

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Happy Holidays to All From the Island Current Staff



BRIEFLY...

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: HOLIDAY SHOW 2007 Come see the 24th City Island Art Exhibition at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. The show runs from Dec. 7 to 30, with an opening reception for the artists on Friday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Call 718-885-1403 or stop by the gallery for further information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY at the Post 156 of the American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue, will be on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 718-885-0639 for details.

ANNUAL MENORAH LIGHTING & TROLLEY: The annual Menorah lighting in Hawkins Park will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., followed by singing of traditional Hanukkah songs. All are welcome. On Dec. 7 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., the first Friday's Bronx Seaside Trolley will run from Pelham Bay Station to City Island for an evening of dining and events. The Bartow Pell Mansion will not be open to the public that evening because of a private event.

BRONX COUNCIL ON THE ARTS BRIO GRANTS: The 2008 BRIO application and guidelines are now available online on the Bronx Council's Web site: www.bronxarts.org. (They will not be mailed this year.) In its 19th year, BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) continues to provide support for artistic development of individuals creating works of literary, media, performing and visual arts in the Bronx. This year marks an increase in the awards program, which will provide a minimum of 25 BRIO grants of \$3,000 each to individual artists residing in the Bronx. The BRIO Awards ceremony will be held in June 2008. BCA is also offering a free, two-part intellectual property workshop for artists, arts organizations and small businesses. It will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov 27 and Dec 12. The workshop is presented by BCA's Artist Ventures program.

CHRISTMAS FAIRS: Get your holiday shopping done early! Trinity Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Friday, Nov. 30, from 2 to 8 p.m. (dinner will be served from 6 to 8), and on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (lunch will be served from 12 to 2). There will be raffles, home-made cookies and cakes, and plenty of great gifts. Grace Episcopal Church will hold its Christmas Crafts Festival on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JOIN THE BARTOW-PELL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION during the weekend of Dec. 7 to 9 at 895 Shore Road. On Friday, there will be a wreath-making demonstration at 12 noon and an all-day boutique and bake sale. A puppet show starts the day on Saturday at 11 a.m. followed by children's holiday crafts, pictures with Santa and hayrides until 2:30 p.m. On Sunday, family portraits can be taken at the mansion starting at 11 a.m. Call 718-885-1461 for puppet show and portrait reservations, information and directions.

Klein Releases Report On Fake ID's and Underage Drinking

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

State Senator Jeff Klein, together with the New York City Council and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recently released a report detailing the ease with which minors in New York City can purchase alcohol.

"Nearly forty-four percent of high school students are drinking alcohol," Senator Klein said at a press conference on Oct. 14, 2007, "and fake IDs are helping them do it."

Council Speaker Christine Quinn said: "New York City has the most exciting nightlife in the world, but it's not for children. Too many of our city's kids are using fake ID's to get into bars, putting themselves and others in danger. As it stands now, state law holds adults and establishments accountable when someone is hurt drinking on their property, but businesses that sell fake ID's get off scot-free."

"I will soon be introducing legislation to extend liability to include those who sell fake ID's to minors," Senator Klein announced.

Over the course of this summer, Senator Klein sent a team of interns under adult supervision to a series of locations across the city. These interns were able to find suppliers of fake ID's simply by looking in the telephone book. When they entered establishments that produce the fake ID's, the interns were simply asked to fill out a form and choose a style of identification. No proof of identification was necessary to acquire the ID's, which sold for as little as \$20. (All ID's were paid for and kept by the senator's office.)

The 37-page report entitled "Underage & At-Risk: Fake IDs & Underage Drinking in New York State" details national and statewide underage drinking statistics. It also lays out DWI (Driving While Intoxicat-

ed) statistics across New York State, showing significant underage DWI problems and highlighting an appalling lack of enforcement on sales to minors in the New York City area.

Additionally, the report provides a list of the establishments that have been cited the most times by the New York State Liquor Authority/Division of Alcohol Beverage Control for selling alcohol to minors in Bronx, Nassau, New York and Westchester Counties. Another key recommendation of the report is the mandatory revocation of liquor and lottery licenses for businesses that repeatedly sell alcohol to minors.

According to a representative of MADD, "Current studies indicate that over 16 percent of the total alcohol consumed in the United States is being consumed by underage drinkers. Curtailing the easy access to alcohol that currently exists through the rampant existence of fake ID's will make it significantly harder for youths to purchase and consume alcohol."



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Our hearts, our minds and
Our doors are always open.

The People of Trinity United Methodist Church

December 2nd
1st Sunday in Advent – Worship 10:00a.m.

December 9th
2nd Sunday in Advent – Worship 10:00a.m.
Pastor Sue's Open House – 2:00-5:00p.m.

December 16th
3rd Sunday in Advent – Children's Pageant 10:00a.m.
Children's Christmas Party following the service

December 23rd
4th Sunday in Advent – Worship at 10:00a.m.

December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00p.m.

Peace on Earth

EXTREME MAKEOVER: "AMAZING GRACE" RECTORY

By KAREN NANI



The blessing of the newly renovated rectory at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue and Pilot Street took place on Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, to the joy of the many parishioners, Islanders, clergy and benefactors in attendance.

Mother Patricia Alexander, the Vicar of Grace Church, welcomed more than 100 guests to the blessing and rededication, which started in the rectory and then moved to the parish hall for dinner. The two-story, four-bedroom Italianate house, which was

built by the Horton family in the 1860s, is one of the three structures that make up Grace (the church built by ships carpenters beginning in 1862 and the parish hall constructed in 1923 are the other two). However, the rectory had fallen into severe disrepair and was unoccupied, since Mother Patty resides in Pelham with her husband, the rector of Christ Church.

"Let me tell you a love story," she began the rededication. "It's the story of the love of God—the surprising, overwhelming, never-



Photos by RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

The newly renovated rectory (photos left) at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue and Pilot Street was blessed and rededicated on Friday, Nov. 16, 2007. The ceremony was led by Mother Patricia Alexander, Vicar at Grace, and Bishop Catherine Roskam, who were joined by the Grace Church choir (photos above) and many guests. Also on hand were benefactors who contributed to the rectory fund, including members of the Bedell committee from St. Matthew's church in Bedford (photo below).



failing, abundant love of the Creator for His creation, of the master artist for His masterpiece. Specifically, it is the story of the love of God for a little church on City Island. It is the story of Grace."

The enormous task of renovating the rectory began in the winter of 2005, when the Buildings and Grounds Committee submitted a grant application to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bedford. Through a generous bequest from a longtime parishioner, St. Matthew's established the Bedell Fund in the 1990s specifically to help other parishes within the Diocese of New York fund one-time capital projects.

"Believing that we would be good candidates for such a grant, our B & G Committee got to work. Barbara Burn Dolensek and Karen Rauhauser Nani led the charge, and thanks to their tireless efforts, we were awarded an astonishing \$75,000 grant from the Bedell committee. What an amazing gift," Mother Patty told the assemblage, including outgoing chair Camillo Santomero and several other members of the Bedell committee.

The Bedell grant came with a proviso, however: that Grace would need to raise any other necessary funds from the parish and the wider City Island community. Follow-

Continued on page 19



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Looking for Family

To the Editor:

I am researching my family history and looking for anyone who may have known my father's cousin, Ms. Jeannette Roberts, who resided at 174 Carroll Street, or for anyone who may know any of her relatives, who lived in New Rochelle. My father was Edwin James Lewis of Jersey City.

Frederick E. Lewis
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Thanks for the Vote!

To the Editor:

Even though it was not a major election year, we want to thank all those Islanders who voted on Election Day on Nov. 6 and stopped by the P.T.A. sale at P.S. 175. We appreciate everyone who took a raffle, bought some baked goods or had some lunch with us.

It was another successful Election Day sale, thanks to all the businesses that donated prizes and the parents who volunteered to work the sale.

See you next year for the presidential election!

Candy Mancuso

Bank Parking Problems

To the Editor:

I am a 100% permanently disabled service-connected Vietnam veteran. I possess a state handicapped permit (blue tag), as well as a New York City handicapped permit.

I conduct my banking at the Chase Manhattan Bank on City Island. This bank has only 10 parking spots and one handicapped spot. Quite often when I drive to the bank to conduct business, I cannot find a spot in the bank parking lot. There are two signs posted near the bank parking lot that read "Parking for bank employees and customers conducting bank business only."

When there are no available spots in the bank parking lot, more often than not there is no one conducting business in the bank. I have brought this fact to the attention of the bank manager on numerous occasions.

Also, quite often a vehicle is parked in the handicapped spot without authorization. In addition, some residents store their vehicles in the handicapped spot using a New York State permit.

I brought these conditions to the attention of the principal of P.S. 175 several months ago, and she assured me that she would address this issue with the parents of the students who attend the school. This has not been done.

I hope that this letter will alert residents

to this situation.

Tom McShane

Apologies for Offense

To the Editor:

To all those who have stopped me in the street and in places of business to voice their opinions (negative and positive) regarding my letter "Respect One Another" in the October issue of *The Current*, your comments were welcomed. Racism is a taboo subject that everyone wants to either deny or look the other way.

If I offended anyone in City Island, then I truly apologize, for that was not my intent. What I was trying to do was bring awareness to a problem that unfortunately is alive and well on this beautiful island. I will continue to defend my position that there are some on this island who are raising hatred for other races. I have seen it and heard it and I am appalled by it.

To reiterate, we should respect and embrace one another's differences. We are Americans first and foremost. God bless us all.

Annette Cornier-Lopez

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City Island's Marathon Team

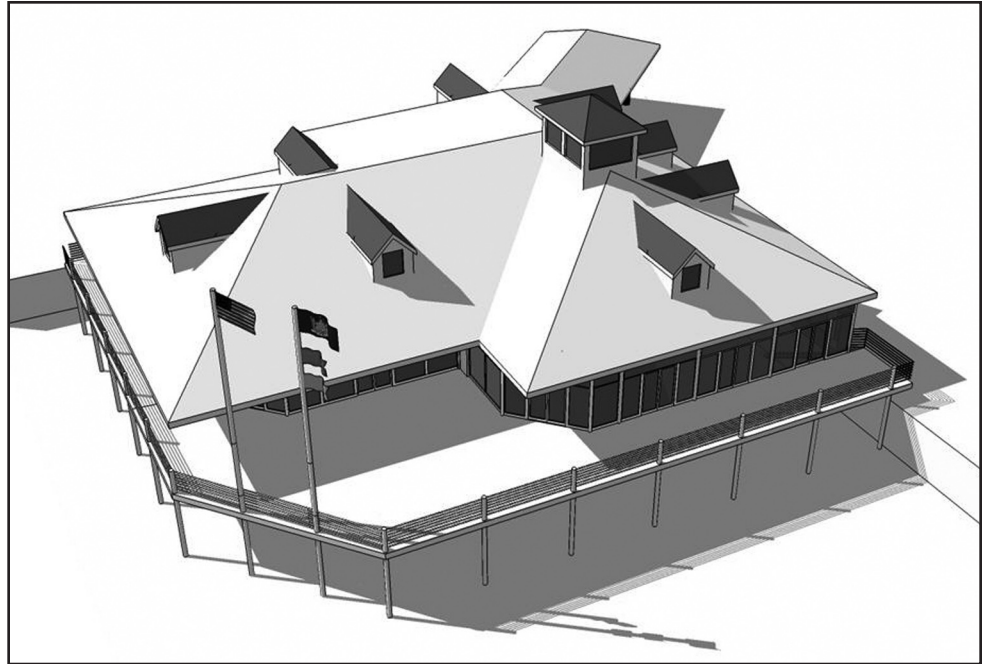


Photo by JUDY RAUH

The 2007 ING New York City Marathon drew a record field of more than 36,000 runners for the annual five-borough race on Nov. 4, 2007. Martin Lel of Kenya completed the 26.2 miles with a time of 2 hours 9 minutes 4 seconds. Paula Radcliffe of Great Britain won the women's race in 2:23:39. Pictured above are the City Island marathon runners (top): Mike Rauh, left, and Dave Kos, right; (bottom): John Sheridan, left, and Marje Kos, right. The coffee mugs are from Mike's collection of marathon mugs. Mike completed his 30th consecutive New York City Marathon in 4:47:35. He was thrilled to see his sister Linda and her husband, John Wright, cheering him at 23 miles. They had come from Arizona as a surprise. John Sheridan finished his first marathon in 5:11:38. John is a staff developer with the New York City Department of Education. Marje and Dave once again volunteered at the New York City race, using their ham radio skills at the 25-mile mark. Marje competed in the Hartford Marathon on Columbus Day weekend. She finished in 4:33, placing second in her age group. Not pictured is Charlie Morales, who finished his 10th New York City Marathon in 4:19:25.

Morris Yacht Club Alive and Well

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



A preliminary plan for the new clubhouse at the Morris Yacht Club.



The Morris Yacht and Beach Club celebrated the opening of its new boat hauling and launching pier on Sunday, Nov. 11, when Commodore Diane Jecker did the honors by cutting the ribbon.



Photo by RICHIE DELUCE

Some Islanders returning from Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 22 were surprised by the sight of a buck like this one on the road near Orchard Beach. No wild turkeys were seen.

Those who mourned the destruction of the beautiful Victorian building that housed the Morris Yacht and Beach Club until March 2006, when it was destroyed by fire, will be heartened by the fact that the club members have not let the loss of their clubhouse deter their plans.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, the club held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new boat hauling and launching pier. This project had been in the works for years, long before the fire, and was finally completed just in time to bring boats in for the winter.

This new structure is a very important step for the club, according to Commodore Diane Jecker, who notes that "it modernizes the boat hauling and launching capabilities from the old method of using a railway system to a newer method of using a travel lift-type boat hoist. The new system will allow the club to store boats for the winter for members and non-members alike."

Ms. Jecker also told *The Current* that the club is moving ahead with the rebuilding of a clubhouse, for which preliminary plans have been drawn. A good deal of time was spent

analyzing the needs of the club members in order to arrive at the most appropriate, useful, efficient and beautiful structure possible. The new facility, which is still in a preliminary planning stage, will provide a panoramic view of Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound and will accommodate the boat-storage needs of the club.

According to Ms. Jecker, winter storage is still available for this season. Those who are interested should call 718-885-1596 for more information.

The club is running a Jumbo 50/50 Jackpot Raffle with the proceeds going toward the building fund. Tickets are \$100 each; call 718-885-9814 for more information. The deadline is Dec. 28. The drawing will be held on Dec. 31 and the grand prize will be \$5,000. Similar fund-raising efforts will be held throughout 2008.

The Morris club members are very grateful to the local community and yacht clubs for support and assistance in their time of need over the past year, and they intend to continue providing a high-quality facility on City Island for both yachting and fellowship.

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City Island should be proud of its latest entry in the Zagat restaurant guide: **Artie's of City Island**, 394 City Island Avenue, a longtime favorite with residents. Spiro Chagares, the owner of Artie's, is very pleased and proud that his efforts to provide high-quality cuisine and daily specials, along with his regular menu, were recognized by such an influential guide. Also listed in Zagat's are Le Refuge Inn, the Lobster Box and Portofino's.

Jacqueline Kyle Kall, of **Port of Kall Realty**, 626 City Island Avenue, is interested in exploring the possibilities of turning empty store fronts into small (one or two bedroom) apartments. Anyone interested in such a conversion should call Jackie for more information at 718-885-1166.

For the holidays and beyond, the **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) delivers with an abundance of music and art gifts. December begins with a "Saturday Night Blues Party" featuring Bennett Harris on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. That Sunday, Dec. 2, the City Island Jazz Quartet featuring Islander Roger Scala and

the legendary Lou Volpe performs, starting at 4:30 p.m. On Friday, Dec. 7, singer-songwriter Paul Sachs debuts at 8 p.m. That Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. it's the Gilmartin Potter Band, and on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. City Island's Dr. Chris Wertenbaker plays with Eve Moon as Port O' Monkeys duet. On Friday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. it's another debut, Pleasant Bud. Saturday, Dec. 15, welcomes songwriter Christine Dominguez, at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. is the Starving Artist Holiday Party, featuring Theresa Sareo. On Friday, Dec. 21, inspirational singer Laura Berman performs at 8 p.m. and celebrates the release of her latest CD. On Saturday, Dec. 22, it's "Young Musicians Night" at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m., Peter C. North brings us a "Great American Songbook Holiday Afternoon." Then on Friday, Dec. 28, after Christmas, starting at 8 p.m., it's our regular end-of-month "take the stage" open mike night for poets, songwriters and comics. Saturday, Dec. 29, at 8 p.m. brings Freddie "Flip" Lando back to our stage for a "Get Ready for New Year's" bash. That can only be topped by the "jazz man" Lou Volpe helping us to welcome in 2008 at the Starving Artist New Year's Eve gala! For more on our music / art schedule, including January's lineup, visit www.starvingartistonline.com and click on the "calendar" tab. You will also find details on our New Year's Eve party. And just as 2008 begins, it's Rubber Soul, the Beatles tribute band, with shows on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.



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 |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| 123 Horton Street | 2/15/07 | \$426,000 | 1 Family |
| 105 Pell Place | 8/10/07 | \$450,000 | 1 Family |
| 629 King Avenue | 8/16/07 | \$561,000 | 1 Family |
| 65 Schofield Street | 8/23/07 | \$675,000 | 1 Family |
| 238 Bowne Street | 10/05/07 | \$576,000 | Condo |
| 155 Reville Street | 10/12/07 | \$548,000 | 1 Family |

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CITY ISLAND: Constructing a Perfect Holiday!

By MONICA GLICK

As City Islanders started thinking of this year's holiday season and all the shopping, decorating and celebrating there is to do, one word keeps coming to mind: construction. We are surrounded by earth-moving equipment, digging, flagmen directing traffic, pipe moving and paving, so the appropriate theme for this year's "Holiday Island" article was inevitable. Just like the season's sleigh bells, the analogy rings true: our Island's galleries, restaurants, cafés, antique stores, unique shops and businesses have everything it takes to build the perfect holiday.

Start with a good foundation. The past holds lessons for us all—and gifts as well. City Island's antique shops promise treasures to delight anyone on your gift-giving list. Visit **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue), **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue), and **Quality Antique Furniture** (270 City Island Avenue) for some finds. And if you stop by and say "hi" to Mort and Violet Ellis at **Midtown Antiques** (310 City Island Avenue), ask them to show you their miniature painting collection and tell you about special holiday savings deals. There were a few mini-portraits of fishermen to delight any sea-loving City Islander.



Midtown Antiques

And let's not forget to support foundations from the past. Ask what you can do to help restore the façade of the old P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street and the rooms that house our own **City Island Historical Society** after the fire there.

Sometime this holiday season, bring a friend to a historic building on City Island, the 19th-century sea captain's mansion that houses our own French inn and restaurant, **Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast** (586 City Island Avenue). Recently listed in the prestigious Zagat Restaurant Guide, authors noted that this lovely French oasis offers outstanding cuisine along with warm service. Join owner / chef Pierre Saint-Denis for celebrations on Christmas Eve and Day, as well as New Year's Eve. As for the food, the "National Geographic Traveler" noted: "The menu teems with marvels!"

Consult those plans. Every successful project starts with a good plan and your holidays are no exception. But who says they have to be drafted at a desk or in a dreary office? Why not sketch the details over dinner at one of our Island's seafood spots? If your creative juices don't get flowing until later, not to worry. We hear that the kitchen at **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) is open late, until 3 a.m., according to their Web site. You can find this City Island eatery quite easily; just look for the sleeping Santa.

Across the street, the snowmen and toy soldiers are set to welcome you to the **Shrimp Box Restaurant** (64 City Island Avenue). And at the very start of our Island, there are several choices: **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue) and **The Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue). In fact, the Sea Shore's lounge area is complete with fireplace and floor-to-ceiling Christmas tree



The Shrimp Box

to help put you in the mood while you think. And they're offering to plan your holiday party for groups of 20 to 120! Mid-Island there's the original **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), where the lobster specials are a delicious delight!

And if those plans include a new face for a wall at home or maybe a mural, stop by **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) and ask Mary Colby about painted portrait possibilities while you're there.

Gather your supplies. What well-prepared construction worker is without the proper tools and materials? The **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue) offers a wide selection of holiday gift wrap, decorations and cards. You can also find some unique gifts, including Lenox ornaments!



The City Island Pharmacy

If the supplies you're seeking are more the nautical kind, then **West Marine Express** (532 City Island Avenue) is sure to have all you need for your boating and sailing needs and it's where you will be likely to find a perfect gift for a friend. **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) is another possibility, for stuff that needs stitching.

If you're going out to sea, then stick with **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) or **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue). Jack's is once again having a 10 to 30 percent off sale through Christmas, and has gift certificates available as well.

Year round you can count on **Buddy's Hardware** (260 City Island Avenue), and during the holidays, he's sure to stock up on holiday decorations, in addition to household and boating must-haves. You can find more of the same at **J.J. Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) as well.

The chefs come tableside to you at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue), and they bring their own supplies. Get set for a show, as they serve up authentic Japanese

hibachi cuisine and sushi. Popular refreshments include cold and hot sake, and plum wine. There is also the signature chocolate martini, as well as a sake and mango version. Now if these can't get you making big holiday plans, nothing will!

Make the framework. If your frame is feeling a bit out of sorts, then call the City Island office of **Debra Fatone**, a New York State licensed massage therapist (718-885-3430). Specializing in Swedish, medical, maternity and sports massage, Fatone will surely help you get back on track for the holiday season and the New Year.

You can also stop by the Island's new **Sun Spa** (632 City Island Avenue), where deep tissue massage is the name of the game. And if you want to get in shape, then consult the personal trainers at **A.J. Weight Loss Center** (538 City Island Avenue).

Give a gift to put in a frame and Ron Turner will guarantee that it is a work of art. **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) can do your holiday portrait or other special occasion photography. The gallery will have its annual Holiday Art Show opening on Friday, Dec. 7, from 7 to 11 p.m. The restoration and framing of old family photographs make another good gift suggestion, as is artwork by local artists and hand-signed art cards by Ron Turner or City Islander Mark Whitcombe. Focal Point also offers classes on how to use that digital camera you get for the holidays, and in Photoshop as well.

And for more art, visit the Island's newest art gallery, featuring the work of **Cheryl Brinker** (282 City Island Avenue). You'll be amazed at what else you find inside! Sometimes this spot features health centered gatherings with City Island's own **Dr. Carolyn Dean**, and music too!

Every crew takes a break! For a time out at the start of the day, enjoy a relaxing home-cooked breakfast at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue). The challah French toast is a winner. There's always plenty of java and early morning food fare at the **Island Cafe** (205 City Island Avenue) or **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) as well.

There's also **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) for a gingerbread latte or doughnut. Weekend server Jasmin Figueroa invites you to try the decorated donuts as well, and keep an eye out for the decorations the staff is planning.



Dunkin' Donuts



The Snug

If you need the break at day's end after brutal hours schlepping and shopping, then the City Island Diner's **Snug** (302 City Island Avenue) is the spot for you. A hot toddy or hot cider, along with other holiday specials, promise to relax the most weary among us. Thursday nights serve up Mexican fare, while Tuesdays offer half-price burgers and Mondays supply you with free chicken wings. There's live music as well, including the first-Friday-of-every-month performance of Acoustic Blue Collar. The Snug says that Santa is definitely on his way and will be at this City Island pub restaurant on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Don't forget interior decoration. No matter what you put on the tree, nothing makes it sparkle more than stacks of presents underneath. No recalls at all at **Exotiqua International Arts** (280 City Island Avenue), where there is an abundance of child-safe toys. From doll houses and furnishings to pirate fare and an array of Shining Stars stuffed toys, this City Island store will help Santa and his helpers finish their shopping fast! Owner Paul Klein also invites you to see his jewelry creations, as well as fun ornaments and gifts from more than 75 countries throughout the world.



Exotiqua International Arts

If dolls top your gift-giving list, look no further than **My Dolls & Things** (271 City Island Avenue) for a one-of-a-kind find! And visit **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue) to see the stained glass mastery of John Corona. He and his wife, Carolyn, are also having wicker specials for the holidays, including awesome wicker headboards at prices that are a steal!

When it comes to creating indoor holiday wonderlands, no one has anything on **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue). Longtime and now relocated server JW returns to work with owner Spiro Chagares to make magic happen again this year, providing a suitable backdrop for the amazing food at this Zagat-rated restaurant. Chagares invites you to visit the restaurant for the holidays where you can feast on crowd pleasers such as the fettuccine alfredo with shrimp and lobster, zuppa di pesce for two, the linguine with white clam sauce, or the pork chops Italian style.

Maybe the decorations will be on you rather than the tree this holiday season. **AI's Infinite Art Tattooing and Piercing** (466 City Island Avenue) is here to help get the job done.

There's style to be had as well at **Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue). And **The Art of Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue) is suggesting a new look for the holidays—a color / cut / style for just \$55. The offer is good on Tuesdays only, and you must ask for Jason.

Decorate your nails with the color of your choice at **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue) or **Nails by the Bay** (329 City Is-

Continued on page 22



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Grace Church to Host "Blue Christmas" Service

The constant refrain on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the Christmas Season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the gut wrenching loss of a child, the loneliness of no longer having a beloved spouse to share each day, the loss of a dear family pet – all these can contribute to a feeling of being alone, of feeling "blue" in the midst of the society around us which seems bent on "being happy" and "celebrating." There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and can't enjoy the festivities as others seem to be able to do.

It is at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons,

Grace Episcopal Church (116 City Island Avenue) invites you to join in sharing and hearing prayers on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 5 p.m. Scripture and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

The brief service will be followed by a time for light refreshments and fellowship. Please accept this invitation to be with us – a time to move from feeling "blue" to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas. No need to RSVP; our doors will be open to all, so please feel free to invite others to come with you, as your support, or if you know that they too are finding that Christmas hurts.

For more information about the Blue Christmas service, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080, or at RevPPA@aol.com.

A EARLY START TO THE HOLIDAYS!



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGER and BARBARA DOLENSEK
Rosy cheeked Islanders and visitors, including Councilman James Vacca and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto, joined in the countdown to the annual Christmas tree lighting in Hawkins Park, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, on Saturday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. Caroling was led by Ken and Elizabeth Farnum of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Afterwards, a reception warmed up the revelers at Exotiq International Arts at 280 City Island Avenue. The annual menorah lighting in Hawkins Park will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., followed by singing of traditional Hanukkah songs. Let the joyous season begin!

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

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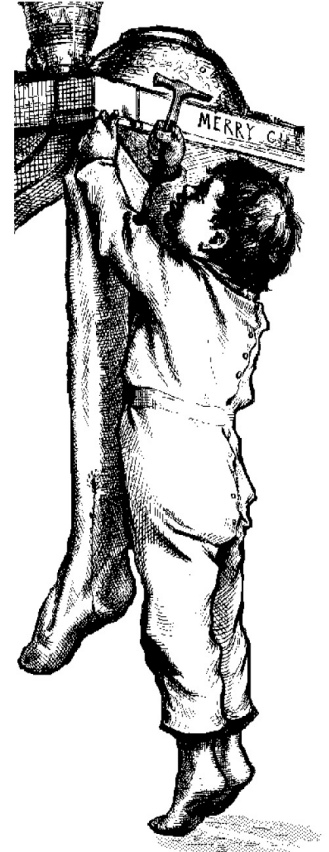
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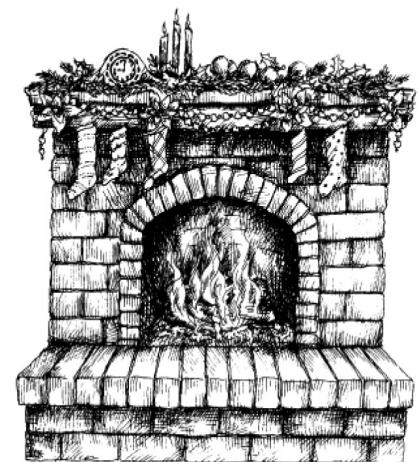


*In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon
be there.*



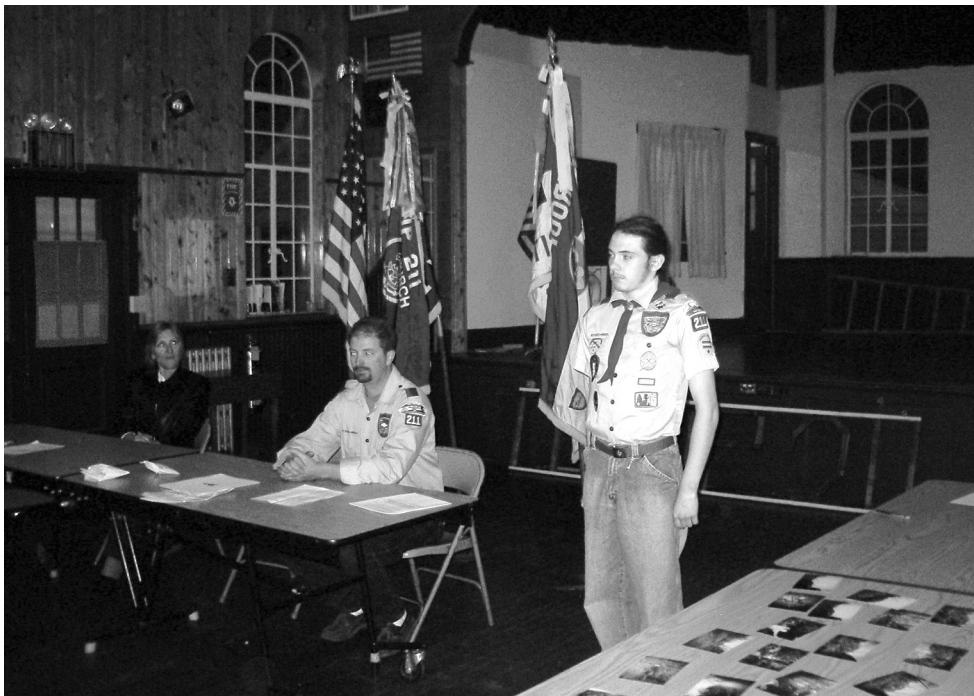
Merry Christmas

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The scouts of Boy Scout Troop 211 and their adult leaders erecting a tripod for nature observation in Ellenville, New York.

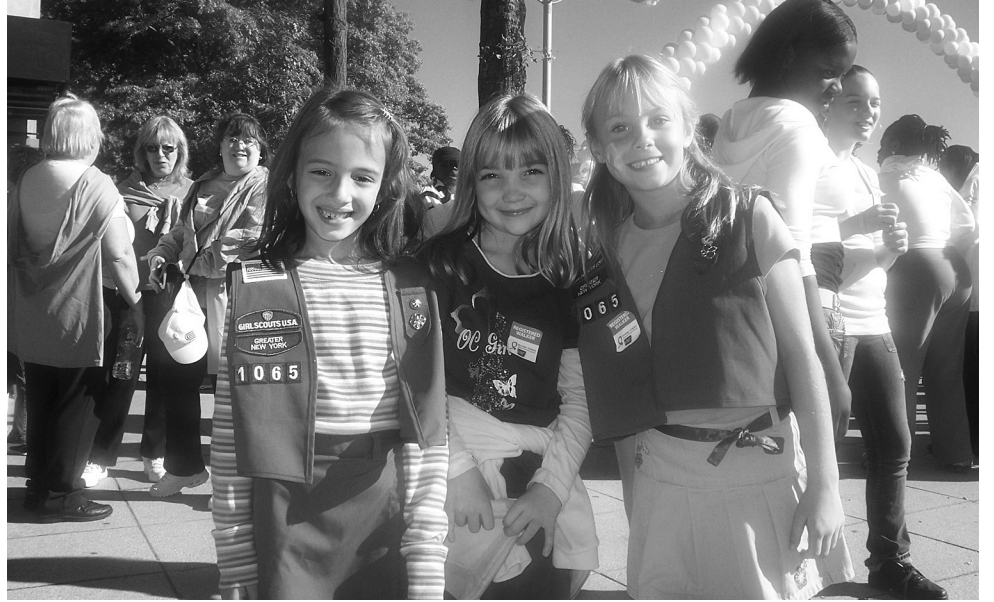


Photos by WALDO PERSTEINS

John Devlin receiving his rank of Life Scout at the Boy Scout Troop 211 Court of Honor in November 2007.

CI KIDS WHO CARE

By KAREN NANI



In this the season of giving, it's worth looking back over the year and noting that the volunteer spirit is alive and well among City Island's youth. *The Current* has reported on numerous examples of individual and group acts of kindness performed by Island kids, tweens (between the ages of 8 and 12), and teenagers during 2007. While we sometimes have to report on youthful mischief and even crimes, it is refreshing to take note of the often unheralded efforts of those who help make this Island a better community.

We already know that this article will be incomplete, but the editors hope that Islanders will send in more examples so that we can begin 2008 with another article on youthful good deeds.

Early in 2007, the children of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island turned football's Super Bowl Sunday into Souper Bowl Sunday on Feb. 4. They collected money to feed the hungry and donated \$300 to the POTS (Part of the Solution) program in the Bronx. The caring kids included Gregory and Emily Sexton, Ian and Chandler Campbell, Nicholas and Kaitlyn McGuire and Noel Aponte. So if you want to do a little more than root for the New York Giants in the 2008 Super Bowl (we hope), call Grace Church (718-885-1080) and let the young parishioners know you want to contribute to their cause for next year.

The City Island Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts volunteer for a host of activities, ranging from the Easter Plant Sale that provides many City Island gardens with spring annuals to greeting former Mayor Giuliani this year as he arrived on the Island to kick off his birthday celebration and New York campaign swing. In particular, Daniel Green and Nicholas Bellocchio are two Cub Scouts who crossed the bridge into Boy Scouts in 2007. They have been going to the meetings on Tuesday evenings and volunteering to help the adult leaders with the meeting preparation. They perform double duty by fulfilling their leadership roles in Cub Scouts, along with meeting their requirements for Boy Scouts on Friday evenings.

In the Troop 211 Court of Honor in November 2007, City Island Boy Scouts earned more than 30 merit badges, certificates of appreciation and leadership assignments based on their hard work and dedication to scouting. Scout John Devlin earned the rank of Life Scout, the second highest rank in scouting and an impressive achievement, given the challenges of balancing school, work and community service. Troop 211 scouts also succeeded in a three-year mission to erect a

50-foot tripod for nature observation in Ellenville, New York.

Madison Viera is a kindergarten student at P.S. 175. On Oct. 17, Madison cut and donated 11 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. They meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics.

Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair because of a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses provided by girls like Madison help to restore self-esteem and confidence, enabling kids to face the world and their peers (for more information, visit the Web site locksloflove.org).

On Oct. 21, Madison, Jaqueline Vitacco, Dusty Prohaska and Catherine Ficke of Brownie Girl Scouts Troop 1065 (photo above) joined the Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach. For some, this was their second year walking and raising money from sponsors. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a noncompetitive walk to help fight breast cancer and to provide hope to people facing the disease. Participation will support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving research, prevention, early detection and support programs for thousands of patients and their families.

Following the tragic fire at the City Island Nautical Museum on July 13, 2007, the fourth grade students at P.S. 175 wanted to help with the rebuilding effort. They held a bake sale on Oct. 4 and presented a check for \$340 on Oct. 11 to museum trustee Barbara Dolensek. Teachers Judy DiMaio and Terry Maryl were very proud of their students' determination to make a difference.

Finally, there are acts of spontaneous volunteering. For example, on Sunday, Sept. 8, Island teen Ben Marcus and his friends, Mike Maniotis and Phil Economas, were told that a large moving van was being unloaded in front of Grace Church by a number of older parishioners with "bad backs." They walked over to see if they could help and wound up working for over three hours to help the new ministers move into the rectory (see story this issue).

So we applaud these young people for their help during the past year and look forward to receiving more tales from grownup Islanders and organizations. You can call *The Current* at 718-885-0760 and leave a message with the details or write us at P.O. Box 6, City Island, New York 10464.

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

Christmas Schedule 2007

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT

Sunday, December 16
7:30 PM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 22
4:30 to 5:00

CHRISTMAS EVE

Carols: 7:00 PM
Mass: 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses: 8:00, 10:00 AM and
12:00 Noon

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Mass 5:15 PM
(Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary,
Mother of God)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Masses: 8:00, 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
(Holy Day of Obligation)



O Holy Night



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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 1, **Annual Christmas Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 1 to Mon. Dec. 10, **POTS Christmas Giving Program**, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church or Exotiq, 280 City Island Avenue. Donate new articles of clothing, including sweatshirts and pants, gloves, hats, or socks. Call 718-885-2137 for information.

Tues., Dec. 4, **Hanukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m., sponsored by Temple Beth-El and the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Dec. 8, **Christmas Fair and Bake Sale**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m.

Sat. Dec. 15, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Cooked ham sliced with potatoes.

Sat. Dec. 15, **Children's Christmas Party at the Legion**, 550 City Island Avenue, 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Leonard Hawkins Post 156.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Thurs., Jan. 17, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Villa Barone Restaurant, 3289 Westchester Avenue, Bronx.

Tues., Jan. 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Chapter 318 AARP

At our Nov. 7 meeting, Russell Schmid of Access-A-Ride advised our members on how to avail themselves of this service.

Our Nov. 14 Penny Auction was a great success, thanks to Barbara Whelan and her helpers, along with all those who attended the auction.

The chapter's annual Christmas luncheon will be held at the Lobster House on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 12 noon.

There will be no meetings in January 2008. The first meeting of the New Year will be on Feb. 7.

We are planning some interesting speakers and trips for the coming year.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to all!

Carmelia A. Ramftl

Trinity United Methodist Church

It is Christmas time once again, and time for another year to come to a close. We at Trinity hope that the past year has been blessed and prosperous for all. We are celebrating the birth of Christ with our annual Christmas Eve service at 10 p.m. on Dec. 24. The Sunday school children will hold their own special celebration at our Christmas pageant, which will be held on Dec. 16 at our regular Sunday service at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join us.

Reverend Sue will hold her annual open house at the parsonage on Dec. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by for some food and fellowship!

Budget Shop will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 4 and 18, and on Saturday, Dec. 15. We will have special sales on our regular and Christmas items. We would like to be open more often, but this is next to impossible since we lack volunteers. If you can look within yourself this holiday, maybe you can find it possible to give some time to Budget: once a month or whenever possible. We are truly desperate. During this season of giving, please remember: the gift of oneself is the greatest gift of all. Please call Ellie Hebard at 718-518-7241 or Myra Martin at 718-885-1049.

Anne Sill

Holiday Services

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Ave. near the Bridge
Sunday, Dec. 16: Lessons and Carols Concert, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 22: Confessions, 4 to 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Carols at 7 p.m. and Mass at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon.
Monday, Dec. 31: Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God, 5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue
Tuesday, Dec. 4: Hanukah Community Menorah Lighting, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9: Hanukah Family Celebration, 2:30 p.m. with Rabbi Shohama Wiener and entertainment.
Sunday, Jan. 27: New Year of Trees Tu B'Shevat Seder, 2 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street
Sunday, Dec. 9: Reverend Sue's Open House, 2 to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Friday, Dec. 21: Christmas Caroling around City Island, 7 p.m. All welcome.
Sunday, Dec. 23: Blue Christmas Service, 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Pageant, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Dec. 2 marks the beginning of the holy season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. Our Advent candle will have a special place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of the coming of the Savior.

Our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a holy day of obligation. It is under this title that we honor Mary as the patroness of our country. Masses that day will be at 8 a.m. and 12 noon.

All are welcome to attend our monthly hospitality hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 10 o'clock mass on Sunday, Dec. 9.

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, we will have a special mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be held in both English and Spanish and will take place in our church at 7:15 p.m. A reception in the school hall will follow. All are welcome to join us for this celebration of the patroness of the Americas.

Our annual ceremony of lessons and carols will take place on Sunday evening, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Come join us for a joyous, prayerful evening in preparation for Christmas.

Our children's Christmas pageant will be presented on Monday evening, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.

The joyful celebration of the birth of



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

The Cub Scouts of Pack 211 in their Halloween masks.

Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, preceded by the singing of Christmas carols at 7 p.m. Masses on Christmas day will be at 7, 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very happy Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. This is a holy day of obligation. Anticipated Mass will be on Monday, Dec. 31, at 5:15 p.m. Masses on Jan. 1 will be at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. A very happy and peaceful New Year to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Cub Scout News

The Cub Scouts of Pack 211 created their own Halloween masks on the night before Halloween in preparation for their favorite day. The season is going very well for the scouts, who are enjoying their weekly meetings and dodge ball games against their mothers and fathers. So far, the scores are even!

Registration is still open for anyone who would be interested.

The Pack would like to wish everyone happy holidays.

Angelo Bellocchio

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. Evening prayer is read in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. and morning prayer is read on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, www.gracecityisland.org.

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

Calling all City Island Children! Grace is planning a Children's Christmas pageant to be held on Christmas Eve, and your children are invited to participate! For more information, including rehearsal times, please call Pageant Director Steve Marcus at 718-885-1544.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: The fourth annual Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival.

Friday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.: Christmas caroling in the neighborhood. ALL are welcome! Meet in the Grace Parish Hall and we will set out from there.

Sunday, Dec. 23, 5 p.m.: "Blue Christmas" Service.

Monday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with pageant.

Tuesday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.: Christmas Day Service.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Temple Beth-El

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

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

Our Dec. 7 and Jan. 11, Kabbalat Shab-

bat services (with song and dance) at 7:30 p.m. will be led by Rabbi Shohama Wiener. Reb David Daniel Klipper will lead us on Friday, Feb. 1. The other Shabbat services will be led by Mort Ellis and Bob Berent (with his accordion).

Saturday Torah Study, with our rabbinic intern, Aliza Erber leading the group, will be held on Dec. 22 and Jan. 19 at 10:30 a.m. She is also conducting our adult B'nai Binah (Bar/Bat Mitzvah) class on Thursdays (Dec. 6 and 13, Jan. 10 and 24) at 7 p.m. (Pre-registration required.)

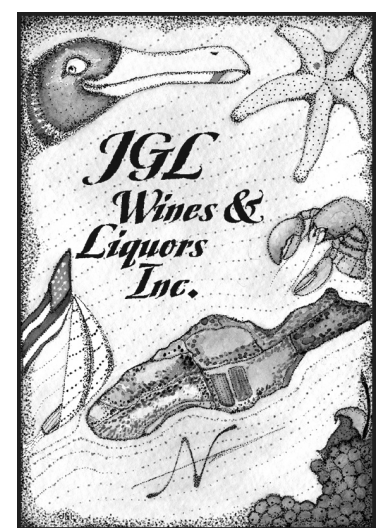
Tai Chi-Yoga Classes will continue each Thursday at 6:15 p.m. (except Dec. 27). Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Plan with us for Hanukah, which begins on Tuesday, Dec. 4. Our Judaica shop has many beautiful, hand-crafted objects and our community menorah lighting at Hawkins Street Park will begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 4. Our Hanukah Family Celebration at the temple will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2:30 p.m. The concert and party features songwriter-guitarist Matt Fried and percussionist Akiva Wharton, candlelighting with Rabbi Shohama, and of course, treats and dreidels. Sponsored by the Stark family, this celebration should be fun for adults and children of all ages and faiths, so do join us!

Finally, celebrate the New Year of Trees. Come to our Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 2 p.m. This popular event will be led by Reb David Daniel, so we're in for a special treat. Dress is casual but reservations for the seder are helpful. Please call for your food contribution; fruits, nuts and wine or juice are featured at this event. Vegetarian dishes are also welcome. Call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 with your RSVPs.

Enjoy the benefits of membership, take the free Trolley to Temple (on the first Friday of each month) and visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent



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City Island, NY 10464
jgl358@verizon.net
718-885-0200



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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual Members Only Holiday Party will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. This is a free event to thank our members for their continued support. Come enjoy delicious food (donated by the local restaurants), drinks and music in our spruced-up holiday atmosphere!

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Wonderkind Preschool: Where learning is child's play. Ages 2½ 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.

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. One parent will be expected to volunteer to stay each evening. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

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

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

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.

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

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa, merengue, cha-cha and bachata. A partner is not necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call 917-838-6501

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by The Sea is a group of women learning and dancing together. Mondays at 7 p.m. For information about classes, call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

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. New class added: Saturday at 9 a.m.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Wilma'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.vilmasmusicitogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusicitogether.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

Legion News

Unfortunately, I missed the last two meetings, something I don't like to do. In order to be updated, I stopped by Dave Carman's auto repair emporium. Since it wasn't senior citizens' day, business was a little slow until a hapless Islander came in with a flat tire. Ray, Dave's master mechanic, said that the driver was lucky, since the tire was only flat on one side.

I don't have any news on our men and women in service. The usual Christmas gifts will soon be in the mail. If you know of any in the service, drop them a card or a letter. I'm sure it will be appreciated.

The commander wants to thank all those who labored to get the chance books out. Many hands make light work.

Don't forget the annual Pearl Harbor Day service, which will be held by the Sons of the Legion on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the war memorial by the bridge. Check the bulletin board at the Post for the time. Seventeen Island boys met their untimely demise during World War II.

A standing-room-only crowd was present at the annual servicemen's dinner and dance. Chefs Bob Mennona Jr. and John Ulmer headed the kitchen staff. Commander Dave Carman said more money was generated by the turkey raffle than ever before. Proceeds are used to send the annual checks to our men and women in service.

Meetings in December are as follows: Monday, Dec. 3 and 17, will be regular

meetings; an executive board meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 10. Our annual Christmas party will be held after the meeting on Dec. 17. There will be fare befitting the occasion, and for those prone to enjoying a liquid diet, there will be an open bar. Commander Carman reminds us that this function is well attended by the membership, and you will no doubt be able to meet a bevy of VIPs who frequent the festivities. Come early for choice seating.

The election of officers for the coming year will be held at the Dec. 3 meeting. The proposed slate will be those holding office now. Comrade Thomas McShane has proposed Comrade Thomas McMahan for the now open position of bar chairman. Most of you will recall that Tom served as bar chairman in the past with an enthusiasm that knew no bounds.

Sick call: Comrade Fred Hess is recuperating at home following a brief sojourn in the hospital. As we approach the holiday season, remember our homebound. A visit, a card or a call would be a nice gesture.

The children's Christmas party will be held at the Post on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.

From "Straight and Level," the story of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance in WWII: "On Dec. 16, 1944, the enemy launched the Ardennes counter-offensive, the Battle of the Bulge.... The objective was Antwerp. A straight line between the Ardennes and Antwerp fell right in Y-10 and the 33rd. Dec. 17, English-speaking enemy paratroops under Joachim Peiper marched American prisoners into a field at Malmedy and shot them down. By Dec. 20 soldiers in Peiper's command would murder approximately 350 American prisoners." The Battle of the Bulge had begun. That sordid event would be only one of many perpetrated by a desperate foe.

Have a very joyous holiday, from the commander and the troops.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

Garden Club News

The next meeting, a Christmas luncheon for members of the Garden Club, will be on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the Black Whale Restaurant, at 12 noon.

The landscape company that the Garden Club hired has been busy weeding and planting spring bulbs in the Memorial Triangle, at the Welcome to City Island sign, near the Brotherhood Tree and in Hawkins Street Park. Watch for the results in the spring!

In the meantime, a happy holiday season to all.

Phyllis Goodman

City Island Theater Group

As the City Island Theater Group's 2007 season comes to an end, I am pleased to look back at our wonderful year with great pride and accomplishment! Our season opened with John Patrick Shanley's "Doubt." What an honor it was to be the first group to present the acclaimed production after its Broadway run! In the spring we presented the classic social play "Night of January 16th," which like "Doubt" left the audience questioning: guilty or not guilty? This fall, our production of "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" brought a hilarious, unique mixture of suspense and comedy to the stage! The purchase of a stunning new curtain was a wonderful addition, paid for by both Grace Church and the City Island Theater Group. We are looking forward to raising that curtain for many more years at Grace. We were also thrilled to host a benefit performance for P.S. 175. As a community theater group, we are proud to present quality productions for City Island and the Bronx community.

I am pleased to announce that our 2008 season will open with the musical "Wild Party" by Andrew Lippa. Adapted from a book-length poem written in and about the Roaring 20's, Andrew Lippa's "Wild Party"

tells the story of one wild evening in a Manhattan apartment shared by Queenie, a vaudeville dancer, and Burrs, a vaudeville clown. In a relationship marked by vicious behavior and recklessness (mirroring the time in which they live), they decide to throw a party to end all parties.

We will be holding auditions on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 12:30 p.m. Auditions will be held at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. We are seeking eight adult males and five adult females, plus an ensemble. All roles are open. Rehearsals start the first week of January; performances are Feb. 22, 23, 24, 28, 29 and March 1 and 2. Please prepare a song and bring sheet music for the accompanist. All are welcome to attend. For information, call: 718-885-3066 or e-mail: auditions@cityislandtheatergroup.com. We also need band members and backstage volunteers.

We would like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays. We thank you for your support; without it we could not continue to thrive. We look forward to presenting quality productions for many years to come. Have a theatrical 2008!

Nick Sala

Boy Scout Troop 211

Judging from its accomplishments this fall, City Island has much to be proud of regarding Boy Scout Troop 211. In the Troop 211 Court of Honor in November 2007, scouts received more than 30 merit badges, certificates of appreciation and leadership assignments based on their hard work and dedication to scouting. Scout John Devlin earned the rank of Life Scout, the second highest rank in scouting and an impressive achievement, given the challenges of balancing school, work and community service.

During a fall camping trip, Troop 211 scouts succeeded in a three-year mission to erect a 50-foot tripod for nature observation in Ellenville, New York. This amazing accomplishment was made possible by the remarkable teamwork, sweat and discipline shown by the scouts and the adult leaders.

Boy Scout Troop 211 plans even more adventures with swimming pool nights, a "Secrets of Manhattan" walking tour, snow boarding, the New York Auto Show, camping and much more! To become a Boy Scout, e-mail Troop 211's Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins at Troop211ideas@yahoo.com.

Waldo Persteins



City Island Republicans

We would like to thank everyone who came out and voted on Election Day, Nov. 6, despite the cold and the rain. We have heard that only about 300 City Islanders turned out to vote. All of the Republican poll worker slots were filled.

This was the best Election Day for the Republican Party in New York in quite some time, since we accomplished many victories across the state, including the heavily Democratic Erie County, which includes the city of Buffalo. Unfortunately, in the Bronx and around our City, we were not quite as lucky. New York City residents did not have many positions to vote on compared with the rest of the state. But overall, this was the most exciting off-year election in a while. There are no final elections results as of this time.

Now on to something more exciting—our Christmas party, will be held on Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue. We hope to see everyone there. Feel free to bring a snack or two. A good time will be had by all.

The City Island Republicans wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year!

Fred Ramftl

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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Excitement radiates through the halls of St. Mary's during December.

On Thursday, Dec. 6, the school will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop in Lycia who was known for his charitable works and kind gifts. St. Mary's will hold an indoor carnival with games, attractions, food and even photographs with St. Nick. In taking a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas and utilizing his lesson this Christmas season to extend our sharing to those in real need, all proceeds from the carnival will go to the good works of the Catholic missions. Our children, teachers and parents all are contributing to the fun and activities.

St. Mary's eighth-graders are looking forward to First Friday Mass on Dec. 7. They will be receiving their class rings at a ceremony during the mass. Mrs. Cabbell-Delgado and her eighth-grade class will be experiencing New York City amidst the Christmas season with a trip downtown to view the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, take in the holiday show at Radio City Music Hall and visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Parent chaperones will join the group and share their memories of Christmas in New York with their children.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, St. Mary's school choir, under the direction of music teacher Mr. John Dominick, will participate in the Memorial Tree Lighting ceremony conducted by the F. Ruggiero & Sons Funeral Home. Families of recently deceased relatives join one another at the funeral home and place ornaments on the tree symbolizing their lost loved ones while the children of our choir sing Christmas carols and hymns.

The St. Mary's annual School Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13—no, not the Broadway production, but just as exciting and entertaining for our classes.

Thursday, Dec. 20, marks the annual Christmas assembly, which is traditionally a musical with religious and secular songs performed by each of the grades of the school from Pre-K through the eighth grade. The program is anxiously anticipated each year, and there is always something new and special. Sister Joan's first graders will perform the Nativity, and Mrs. Neshiewat's kindergarten will be "Rocking around the Christmas Tree." Each year Mr. Garrison and his sixth grade surprise the audience with a foreign language selection. Each class participates, and there are solo performances as well. The productions are quite spectacular and always bring all the children together in spirit as well as in harmony.

Christmas recess begins after school on Friday, Dec. 21. All of the children,

faculty, administration and parents of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School wish all of you a most happy and blessed Christmas season.

Public School 175

The last few weeks have been exciting for the P.S. 175 community. On Thursday, Oct. 25, we hosted our second annual Family Pajama Night for children in kindergarten through fifth grade and also held our Halloween dance for children in grades six to eight. The evening was filled with lots of fun activities designed especially for our students and parents to do together, and our middle school students danced the night away and began an early Halloween celebration.

Many of our classes have already taken some enriching and exciting field trips this year. Our kindergarten students visited the City Island firehouse, the second grade visited the Botanical Garden to study the life cycle of plants, and the fourth graders took their annual trip to the Bartow-Pell Mansion for a program entitled "The Original Bronx Natives—Who Were They?" to study the native Americans that lived in this area. The fifth and seventh grades visited the Hall of Science, where students explored the many aspects of hands-on science and where teachers hoped to cultivate a love of science. The eighth grade went on trips to the American Museum of Natural History and the Bronx Zoo to help them prepare for the Exit Projects they are required to complete in order to graduate.

The Lincoln Center Institute is once again working with our teachers and students in kindergarten through Grade 3. The first work of art they are studying this year is traditional Irish music, which will culminate in a musical performance by Cathie Ryan in December. In the spring, teachers and students will be doing a study of contemporary African dance.

The PTA's Election Day Sale was a huge success. We are so grateful for all of the help and support the community gives to our school, which enhances the education that we are able to provide for our students.

The P.S. 175 Citizen-of-the-Month program has begun. Students who exemplify excellent citizenship skills are chosen as role models for their classmates. The first students chosen were: kindergarten, Jade Villafana, Rudy Etzel; first grade, Madelyn Ploch, Jayana Hauser; second grade, Connor Hanley-Piri, Gianna Cambria; third grade, Joseph Mancuso, Elion Borici; fourth grade, Kathleen Kramer, Ameer Baksh; fifth grade, Adrianna Aceto, Atanas Ivanov; sixth grade, Nicholas Cambria, Saul Soto; seventh grade, Gabrielle Vitiello, Alyssa Cambria; eighth grade, Alexander Hackman, Augustus Berger.

Upcoming events include the Hollyrock Game Show, the PTA Christmas Sale, and our annual Holiday Sing.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Dec. 24 to Jan. 1—school closed; classes resume Jan. 2.

We wish the entire City Island community a peaceful and joy-filled holiday season!



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

On Oct. 25, 2007, P.S. 175 hosted Family Pajama Night, when students, parents and teachers participated in a number of fun-filled activities. Here second-grader Matthew Cioffi proudly shows off his cupcake "masterpiece."

Season's Greetings

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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY



Photo by MICHAEL SHANLEY

A section of the mural at Bronx High School of Science.

The Nobel, the Pulitzer and the Bronx

"Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination"

— John Dewey

I awoke one morning last month to the wonderful news that our former vice president, Al Gore, had won the Nobel Prize for Peace. I was delighted. I always feel a great sense of pride when such an honor is bestowed on an American on the international stage. To be truthful however, in most cases, Nobel winners are individuals I know nothing or little about and their names I soon forget. Today however was a little different. It was Al Gore who had won this coveted award—a man whose name

I knew well and would not soon forget. While my thoughts were with Al Gore and the most prestigious Nobel Prize, my focus changed to the Bronx High School of Science, whose graduates have also been the recipient of many distinguished awards.

Bronx Science was the last of the three original specialized academic public high schools in New York City with a focus on science and mathematics, the other two being Stuyvesant High School (1904) and Brooklyn Technical High School (1922). Entrance to these prestigious schools requires a rigorous, uniform entrance examination.

Bronx Science was founded in 1938 as a boys-only school, but eight years later it became co-educational (23 years before Stuyvesant and 26 years before Brooklyn Tech). It attracts intellectually gifted students from across New York City from a diverse array of cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds. The school's original location was on Creston Avenue and 184th Street, but in 1956 it relocated to a new building at 205th Street and Paul Avenue in the Bedford Park neighborhood of the northwest Bronx.

The new Bronx Science school building was equipped with the most modern facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories, classrooms and technical studio areas. The entire building was designed to the specific needs of the specialized Bronx Science curriculum.

Gracing the main lobby entrance is a striking, 63-foot Venetian glass mosaic mural. This giant artwork depicts major figures from the history of science, reminding students and faculty of the paramount importance of the life of the mind. Included are images of Marie Curie and Charles Darwin under the protective hands of a godlike figure representing knowledge. Underneath this stunning mural is this quote from John Dewey, "Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of

imagination." The mural is an original work of art by Frank J. Reilly entitled "Humanities Protecting Biology, Physics, Chemistry."

Legions of students over the years, bemoaning the lack of swimming facilities, have sarcastically referred to the mural as "the Science swimming pool," because the choice was made to fund a mural rather than to build a swimming pool in the new building. The mural, however, continues to epitomize the special nature of the Bronx High School of Science, and the Dewey quote has become the school's motto. The school colors are green and gold—green to represent chlorophyll and gold the sun, both of which are essential to the chain of life.

When Bronx Science celebrated its silver anniversary in June 1963, President John F. Kennedy hailed it as "a significant and path finding example of a special program devoted to the development of the student gifted in science and mathematics." The President had occasion to know the quality of the school's product since he had recently selected one of its graduates, Dr. Harold Brown, of the class of 1943, for the position of Director of Defense Research and Engineering. Dr. Brown would later serve as Secretary of Defense under President Carter.

In 1978 a popular social studies faculty member, Stuart Elenko, founded a Holocaust Museum and Studies Center at Bronx Science, funded by grants, donations and the New York City Council. The museum was one of the first of its kind in the United States, and it houses an impressive collection of rare documents, photographs, artifacts and other material from the Nazi era. The Studies Center sponsors speakers and puts together and distributes educational materials about the Holocaust. Students in the Holocaust Leadership Class give tours of the museum to any guest who requests one, as well as to sophomores studying world history. The museum and the tours have received tremendous reviews and clearly enhance the educational experience. The museum has had more than 60,000 visitors and has received wide acclaim from leaders in the field.

The Bronx High School of Science enjoys a worldwide reputation and is frequently cited as the most renowned high school in America, either public or private. By the mid-1990s, Bronx Science had more graduates who went on to receive doctorates than any other school in the entire country. Bronx

Science has counted 131 finalists in the prestigious Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Talent Search, the largest number of any high school in the United States. Five Bronx Science graduates are Pulitzer Prize-winning authors and seven Bronx Science alumni are Nobel Prize laureates, more than any other secondary school in the world.

For many years, I lived directly across the street from this renowned learning institution. It often struck me that these seemingly ordinary teenagers were some of the brightest kids in our city and indeed the country. I also wondered who among them would achieve greatness or if greatness was possible without the rigorous training they were receiving at Bronx Science. I now firmly believe it is the combination of brilliant young minds, cultivated by the high-powered education offered them by schools like the Bronx High School of Science, that will enable some of these kids to go on to change our world.

The Bronx High School of Science Nobel laureates-

- Leon N. Cooper, class of 1947, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1972
- Sheldon L. Glashow, class of 1950, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979
- Steven Weinberg, class of 1950, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979
- Melvin Schwartz, class of 1949, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1988
- Russell A. Hulse, class of 1966, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993
- H. David Politzer, class of 1966, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2004
- Roy J. Glauber, class of 1941, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2005

The Bronx High School of Science Pulitzer Prize winners-

- William Sherman, class of 1963, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1974
- William Safire, class of 1947, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1978

Joseph Lelyveld, class of 1954, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1986

Bernard L. Stein, class of 1959, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1998

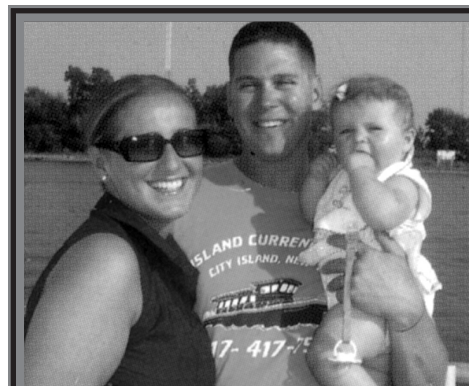
William Taubman, class of 1958, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 2004

Note: Michael Shanley is a native, lifelong 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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SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS



"He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him... But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God."
— John 1:10, 12

Come to know Jesus this year, through the Christmas services and activities at Grace Church.

You will be warmly welcomed!

**Friday, December 21st, 7:00 PM
Christmas Caroling in the Grace Church neighborhood**

**Sunday, December 23rd, 10:00 AM
The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Sunday, December 23rd, 5:00 PM
"Blue Christmas" Service**

**Monday, December 24th, 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, the "Christ-Mass," with Children's Pageant**

**Tuesday, December 25th, 10:00 AM
Christmas Day Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

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Merry Christmas



Photo by Ron Turner © 2004

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Concerned about Retirement?

Do you sometimes wonder whether you'll be able to afford retirement? It's a common concern among workers, especially members of the baby-boom generation. The oldest of the boomers will be 62 in just a few months—in January 2008. But even the most anxious individuals in this group should be able to relieve at least some concerns about retirement income by understanding just how much money is needed, and then planning a way to reach that goal.

Most financial advisors say that you will need at least 70 to 80 percent of your pre-retirement income to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Other advisors say that you may need an even higher percentage of pre-retirement income. So where will it come from?

The truth is that today Social Security is the largest source of income for most older Americans. For the average wage-earner, Social Security will replace about 40 percent of pre-retirement earnings. But Social Security was never intended to be your only source of income when you retire, and to reach the 70 to 80 percent replacement income goal, you also will need other savings, investments or pension income, or part-time work.

As Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, has noted, "Saving and investing wisely are important not only for you and your family, but for the entire country. If you want to learn more about how and why to save, you should visit www.mymoney.gov, a federal government Web site dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics of financial management."

The topics discussed at this Web site include paying for an education, starting a small business and, of course, retirement planning.

The retirement planning link takes you to more than a dozen other links with valuable financial information. There is, for example, "A Special Guide for Seniors and Families" from the FDIC; "Top 10 Ways To Prepare For Retirement" from the Department of Labor; "Tax Information for Retirement Plan Participants" from the IRS; and several links to Social Security sites, including Social Security retirement benefit calculators, special guides for women and retirement planners.

If you are concerned about being able to afford retirement, just remember that knowledge is power. Get valuable information from Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov, or from the federal web site for financial literacy at www.mymoney.gov.

SSA and SSI: What's the Difference?

These are questions we often receive, in a variety of ways. "What's the difference between SSA and SSI?" Or "Are Social Security and Supplemental Security Income the same thing?"

The short answer is no, they're not. Here's the long answer. The Social Security Administration (SSA) is the government agency that administers both Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. But the two programs are not the same, and the funds come from different places.

Social Security comes in three varieties: retirement benefits, disability benefits and survivors' benefits. SSI comes in two: disability and aged benefits.

Social Security benefits are funded through the Social Security trust funds; your Social Security payroll or FICA taxes are earmarked for Social Security benefits. SSI is funded through general tax revenue.

Social Security is a social insurance program based on contributions. In order to collect benefits, you must have paid into the system and become insured. Most people need about 40 credits, or 10 years of work, to qualify. SSI is a needs-based program that pays benefits to people with limited income and resources who are either disabled or age 65 or older.

When you get Social Security, what you own, including bank accounts, property, and investments, does not affect your benefits. Since SSI is needs-based, your resources do count when you receive SSI benefits.

Social Security was established by the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. SSI was created by the amendments of 1972.

One thing that is the same for both Social Security and SSI Benefits is that you can easily sign up for direct deposit of payments—the safe, quick and convenient way to receive your payments on time, every time. SSA and SSI may seem only a letter apart, but there's a world of difference between the two programs.

To learn more, visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov. You can also call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).



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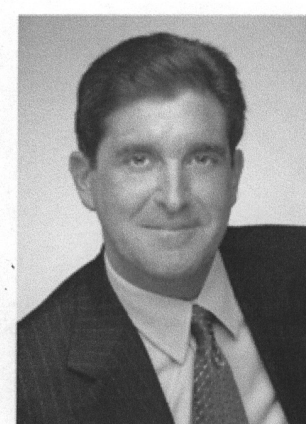
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One for the Book

If you can't find a film to watch, you can always open a good book (or rent a film about the people who write them).

Julia (1977) is the story of playwright Lillian Hellman (Jane Fonda) and her recollection of Julia, a childhood friend (Vanessa Redgrave). The film recounts the story of their friendship and Lillian's attempts to help freedom-fighter Julia during the 1930s in Hitler's Germany. An excellent subplot is Lillian's relationship with writer Dashiell Hammett, her lover, muse and devastating critic.

Action-adventure film **Romancing the Stone** (1984) stars Kathleen Turner as Joan Wilder, a hugely successful romance novelist. When she journeys to South America to save her sister's life, she changes from a sheltered spinster into a beautiful sexy woman, with the help of adventurer Jack Colton (Michael Douglas). As they search for buried treasure, they continuously cross paths with Ralph, a bumbling con man (Danny DeVito).

An atypical author film is the sizzling **Basic Instinct** (1992). It stars the sexy Sharon Stone as Catherine Tramell, the prime suspect in an ice-pick murder investigation. She is writing a book that coincidentally seems to be about Detective Nick Curran (Michael Douglas), the cop who is investigating her. The supporting cast includes George Dzundza as Gus, Nick's partner, and Jeanne Tripplehorn as Dr. Beth Garner, Nick's psychologist and sometime lover.

A delightful quirky comedy is **Mother** (1996), which stars Albert Brooks as John Henderson, a writer of science fiction novels who is suffering from an acute case of writer's block. He decides to move in with his mother (Debbie Reynolds), to figure out, once and for all, what is behind his inability to maintain a committed relationship with a woman.

Finding Forrester (2000) is the story of a one-hit wonder and stars Sean Connery as William Forrester (Sean Connery), a reclusive writer who becomes a hermit in the building projects of the South Bronx after his novel wins the Pulitzer Prize. He befriends a black teenager, Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown), who is brilliant but has been an underachiever in high school. When Jamal is accepted into an elite private high

school because of his prowess in basketball, he is befriended by the headmaster's daughter (Anna Paquin). Unfortunately, he crosses paths with Professor Crawford, a rival of Forrester's and an unsuccessful writer who has become a pompous teacher. How Forrester the old man and Jamal the teenager learn from each other is inspiring, especially when it comes to the concepts of integrity and loyalty, commodities not often found in the cinema these days.

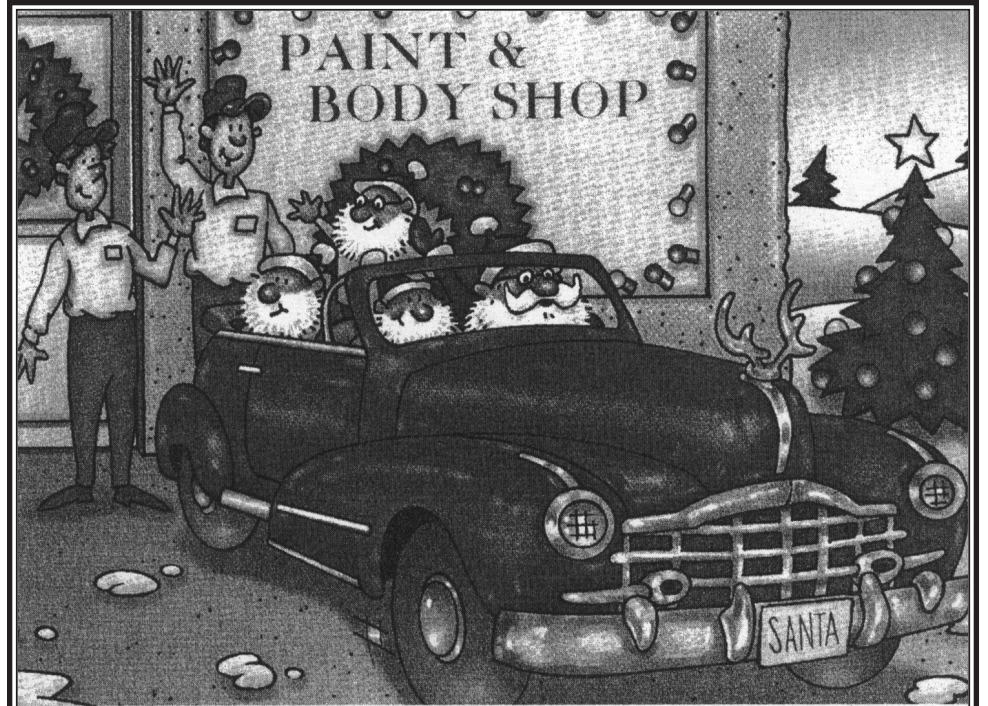
The Hours (2002) is a film that tells three dramatic stories in one. It is about the famous author Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman), who is writing "Mrs. Dalloway" in 1923 England; pregnant housewife Laura Brown (Julianne Moore), who is reading that book in 1951 Los Angeles; and 2001 New York City book editor Clarissa Vaughan (Meryl Streep), who has been given the nickname Clarissa (after the Mrs. Dalloway character) by her dying poet friend, Richard (Ed Harris). This is a unique melding of the timelessness of literature that places the author, her fictional alter ego and two present-day readers on the same astral plain.

Down with Love (2003) pays homage to the Doris Day-Rock Hudson films. It stars Renée Zellweger as Barbara Novak, who has written a book that shares the same title as the film. She is pursued by lady's man and magazine writer Catcher Block (Ewan McGregor), who is encouraged by his editor, Peter McMannus (David Hyde Pierce). The sets and period clothing are the real stars of this zany film.

Two films were released a year apart about the life of Truman Capote, writer of the best-selling true crime book *In Cold Blood*. The first film, **Capote** (2005), stars Philip Seymour Hoffman in his Oscar-winning title role, with Catherine Keener as his friend Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I found the second film, **Infamous** (2006), which stars Toby Jones and Sandra Bullock, as the superior rendition. The second film also includes Daniel Craig (who went on to play an excellent James Bond) as murderer Perry Smith in a portrayal that differs greatly from that of Clifton Collins Jr. in the earlier version.

A surprisingly clever and delightful film is the recent **Stranger than Fiction** (2006). When IRS auditor Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) starts hearing a voice in his head, it eventually becomes clear that his mind is somehow channeling the efforts of writer Karen Eiffel (Emma Thompson), who is about to kill off a character resembling Harold. The supporting cast includes Queen Latifah, as someone who has been assigned by the publisher to help Karen through writer's block, and Maggie Gyllenhaal as a baker with whom Harold has become infatuated.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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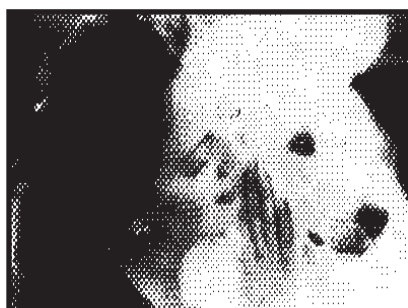
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Amazing Grace

Continued from page 3

ing in the footsteps of beloved former warden Joe Nixon, the new senior warden, Dr. Birgitte Bendixen, established the Chrysalis Fund, and week after week she stood up at announcements during worship or at coffee hour, beseeching people to consider contributing to the future of the parish by contributing to the future of the rectory.

She and the Grace vestry then reached out to the wider City Island community with fund-raising literature that explained: "Before it becomes a butterfly, a caterpillar goes through a growth stage during which it is called a 'chrysalis.' On the surface it may not look like much is happening, but during the chrysalis period the caterpillar slowly transforms into a beautiful and majestic butterfly. For Christians, this process symbolizes the hope of resurrection and new life promised by Jesus. Here at Grace Church, we have experienced ongoing resurrection and new life over the past few years, having transformed gradually from a handful of parishioners into a once more vibrant place of worship and Christian love. Now it is time for our rectory to undergo its own metamorphosis."

Among the very first institutions to donate to the Chrysalis Fund was another parish in the Diocese of New York. Grace Church was founded in 1849 by Adele Bolton, a daughter of the Reverend Robert Bolton, who had founded Christ Church in Pelham just a few years earlier. The story goes that Adele used to row her boat across the water from Pelham, in the days before the first City Island bridge was built, to teach Sunday school at Grace. The relationship between these two parishes has been strong for much of the past 150+ years, but particularly so over the past three years.

Mother Patty welcomed the representatives from Christ Church, including Father Randy Alexander; Father George Rogers and his wife, Dr. Yun Lee Too; senior warden Adolph Orlando; junior warden David Ballard and his wife, Debra.

As generous donations from City Island residents, businesses and organizations (delete including the City Island Theater Group) began coming in, Grace selected a contractor, Georg Grap of United Homesteads in New Rochelle to lead the renovation. "I first showed Georg the rectory just before Christmas of last year, and from the very beginning—even when the house looked its very worst, Georg walked in and said 'Wow! This place has potential.' With the eye of an artist committed to historic preservation, Georg looked through the years of neglect and decay and saw an ugly duckling just waiting to be transformed into a lovely, graceful swan," she told the audience. She thanked him for being willing to work within the constraints of the limited budget.

Mr. Grap and his crew completed an enormous amount of interior and exterior work in four months, including all new electrical wiring and plumbing; a new kitchen and a new bathroom; restoration of the front

door and the front porch; repair of the roof, chimney, ceilings and interior walls; and painting and refinishing all walls and floors.

As the rectory repairs neared completion, the Grace leadership discussed what to do next. Based on discussions with Bedell, they decided not to rent the rectory on the open market but rather to rent the house to a priest or seminarian who could support and expand the ministry here.

In late August, Mother Patty put out an e-mail on the Diocesan priests listserv advertising the rectory and explaining what they hoped might happen. Within a couple of hours, she got an excited, if tentative, message from the Reverend Canon Storm Swain, who expressed interest in seeing the house along with her husband, the Reverend Stephen Harding, and their son, Theo.

The rest is history! The clergy couple and their son moved to City Island from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan, where Reverend Swain had been Canon Pastor for the last five years. She is now writing a doctoral dissertation, teaching at the Healthcare Chaplaincy and continuing her work as a psychotherapist.

Storm Swain, a New Zealander, came to New York in 2000 to study at the Blanton Peale Graduate Institute of Religion and Health and to enter the Ph.D. program at Union Theological Seminary. Having grown up in two harbor cities, she is delighted to be living again near the water. She was especially amused by the history of America's Cup boat-building on the island, given the past rivalry between New Zealand and the United States over the cup.

Her husband, Stephen Harding, serves as a chaplain for New York University Medical Center and the New York City Fire Department.

Both Reverends Swain and Harding noted their immense gratitude to the Grace Church community for their welcome and for the amount of care and hospitality they have received since being here. They feel that the rectory, the church and City Island will be a wonderful home for their family and are looking forward to being part of the community.

Mother Patty then acknowledged the important support from one special person. "I said at the outset that Grace might have closed were it not for the faith, love and dedication of a handful of believers with attitude. I want to take this opportunity to thank my mentor and bishop, the Right Reverend Cathy Roskam. You were fiercely determined to keeping the doors opened during a particularly lean time, and you went so far as to serve as de facto interim rector for several weeks during the summer of 2004. You have supported me and us from the very first, and we are deeply indebted to you, as well as to your colleagues in the Diocese of New York."

Mother Patty then unveiled two placards listing more than 125 benefactors who contributed to the rectory renovation, and she welcomed everyone to stop by and read through the names.

She ended on a high note; "You may have noticed as you came in tonight the rather pitiful state of the roof on the church itself. Yet another visible icon to the City Island community, the roof has screamed out 'repair me!' for far too long. It is my great privilege tonight to announce that, thanks again in large part to the generosity of the Dio-

cese of New York and Christ Church, Pelham, the church roof will be replaced, beginning in the next week or so! We are particularly indebted to Joe and Miriam Nixon for spearheading the lengthy roof bid process."

And so, according to the vicar and parishioners of Grace Church, the love story continues.



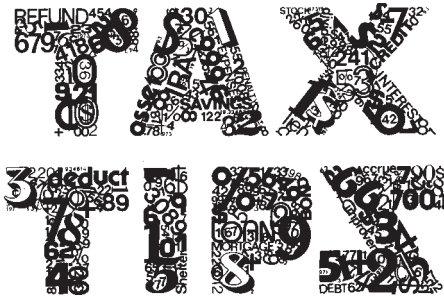
Joining the clergy at the rectory dedication were representatives from the City Island Theater Group (top photo). Helping to cut the "Bless This House" cake was the contractor, Georg Grap of United Homesteads (photo above). Members of Grace's Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Vestry are shown on the porch of the rectory in September awaiting the arrival of the new tenants, Reverend Canon Storm Swain, her husband, the Reverend Stephen Harding, and their son, Theo (photo below). A large crowd gathered for the rectory blessing in the church hall (bottom photo).



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

2008 Tax News

The following information about changes for 2008 are drawn from an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Web site, and I hope you can use the information effectively. Always check with your tax advisor, however, before implementing any new tax strategy.

Personal exemptions and standard deductions will rise in 2008, tax brackets will widen and workers will be able to save more for retirement, thanks to inflation adjustments recently announced by the IRS.

By law, the dollar amounts for a variety of tax provisions must be revised each year to keep pace with inflation. As a result, more than three dozen tax benefits, which affect virtually every taxpayer, are being adjusted for the New Year. Significant changes that affect 2008 returns, which are filed by most taxpayers in early 2009, include the following:

- The value of each personal and dependency exemption, available to most taxpayers, is \$3,500, up \$100 from 2007.

- The new standard deduction is \$10,900 for married couples filing a joint return (up \$200), \$5,450 for singles and married individuals filing separately (up \$100) and \$8,000 for heads of household (up \$150). Nearly two out of three taxpayers take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing deductions, such as mortgage interest, charitable contributions and state and local taxes.

- Tax-bracket thresholds increase for each filing status. For a married couple filing a joint return, for example, the taxable-income threshold separating the 15 percent bracket from the 25 percent

bracket is \$65,100, up from \$63,700 in 2007.

- The maximum earned income tax credit for low and moderate income workers and working families with two or more children is \$4,824, up from \$4,716. The income limit for the credit for joint return filers with two or more children is \$41,646, up from \$39,783.

- The maximum Hope credit, available for the first two years of post-secondary education, is \$1,800, up from \$1,650 in 2007.

- The income limit for the savers credit is \$53,000 for joint filers (up \$1,000), \$39,750 for heads of household (up \$750) and \$26,500 for singles and married persons filing separately (up \$500). Low- and moderate-income workers who contribute to a retirement plan, such as an IRA or 401(k), may qualify for the credit, which is available in addition to any other tax savings that apply.

- The contribution amount allowed for Roth IRAs begins to phase out for joint filers with incomes exceeding \$159,000 (up from \$156,000) and \$101,000 (up from \$99,000) for singles and heads of household.

- For contributions to a traditional IRA, the deduction phase-out range for an individual covered by a retirement plan at work begins at income of \$85,000 for joint filers (up from \$83,000) and \$53,000 for a single person or head of household (up from \$52,000).

- Participants in most employer-sponsored 401(k) plans and 403(b) plans for employees of public schools and certain tax-exempt organizations can contribute up to \$15,500, unchanged from 2007. Individuals age 50 or over can make an additional contribution of up to \$5,000, also unchanged from 2007.

- Individuals participating in SIMPLE retirement plans can contribute \$10,500, unchanged from 2007. Those who are age 50 or over can make an additional contribution of up to \$2,500, also unchanged from 2007.

- The annual contribution limit for most defined contribution plans rises to \$46,000, up from \$45,000 in 2007.

Obituaries

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

Elizabeth Gilbert

Longtime Island resident Elizabeth Gilbert passed away on Aug. 12, 2007, at the age of 86.

Born in New York City in 1920, Liz moved to City Island at the age of 18 and worked as a live-in nanny for a family with two children. It was here that she met clam digger Abe Gilbert, who became her husband. They were married for 61 years until Abe's death in 2001.

Liz and Abe raised three boys, and in the mid-1960s she went back to work at the Ratsey & Laphorn sail loft. After Ratsey's closed down, she worked at the Hild sail loft until she retired. She was a longtime member of AARP.

Liz is survived by her sons, Robert and Gordon Gilbert of City Island and Ernest Gilbert of Peekskill; her sisters, Agnes Burbank of Springdale, Connecticut, and Selma Vassilaros of Smithtown, New York; two grandchildren, two great grandchildren and Suzie, the dog.

Eileen Suppes

Eileen Catherine MacCready Suppes, who was born and raised on City Island, died on Sept. 26, 2007.

Eileen was born Oct. 7, 1922, in a house on Hunter Avenue to Sarah Byrne and Edward J. MacCready, who were both of Irish descent. They raised five children,

Charles, Margaret Elms, Edna, Eileen Suppes and Corinn Fox Johnson.

Eileen attended P.S.17 on City Island and Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, after which she completed a secretarial course. She worked at the publisher Holt, Rinehart and Winston in Manhattan, where she met Michael J. Suppes, who had returned from serving in World War II.

Eileen and Michael were married on Sept. 9, 1950; they lived for a while in Queens and then returned to City Island in 1952. Their daughter, Corinne Louise, was born there in 1955 and grew up on City Island. She eventually married Jeffrey Bird and they made their home in Hamilton, Massachusetts. A year after Mike's death in 1982 Eileen moved to Hamilton to be near her daughter.

Much of Eileen's life, outside the love and devotion she lavished on her family, was spent in the service of others. She was a Girl Scout leader in the Bronx for 10 years. She also volunteered in the libraries at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Cardinal Spellman High School. After moving to Massachusetts, she worked in the Port O'Call consignment shop in Gloucester for the benefit of unwed mothers and at the Visitors Information Center. She also served as president of the Friends of the Library of Hamilton.

She is survived by her daughter and son in law, and three grandchildren, as well as her sister, Edna, of Bronxville; four nieces and nephews; and four great nieces and nephews.

Her family is devastated at the loss of this loving, cheerful, giving, bright light of a soul.

*Peace and Joy
to our old friends
and new
neighbors!
Jackie and Bob*

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

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

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

DECEMBER 2007

Table of tide data for December 2007, listing days, times, and heights for high and low water.

JANUARY 2008

Table of tide data for January 2008, listing days, times, and heights for high and low water.



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

A 1925 Land Auction on City Island

We recently obtained a 1925 real estate brochure for an auction involving land on both City Island and High Island owned and promoted by a firm called City Island Homes...

The auctioneer, Joseph P. Day, was involved in many of the larger real estate transactions on City Island in the early part of the 20th century. He had this to say about Rodman Park: "It is but newly opened and has all the conveniences for...

all-year living. New sidewalks, a sewer and Croton water have just been installed." Sound familiar?

Over on High Island, the land was owned by the Minnieford Realty Corporation, which reminds us that to keep their employees happy and housed, City Island shipyard owners occasionally acquired local properties. And while we cannot be sure that High Island was ever set aside for this purpose, we do know of one other Island property that was—the property at the end of west Rochelle Street...

We can be certain, however, about what became of High Island after the auction. Bungalows were erected and let for the summer. Many long-time City Island families had their first taste of Island living in this way...

Auction advertisement for 170 Business and Residential Lots in Rodman Park, City Island, New York City, on High Island, scheduled for Saturday August 1, 1925. Includes contact information for 67 Liberty Street, New York City.

As always, if you have something to share on these subjects or any other, you can do so at jdsstrat@msn.com. Or write to The Island Current care of "Sights and Sounds." Happy Holidays!

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A Perfect Holiday

Continued from page 7

land Avenue), which also offers a wide variety of pedicure possibilities.

And if you're too busy to cook, order some fabulous takeout. Try something from Chef Rafael of **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue), or the chefs at **Filomena Pizza and Pasta** (286 City Island Avenue). A pizza with meatballs sounds just about right for a night after shopping. Or maybe you want to chill with Crabby at **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue). Any fish fried is a winner here!

Whistle while you work! If you need new music to whistle to while you labor and listen to your MP3 player, then look no further than the **Starving Artist Café and Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue). City Island's own coffeehouse offers you selections from the more than 50 musical artists who have taken the stage here, including CDs of original music by owner / singer-songwriter Elliott Glick. Glick's new handmade jewelry creations will join the fine art unveiled at the gallery's Holiday Group Art Show at the end of November. All will make great gifts, as will guitar lessons with Glick. The annual Starving Artist Holiday Party will take place on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 3 p.m., and feature the awesome talent of singer-songwriter Theresa Sareo, performing originals as well as holiday favorites. Check out the rest of the music schedule for December at the newly

redesigned Web site, www.starvingartistonline.com. There are details there as well on what's happening here for New Year's Eve, which includes a performance by the "jazz man," the legendary Lou Volpe!



Starving Artist Café and Gallery

Perhaps you want to take your tunes on the road. Then let Dianne and John from **O'Sullivan's Travel** (travelo@aol.com) organize your holiday get-away.

And if you want to whistle after work (or shopping), then grab a beer or other beverage at the **Breakers** (247 City Island Avenue) or at **Fella's Bar** (522 City Island Avenue). There's also a pool table in each spot, to put some more fun in your holiday season.

Watch your form. With every credit / debit card swipe or cash exchange, the cost of the holidays becomes a reality. Let City Island CPA **Carmine DeDonato** (284 City

Island Avenue) help you keep track of expenses and get you ready for tax season and all its many forms.

Maybe the form you'll find pleasing will be in a pottery creation by Toby Z. Liederman featured at her studio **Ceramics and More** (30 Pilot Street). Or try putting together a gift basket or two from **Arabica Coffee & Gift Baskets** (90 City Island Avenue).

Learn proper diving form at **Capt. Mike's Diving** (530 City Island Avenue), and find the perfect cigar form at **Hispaniola Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue).

For food in an Italian form, City Island offers a prize-winning selection. Visit the old Roman soldier, whose own personal form is looking pretty buff, by the way, and you'll find yourself at **The Tree House** (273 City Island Avenue), where you can treat yourself to some Mediterranean ravioli or chicken "Tree House." Check out the dessert and cappuccino spot of this eatery, right across the street from its northern Mediterranean restaurant.

There are sumptuous food selections as well at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue), which Zagat Restaurant Guide noted was known for its "surprisingly good seafood and old-fashioned service" and said it had "romantic appeal." Down the other end of the island, there's the **Lido Restaurant** (101 City Island Avenue), where the salad is a meal in itself and the gnocchi are amazing!

If it's the spicy staples of the islands that form the stuff of your food dreams, then stop by **Gabrielle's Fine Caribbean & Seafood**

Restaurant & Bar (435 City Island Avenue).

Imagine (or invent) the possibilities. Close your eyes and create the sweetest holiday season! No doubt it would include such tempting treats as traditional Christmas stollen, as well as yule log cake, all baked just for you by Irina at **Sugar & Spice** (536 City Island Avenue).

And if it's the full package of food your mind is thinking of, then **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) is the answer for this year's holidays. Maybe you'll find yourself at "dinner-and-a-movie" Tuesday or Sunday brunch. Or maybe it's just a nice feel-good meal after a long day of work or holiday preparation. Try the signature crab cakes, served with roasted red pepper sauce and basil mayonnaise. And, for those really needing to fill up, the Whale has invented the Moby Platter soup or salad, sirloin with four jumbo shrimp, mashed potatoes or rice, the chef's vegetables, apple crisp or "baby whale" sundae, and coffee or tea. Now that's a meal fit for a king or queen! Consider having your holiday party here, or maybe be part of the Whale's New Year's Eve celebration. A gift certificate is always a "yummy" possibility for some or several on your shopping list.



The Black Whale

Maybe you can imagine a look at the future with a visit to the **Palm & Tarot Card Reading Salon** (464 City Island Avenue), a new addition to our Island home.

Celebrate a job well done! When the gifts are all bought and carefully wrapped, and the trees are all trimmed and the menorahs are all lighted, then sit back and say, "Well done!" Stop by **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue) and ask Sara for the perfect celebration suggestion. And remember that Connie's is open on Christmas and New Year's Days for those last minute needs. Get some more stuff to create a feast at the **IGA City Island Market** (385 City Island Avenue), including catering packages for home and office parties, and a vast selection of breads, cheeses and homemade mozzarella, or at **Moe's Grocery & Deli** (234 City Island Avenue).

Toast yourself with the right bubbly or other spirit from **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue). Pair up wines with fresh fruits and vegetables from **Island Produce** (292 City Island Avenue) and then rent a DVD or find some 99-cent stocking stuffers at **JT's Island Event** (294 City Island Avenue).

And during the holiday season, remember all the breaks you took in the summer at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue), and send good thoughts to Skippy as he continues to get well. See you in the spring once again!

In the end, with a big help from the businesses of our fair Island home, you'll have built the perfect holiday season before the greeting has even sounded to welcome 2008!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AND TREE LIGHTING

The Ruggiero family invites you to join in a ceremony of remembrance and commemoration.

A holiday tree will be decorated and lit by family members of those who have died, in tribute to the life, death and spirit of their loved ones.

You are welcome to bring a homemade and personalized ornament to decorate the tree as part of the memorialization.

These events will take place in an outdoor canopy regardless of weather conditions so dress appropriately. Warming refreshments will be served. **A.S.A.P. by December 1, 2007.** Please call (1-888) 375-1400 (Yonkers) or (1-888) 825-1800 (Bronx).



Sunday, December 9, 2007

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

F. Ruggiero & Sons, Inc. Funeral Home
732 Yonkers Avenue - Yonkers, NY 10704
(one block west of Yonkers Raceway)



Sunday, December 9, 2007

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

F. Ruggiero & Sons, Inc. Funeral Home
726 Morris Park Avenue - Bronx, NY 10462





Your City Island Chamber of Commerce wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Holiday Season.

SHOP UNTIL LATE!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS!

Menorah Lighting
Hawkins Street Park
Tuesday, December 4th, 6PM

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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

FINE ART PORTRAITS: Studio on City Island. More than 30 years of photographic experience. Call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403.

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HELP WANTED: Sail/Canvas loft has opening for experienced seamstress. Please contact us for more information at 718 885-2255.

NOT JUST SMALL JOBS: Carpentry-Remodeling-Repairs. Doors, windows, furniture repair, painting, locks, etc. Michael 718-885-1580.

PIANO LESSONS: Lifetime experience teaching children and adults. My home on a Steinway Grand Piano. Flexible hours. Call Diana 718-885-2091.

CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Mugs, sailboats, life rings, teddy bears & post cards. Exotiq 718-885-3090.

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THERE'S A COMPUTER GURU right in your neighborhood. City Island resident with over 25 years of computer experience can repair any software or hardware problem. Instruction available for all new PC owners. I even make house calls. References available. Call "Joe, the Computer Guy" 718-885-9366.

I BUY OLD BOOKS and some not so old. Call John for appointment. 718-885-1822. Appraisals and search service available.

DIAMOND IMPREGNATION: Diamond impregnation is an excellent method of restoring and correcting a nominal charge for maximum wear and tear. Each generator corrected for proper taper and finish.

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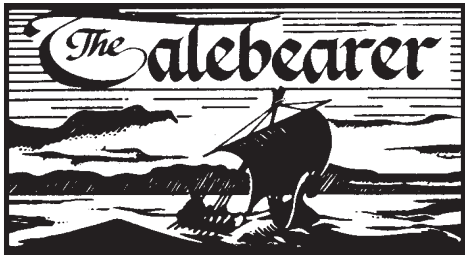


The officers and members of
The American Legion, Post 156
salute all those serving in the military.

We have a special place in our hearts for the following City Islanders and their family members who are on active duty during the holidays:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| SSgt Matthew F. Mc Cue | Cory Mayer |
| Cmdr. Andrew Mc Cue | William Lindsay, CBM |
| Seaman Danielle Penny | Major Kerry Murphy |
| Major Michael Clancy | Robert Swieciki |
| Major Hailey Clancy | Ensign Ethan Heben |
| Lt Christopher Muller | Masr. Richard J. Ferris |
| LTC Patrick Eberhart | Kimson It |
| Lt Edmund Ganal | Seaman Robert Booth |
| Lt Claire Ganal | Mary E. Sadler |
| P.O. Anthony Seiter | Sgt. Charles Brill |
| CPO Peter J. Howard | Rachel Smith |
| LTC. Benjamin Gorczynski | Maj. Barton Buchanan |
| Seaman Michael Weyhrauch | |

If you would like to write to any of these active duty personnel, contact Commander Dave Carman, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464.



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

Congratulations to proud parents Peter and Debra Chawick of Fordham Street who welcomed new addition Violet June to their family on Nov. 14, 2007. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Happy 50th birthday on Nov. 15 to Rosette Dietz from your family and friends.

Keep up the good work to P.S. 175 kindergartner Madison Viera, who cut and donated 11 inches of her hair to the charity "Locks of Love." Shortly thereafter, Madison participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk at Orchard Beach. Way to go, Madison!

Grandpa Elliot and Grandma Monica Glick welcomed granddaughter Audrey Evangelique Theresa on Halloween in Albany, New York, where daughter Arielle lives. The baby girl joins grandsons Skylar (Audrey's big brother) and Jaiden, who lives on City Island. Besides the proud parents and grandparents, no one is more ecstatic than "Aunt Hannah"!

Congratulations to Hawkins Street's Kelly Carmody on receiving the All League (2007) Award for Lower Hudson/Putnam as a junior while playing for the Ursuline School in New Rochelle. Kelly was third in her league batting .618 and 12th in overall games batting .516.

Welcome to Daniel Pierce Carter, who was born on Nov. 8 to Lauren and Eric Carter of Norwalk, Connecticut. Proud grandparents are Jane and Peter La Scala

Happy Dec. 4 birthday greetings to Geri Seiter, with best wishes from your family and friends.

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year across the world to Richard Ferris, who is stationed in Japan aboard the *Kitty Hawk*. We will miss you over the holidays and want to wish you a belated happy 20th birthday on Nov. 4. We love you very much! Mom, Dad, your family and all your City Island friends.

Wishing all of our neighbors, friends and readers a happy, healthy and safe holiday. See you in '08!

Maria Swieciki



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Vincent Panzarino
 Manager

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NO PARADE? NO PROBLEM!



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MARIA PANZA
 The Halloween spirits were out and about despite the cancellation of the annual parade by the 45th Precinct. Costumed Islanders attended the Haunted House at the City Island Community Center and gathered in front of the decorated Carman house on King Avenue. Even Luigi the dog put on his pirate costume and went trick or treating.



Residents of Pilot Cove pause at their Halloween party to pose for the camera. Flo Bonicoro (seated, far right) won first prize as a hospital patient and Louise Mangine (not shown) won second prize as Minnie Mouse.

Best wishes for the Holidays

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