husband and father, he also found time to teach basketball to many boys, and coached several teams at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Charlie loved swimming, boating and fishing. He was a founding and lifetime member of the Locust Point Yacht Club, where he frequently could be found working on one of the boats he owned over the years - all of which were named after his wife Bette.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 63 years; his sons and their spouses, Charles and Natalie of Hawkins Street, and Jim and Diane of Bushkill, Pennsylvania; and by five grandchildren, Anastasia, Jennifer, Linda, Kevin and Jason. Charlie was interred in Gates of Heaven Cemetery following a funeral mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on June 25, 2007.



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Photo by ROSE KOLB

City Island Little League Juniors on Trophy Day 2007: (l. to r.): Ryan Clarke, Bill Esola, Ryan Pena, George Spencer, Brandon Esola, Sal Kulka, Kieran Spencer, Dan Master-son and Tom Masterson; not pictured: Mark Lashinsky, Alex Hackman, Vin Miria, Kyle Williams, Jack McCabe, Jonathan Marrero, Hart Deese and Kevin Whelan.



As school is just around the corner, the Little League summer season is winding up. The City Island Sharks, coached by Kenny Clancy, finished their season at the end of July and were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs. The City Island Summer League team, managed by John Valenti, finished their regular games and (as of this writing) will start the playoffs on Aug. 21. The team played in the Astor Invitational Tournament (formerly the Bronx Invitational Tournament). This is a free league open to 9- to 11-year-olds. A special thanks to the Sea Shore Restaurant for donating the funds to pay for the umpire fees. The Bronx Sharks, which played in the Hutch River Bronx Baseball League, has also finished up a successful summer season. This team (ages 18 and under) was coached by Irwin Weinfeld and Tommy Vivolo.

Once again, the City Island Juniors were on the winning side of an All-Star game. This time it was the Astor Invitational Tournament. George Spencer was again on the coaching staff along with the following players: Ryan Clarke, Sal Kulka, Jonathan Marrero, Kieran Spencer and Kevin Whelan. Sal and Ryan each pitched a scoreless inning with Ryan picking up the win in relief. Sal, Kevin and Kieran all reached base via a hit or walk and Kieran provided excellence defense behind the plate.

City Island Little League is losing one of its most dedicated coaches. Kenny Clancy and his family have moved to Connecticut, and he has already begun coaching a fall season team there. The league wishes him and his family the best. We will miss you, Kenny!

As we close our season, we would like to thank our team sponsors, New Yorker Contractors, Ruggiero's Funeral Home, American Legion, Sammy's Fish Box, Jack's Bait & Tackle, JP's Restaurant and AER Realty, as well as our T-Ball sponsors too numerous to mention. We appreciate their involvement in our program and welcome any business or individual wishing to donate to the league or sponsor a team.

Ambrosini Field will not be ready for a fall dedication as expected, but it should be ready for opening day in Spring 2008. The work that has been completed hints at a really beautiful park. This column will give way to basketball news in the coming months, but watch for news of early registration for Spring 2008 in beginning in October and winter practices, which will start in February.

Elizabeth Lyons

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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 milestone birthday to Mike Rauh, who is training for his 30th New York City Marathon. Way to go, Mike!

Happy Sept. 12 birthday greetings to Bay Street's Jean Anderson, Ben DiGregorio and Bob Swieciki.

Happy 24th anniversary on Sept. 11 to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth with love from Matthew, Chris and David.

Birthday greetings on Sept. 2 across the miles to Stephen Swieciki, who is starting his senior year at St. Bonaventure University.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate their anniversary on Sept. 5.

Birthday greetings to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire, who will celebrate her big day on Sept. 5.

Til lykke med fodselsdagen (that's Happy Birthday in Danish) to Pilot Cove's Ulla Brennen on Sept. 14, with best wishes from your family and friends.

Happy Sept. 28 birthday to Minneford Avenue's Tina Ruggiero, with love from your family.

Belated happy birthday on July 18 to Minneford Avenue's Carmelia Ramftl, with love from your family and many friends on City Island.

Belated congratulations to Kristina Ciuti, who costarred in her off-Broadway debut in "Cannoli Happen in New York." I am so proud of you and look forward to your continued success. Love, Lauren

Happy first birthday to Suki Phyllis on Aug. 31. Love, Mommy!

Happy and health birthday wishes go out to Dolly Conte on Aug. 25; Grandma, you are my guiding light and I love you with all my heart. Love always, Lauren and Suki.

Wedding congratulations to Greg and Trish Penny, who tied the knot on June 15, 2007, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The day was "picture-perfect" and the reception at the Marina del Rey was fantastic! We wish you both the best as you start your life together. Love, Mom and Dad.

It's a girl for Kim and John Fusco of Marine Street! Little Alyssa Ann arrived on July 23, 2007, and was welcomed by her big sister, Kayla, who just turned three on July 4. Lots of hugs and kisses for our adorable granddaughters. XOXOXO

Belated happy Aug. 9 birthday greetings to Jack Doyle with love from your family.

Happy Sept. 24 birthdays and anniversary greetings to Kim and Willie Strnad, with love from your family.

Happy anniversary to Cathie and Jack Doyle on Sept. 17, with love from your family.

Baptism joy across the Atlantic! Carl Atle Lango, born on Feb. 23, 2007, was christened on Saturday, Aug. 18, in Uppsala, Sweden. Proud godparents are Paul and Karen Nani of King Avenue and the proud parents are Per and Veronica Lango of Uppsala. Congratulations to all!

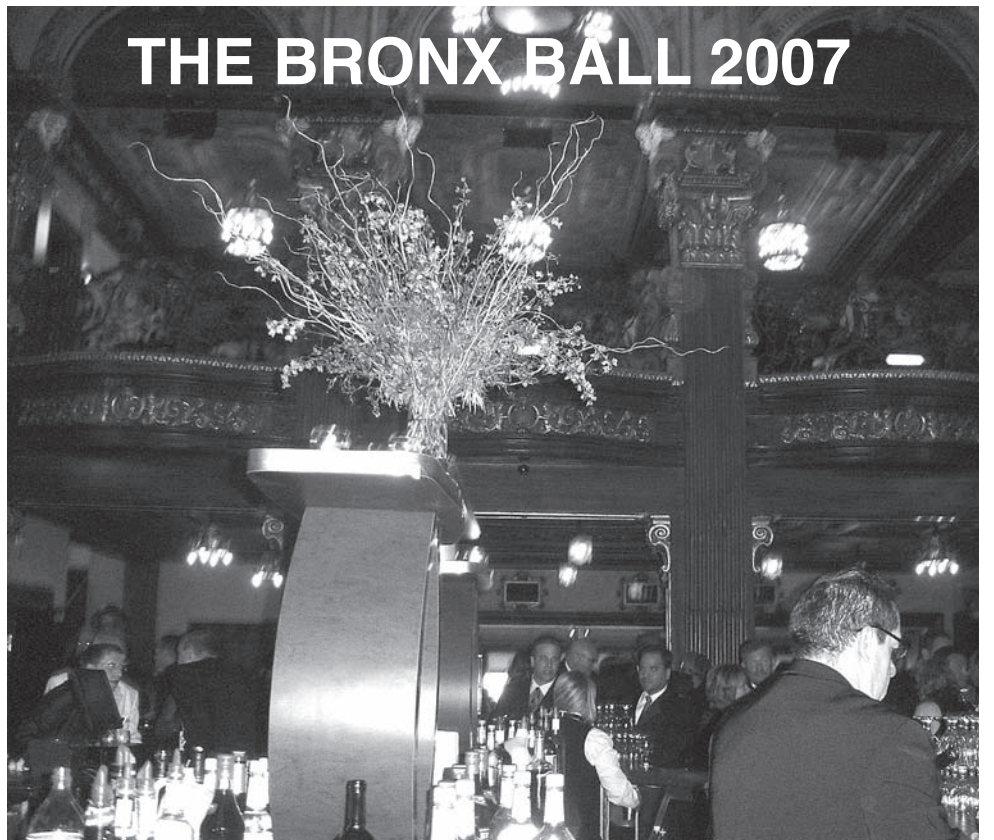
Congratulations to Erich Fiederlein on obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology. He will continue for one more year at RIT to obtain his Master's degree. Love, Mom, Dad and Heidi.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by ROSE KOLB

On June 10, 2007, Nobuo Kitagawa and his students delighted family and friends with a beautiful piano recital featuring performances of classical works of music written by James Bastien, Elissa Oppenheim Schreiner, Claude Debussy, Frederic Chopin, Scott Joplin and Johann Sebastian Bach. Pictured from left to right are the piano teacher Nobuo Kitagawa and son Eric, Lily Kolb, Alex Giaccon, Deirdre Spencer, Juliana Gonzalez, Gwynellen Hopkins, Joseph DeWitt, Anastasia Lacina and Marie Caesar.



Photos by MARY COLBY

The Bronx Ball celebrated its 10th anniversary this year on June 23 with a change of venue to the newly renovated Utopia Paradise Theatre (formerly Loew's Paradise Theatre) on the Grand Concourse. The Ball concludes the Bronx Week celebrations and honors inductees to the Bronx Walk of Fame along the Concourse. This year's inductees were Aventura, Dion DiMucci, Bud Friedman, Doris Roberts and Luther Vandross (posthumously). The special nature of the 10th year celebration attracted many of the former inductees back to the event. The opulent lobby is pictured above. Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner is pictured top left with 2002 inductee Cathy Moriarty-Gentile (owner of the Utopia Paradise) and bottom left with 1999 inductee Joe Franklin. Other celebs present included Robert Klein, Rita Moreno, Marvin Scott, Burt Young, Danny Aiello, Sonia Manzano, Dominic Chianese and Ed Pinckney.

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