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One Dollar

Mayor Bloomberg Presents Final Bridge Proposal

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RENA HANSEN and courtesy of SENATOR GUY VELELLA

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg came to City Island on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003, to present the city's plans for a new bridge to replace the current 102-year old bridge. He strolled with residents and Civic Association officers, including Jane Protzman (bottom photo), along the Catherine Scott Promenade, and presented drawings for the bridge that the Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to construct. Mr. Bloomberg (left) is shown above with (l. to r.) Islanders Virginia Gallagher, Barbara Burn Dolensek, and Frank Fitts, and State Senator Guy Vellella.



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg visited City Island at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003, to present the city's plans for a new bridge to replace the 102 year-old bridge connecting the Island to the mainland. As he strolled with residents along the Catherine Scott Promenade, the Mayor showed drawings for the bridge that the Department of Transportation (DOT) intends to construct—a cable-stayed bridge with two slender 150-foot towers to be built in Pelham Bay Park. The new bridge will carry one lane of traffic in each direction and one emergency lane in the center, plus pathways for bicycles and pedestrians.

"City Island deserves a bridge as unique as the island itself," said Mayor Bloomberg. "The plans for the new structure are truly striking, and while I understand the sentimental value that the old bridge has for some members of this community, it was over 100 years old and in need of repair."

This bridge will be built on the same footprint as the existing bridge. A temporary vehicular bridge will be built west of the old bridge to provide access to and from City Island during the construction period. Preliminary design on the new bridge began in August, and the final design is expected in August 2004. Construction will begin as soon as possible thereafter. DOT estimates the capital construction costs to be \$32 million.

During his visit to City Island, which included lunch at Johnny's Reef, the Mayor spoke with a few residents and heard their reasons for resisting a modern

bridge design. He listened carefully and referred them to the first deputy commissioner of DOT, Judith Bergtraum, who will be working with the community during the design and construction process.

The City Island Civic Association and other Island groups have expressed deep concern at the loss of the present bridge, which for many is a symbol of City Island and its nautical heritage. Its image has appeared in numerous films made on City Island, and the graceful structure has also been designated eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

A bridge committee was formed by the Civic Association to review the various issues involved in saving the bridge, such as obtaining landmark status (which the City Landmarks Commission refused to grant) and gathering support from various historic preservation organizations.

Members of the committee studied the Bridge Reconstruction Project Report (BRPR) prepared for DOT by Gandhi Engineering and obtained by the Civic Association in May 2003. The report makes it clear that the bridge is in poor condition and that rehabilitation is not a practical solution for reasons of cost and future maintenance issues. Nor is a replica bridge considered feasible, as DOT Chief Bridge Officer Henry Perahia explained in a letter to the committee: "It

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Drawing courtesy City of New York

The new design for a cable-stayed bridge to replace the existing City Island Bridge, presented by Mayor Bloomberg to Islanders on Aug. 20, 2003.

City Island in the Dark

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by MARK NANI

City Islanders were among the millions affected by the blackout on Aug. 14, 2003. Police directed traffic at the Fordham Street corner (above) after all the traffic lights on City Island Avenue went out. Parts of the Island regained power on Thursday evening, but most residents waited until Friday afternoon, Aug. 15, before the lights came back on.

At 4:11 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, all of City Island lost its electrical power, along with much of the northeastern United States, in the most severe blackout yet experienced in this country. Air conditioners and fans stopped working, computers went blank, cordless telephones were silent and, within minutes, most cell phones were useless because of heavy demand on the transmitters.

Those who had access to portable and automobile radios heard officials reassuring the public that the blackout was not the result of terrorist activity and that the power would return shortly. No one knew what had caused it, although everyone wanted to blame somebody, especially as the hours without power grew longer and the sky darkened as the sun set.

The heat and humidity remained uncomfortably high through the evening, and it did not help that the usual onshore breezes never materialized, as if their energy too had been affected by the lack of electric power.

At about 8:30 p.m. lights came back to parts of the Island and to the waterfront areas across Eastchester Bay, although Coop City remained dark and most of City Island remained without power until late Friday afternoon. Residents complained about the delay, wondering why some parts of the Island were left in the dark while others had returned to normal.

According to Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, "Power was restored according to who is on what grid supplying power to the Island. There are four grids for the Island, and the arrangement is very complicated. The electricity at my own house went back on at 8:30 p.m., but it didn't come on across the street until sometime early Friday morning. It all has to do with balancing power, and Con Edison is not to blame."

"Last summer the problems were caused by the failure of Con Ed equipment," Mr. Fitts explained to *The Current*.

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

LEHMAN COLLEGE CHORUSES are accepting new members for the fall semester. The first rehearsal for the Lehman College Chorus, which meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m., will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 3. The Lehman College Community Chorus, which meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m., will also begin rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Both choruses rehearse in Room 330 of the Music Building on the Lehman College campus at Bedford Park Boulevard West and Goulden Avenue in the northwest Bronx. Community members may join either chorus. There is no course fee required to participate unless college credit is desired. Previous choral experience and note-reading ability are recommended. Both choruses will prepare Handel's Messiah, Part I, along with shorter multicultural works, for a joint concert with the Lehman Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Lehman Concert Hall. For more information, call the choral director at 718-960-8457.

CHORAL SINGING COMES TO CITY ISLAND: If you like to sing in the shower or along with your favorite radio station, join one of the two new choral groups being formed under the direction of Diana Reichstetter, an experienced choral director and voice teacher. The City Island Youth Chorale is for young people in grades 4 through 8, and the City Island Festival Chorus is for high school students and adults. Previous experience and the ability to read music are not required. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, Sept. 15, 16 or 17, at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Just bring your voice, no music necessary! For additional information, call Diana at 718-885-2091.

CUT-A-THON! Get your back-to-school haircut. Manicures, braids and beads, face painting, 10-minute massage, reflexology, plus coffee, bake sale and raffles! Sunday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. To volunteer or make a donation, call Brenda at 718-885-9040.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR: Temple Beth-El will hold an Arts and Crafts Fair on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003, rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The temple is located at 480 City Island Avenue.

Mother and Baby Are Victims of Hit-and-Run Driver

By KAREN NANI



Photo by FRANK THOMPSON

A hit-and-run accident occurred on Aug. 3, 2003, at the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue. The van of Islander Nicole Montoya-Katz is shown in the above photo after it was struck by the Toyota coupe in the foreground. The driver of the Toyota fled the scene on foot.

Tier Street resident Nicole Montoya-Katz and her newborn daughter were involved in a hit-and-run accident on Sunday, Aug. 3, 2003, on City Island Avenue. Her Honda minivan was struck by a Toyota two-door coupe, and the driver fled the scene on foot, leaving behind an injured passenger.

The accident occurred around 3 p.m. when Ms. Montoya-Katz was making a left turn onto Carroll Street. Her one-month old daughter, Rebecca, was in an infant seat in the back. All Ms. Montoya-Katz remembers is hearing a loud noise and "it was all over," she told *The Current*. She said she never saw the other car coming, but one witness told the police they saw him driving "at a high rate of speed" when he struck the van.

One passerby ran to the scene and rapped on the window of the van. He told her to get out because there was smoke coming from the car. She grabbed her daughter, who was crying hysterically, jumped out of the car and moved to the sidewalk in front of Buddy's Hardware. Luckily, there was no fire, but both cars were badly damaged. The Honda minivan had been hit on the right side of the front bumper and passenger door, while the Toyota's front left side was crumpled.

Several Islanders came to the aid of Ms. Montoya-Katz, who is known to

many residents as the dental hygienist in Dr. Jed Berman's office on City Island Avenue and Pell Place. They waited with her while police and two ambulances were called to the scene.

The driver of the Toyota was nowhere to be found and is listed on the accident report as "unknown, fled scene." Meanwhile, the 18-year-old male passenger was taken to Jacobi Hospital and reportedly spent several days as an inpatient being treated for injuries. The passenger lives in Putnam Valley, New York, according to the police report. The car was towed from the scene.

Ms. Montoya-Katz and Rebecca were also taken to Jacobi and were released later that day. They are reportedly "sore" but otherwise healthy.

The search for the driver is proving difficult. It is a felony to leave the scene of an accident, and detectives from the 45th Precinct are investigating. According to the accident report, the Toyota is registered to a resident of Tuckahoe, New York. When the owner was contacted, he apparently said that he had lent the car to his nephew, who lent it to someone else he didn't know.

The passenger, when questioned by police, reportedly said that he didn't know who the driver was. The passenger has since retained a lawyer, according to Ms. Montoya-Katz. She also told *The Current* that, after the accident, an Islander called her and said he heard that a "young kid, who was bleeding, knocked on another Islander's door on Sunday and asked for a ride to Scarsdale."

Residents have voiced concern about cars speeding up and down City Island Avenue. Some feel that this type of accident was "waiting to happen" with so much traffic on weekends and a frequent disregard for signal lights and speed limits.

Police told *The Current* that when people flee the scene of an accident, it is often because they are driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or because their license has been suspended. At press time, the police had not confirmed the identity of the driver or the reason for his leaving the scene, but anyone with information regarding this specific accident should call Detective Neil Francese at 718-822-5414.

45 BLOTTER

Crime statistics were not available from the 45th precinct at press time. We plan to update the blotter next month.

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Member

EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb
ADVERTISING MANAGERS: Joan Ramftl, Margaret Lenz
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Rena Hansen, Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Cheryl Koller, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Muller, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Liz Montalbano, Alice Rotello, Nancy Lotrionte.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Rena Hansen, Rick DeWitt.

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribaldo, Melissa Koller, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

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EDWARD D. HEBEN

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HEBEN and COMPANY, CPAs, P.C.
120 WAPPANOCCA AVENUE, RYE, NEW YORK 10580-2028

Telephone: (914) 925-1120 * Facsimile: (914) 925-1130
Email: edhcpa@aol.com

Websites: www.HebenOnline.Com and www.MyHdVest.Com/EdHeben

CONTEXTUAL REZONING PROPOSAL MOVES AHEAD

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

On Aug. 13, 2003, the Department of City Planning (DCP) Commissioners listened to testimony from several City Islanders, including Bob Simons (above), who spoke in support of the contextual zoning proposal at a public hearing. The zoning proposal aims to preserve City Island's low-rise/low-density character and maintain the "village" quality of City Island Avenue's shopping district.

After several months in the review process, the contextual rezoning proposal for City Island, prepared by the Department of City Planning (DCP), is finally on its way to becoming a reality.

On Aug. 13, 2003, the DCP Commissioners listened to testimony from several City Islanders and a representative of the Bronx Borough President, who spoke in support of the proposal at a public hearing. The proposal now awaits final approval from DCP and from the City Council which in the final stages of the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP).

The zoning proposal aims to preserve City Island's low-rise/low-density character and maintain the "village" quality of City Island Avenue's shopping district, among other improvements to the historic character of City Island. These recommendations are among the goals delineated in the DCP City Island Maritime Heritage Preservation Summary Report, published in 2001.

Most of the residential areas of City Island are zoned R3-2, the lowest-density zoning district in which attached or semi-detached multiple dwellings are permitted. However, most residential buildings on City Island are detached houses, which are built at much lower size and density than that permitted by the current zoning. Like many other areas in the city, the Island has recently seen the construction

of new, attached, multifamily housing that is inconsistent with the existing residential character.

To ensure that new development is in keeping with the existing context, DCP has proposed rezoning most of the existing R3-2 area on City Island to R3A, which permits only one- and two-family detached houses. A two-block area at the north end of the Island that is characterized by large single-family suburban-style homes would be rezoned to R2.

DCP proposes to strengthen the existing Special City Island District, enacted in 1977, by amending the text in three areas: urban design elements related to residential uses in the proposed R3A and R2 districts and commercial uses along City Island Avenue; landscaping and screening requirements for parking lots containing 10 or more spaces; and provisions for waterfront public access on new residential developments on large lots.

On May 19, 2003, DCP certified the ULURP application for proposed zoning map amendments, which was referred to Community Board 10 for review. Board 10 held a public hearing on June 19, 2003, at which it voted unanimously to approve the application. The Borough President's office held a public hearing on July 3, 2003. The Borough President issued his

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C.I. In The Dark

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"But upgrading was done so that we would not suffer as we did last year. Representatives of Con Ed came to a Civic meeting then and explained that they do not control the supply of power, only its distribution, and that they have to be very careful in restoring power to avoid damage to the system."

Although most Islanders coped well, like the rest of New York City, and took the inconvenience and the loss of business in their stride, there were a few sour notes. The Sunoco station at Ditmars and City Island Avenue suddenly began charging customers \$2.99 a gallon for regular gasoline (\$5 for premium) and limited each customer to \$10 worth, except for those with credit cards, who were charged \$15 for five gallons of gas (marked on the receipts as eight gallons). When Chase Bank was told about the situation, they immediately gave the credit card holder a full credit for the \$15.00 the gas station charged, saying they did not tolerate price gouging. Those who could get off the Island noted that the stations on East Tremont Avenue were charging their

usual \$1.79 for regular gas.

A number of the businesses suffered because they were unlucky enough to be in the grids that did not receive power until late Friday afternoon. Many restaurants were forced to close down altogether. The City Island Market stayed open Thursday evening to sell batteries, ice and water (writing out receipts by hand) but lost all of their frozen food, meat, produce, cheese and cold cuts. Connie's Market closed at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday so that the staff could pack the perishable goods in ice, but their power was back on by about 8:15 p.m. and the market was able to open for business as usual on Friday morning.

The unsettling experience of last year's blackouts caused several Islanders to take precautionary measures. Virginia Gallagher, manager of Pilot Cove Manor, was just getting out of the elevator when the power failed and was thrilled to hear the generator, installed last summer, start up almost immediately. And Seafood City invested in a generator very quickly after the power failed and was able to offer air conditioning along with seafood to its grateful customers.

MISSING N.J. WOMAN FOUND ON CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI

Have you seen this missing person?



71 year old widowed mother

Missing Since:

Sunday, Aug 10, noon

Please Call

**Detective Dave Armstrong
or Detective Bill Burns
212-570-4836**

This flyer was distributed by police after Roma Mezoff was reported missing. She was found on City Island on Aug.12.

A 71-year-old widow from New Jersey who had been missing for three days turned up at Buddy's Hardware on City Island on Aug. 12, 2003, and was returned to her family with the help of concerned Islanders. She had last been seen in Central Park with her son on Sunday, Aug. 10.

At 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 12, a "shaky, confused elderly woman" entered the hardware store on City Island Avenue at Schofield Street and told the owner, Claudia Deich, that her son was asleep in room four of 431 City Island Avenue. Ms. Deich noticed that the woman was well dressed but had no pocketbook and was perspiring, so she concluded that the woman was disoriented and needed help. The woman told her that her name was Roma, but she couldn't explain how she got to City Island.

Ms. Deich called the 45th Precinct at about 9:45 a.m. and was told they would send a car to City Island. Meanwhile, she and her staff, Melissa Polidura and Tom Booth, made Roma comfortable and offered her food and water. Roma told them that she had been a nurse for 40 years and that her uncle used to bring her to City Island to the Club Tavern. (The Club was on the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue but went out of business over 20 years ago.)

After an hour, there was no sign of a patrol car, so Melissa called the precinct again. Police told her there was no record of the first call and again promised to send a car.

More time passed, so they tried to contact other people who might help. They placed a call to Virginia Gallagher, manager of Pilot Cove Manor, a senior citizen residence. Mrs. Gallagher came to the store immediately, offered her help to the elderly woman and tried to find out where she had come from.

Finally, at 12:45 p.m., Officers Robles

and Garcia arrived from the 45th Precinct. After questioning the woman and the group at Buddy's, Officer Garcia realized that the woman bore a resemblance to the description in a Missing Person Report issued on Sunday.

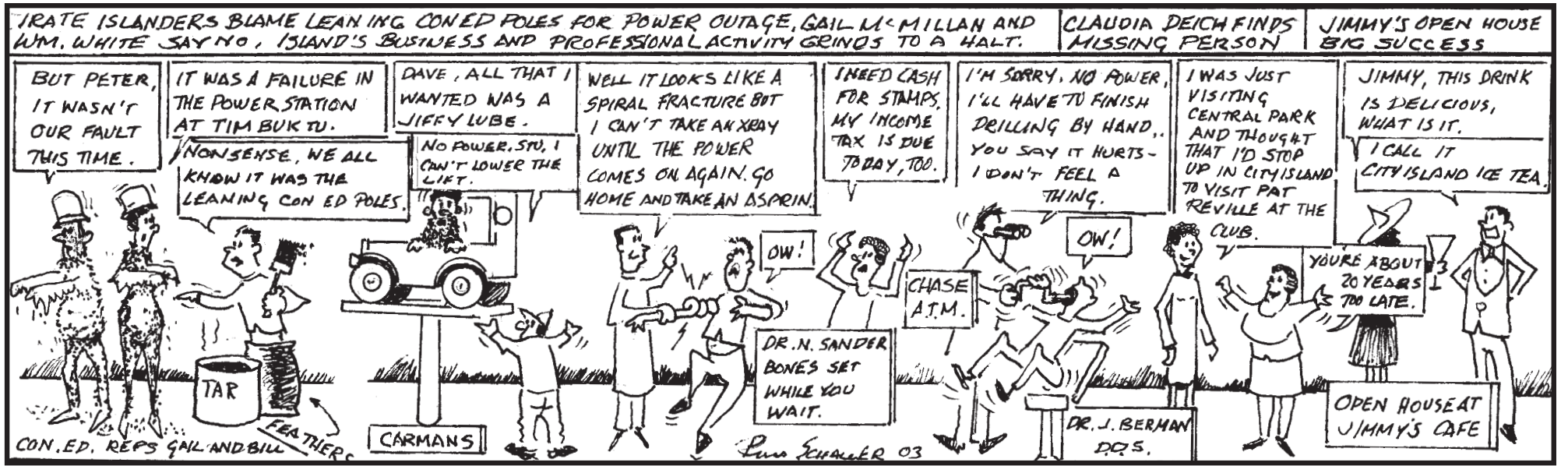
He called in, and at 1:25 p.m. Detective Bill Burns arrived from Manhattan. He identified the woman as Roma Ethel Mezoff of Middlesex, New Jersey. She had disappeared from Central Park near West 72nd Street on Sunday at noon. Mrs. Mezoff had been with her son, Glen Mezoff, when she entered a rest room in the park.

When Mr. Mezoff could not find her, he frantically called the police and a Missing Person Report was issued to all city precincts. "It was lucky that a bell rang in Officer Garcia's mind that she fit the description," Ms. Deich told *The Current*.

Detective Burns took Mrs. Mezoff to a Manhattan hospital and notified her son, who met her there. Mr. Mezoff later spoke with Ms. Deich and thanked her profusely. She described him as genuinely relieved to have his mother back, as he had been frantic since her disappearance.

Mr. Mezoff said that his mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, but he confirmed that many of the things she told Claudia were true, including the part about being a nurse. He was so grateful to the entire gang at Buddy's that he told Claudia "If you're standing next to someone, hug them for me."

The case received local media attention, but few reports acknowledged the role of the crew at Buddy's. It remains a mystery how Mrs. Mezoff got to City Island and what had happened to her before she walked into Buddy's. However, she was returned in good health, thanks to the neighborly attitude of Melissa, Tom and Claudia of Buddy's Hardware.



Fair Winds or Foul: A column of editorial commentary on local items.

FAIR WINDS TO:

All those places of business that tend flowers in their planters or window boxes, clean up their storefronts, sidewalks and gutters, and take pride in their appearance on City Island.

FOUL WINDS TO:

All those restaurants that let kitchen garbage slop wash into the gutter, where it sits in the sun or runs down the street into Long Island Sound, and to their garbage collectors who leave more mess than they take away.

All those owners of empty lots who let them overgrow with weeds or—worse—use them for truck storage, and who leave graffiti on their fences.

And a special gust of Foul Wind to the Sunoco station for price gouging during the blackout (see article).



We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Cleaning Up the Island

To: Peter LaScala
President, City Island
Chamber of Commerce

At the July 29 meeting of the City Island Civic Association a complaint was made concerning the need for local businesses to take responsibility for cleaning their sidewalks and gutters in front of their properties.

Currently the Garden Club pays Freddie Ramftl and Phil Ficarelli to clean the middle island curbsides of City Island Avenue. We may be losing this 'extra' next year. Many thanks for their work over many years. The Department of Sanitation truck tries to clean the streets but since we don't have street-cleaning days, this is not as effective as it could be.

Some businesses are very conscientious about their properties and we commend them. However, some may need a reminder of their responsibilities.

Here are some of the complaints we heard:

- Restaurants, after cleaning their kitchens, hose the wash and slops into the gutter, which then travels into Long Island Sound.
- Private sanitation pickup services have been seen to leave more mess than they take away.
- With the "No Smoking" regulations sidewalks are littered with discarded cigarettes.

According to the Department of Sanitation regulations, business owners are responsible for cleaning the sidewalk, the gutter and 18 inches into the street in front

of their places of business.

Please pass this information along to the Chamber members and other businesses along the avenue. Hopefully, residents and visitors will compliment those who conform by keeping City Island a pleasant place to be. Businesses that have made the extra effort by maintaining plantings in the tree pits and on their properties are appreciated even more.

Working together, we can continue to improve the quality of life for the residents and businesses of our historical nautical island.

Frank Fitts, President
City Island Civic Association

A Word of Thanks

(A copy of this letter was received by The Current.)

Ms. Amanda Burden, Chair,
City Planning Commission

Dear Ms. Burden,

In a world of complainers and second-guessers, there are rarely accolades for a job well done.

On Aug. 13, I was pleased to be a part of the contingency from City Island who attended the City Planning hearing about our rezoning proposal. It was the first time that I had been there. I must commend you and the commissioners for your professionalism, patience, attention to detail and respect toward all those who appeared before you. The focus that is directed toward all the issues that were presented made everyone feel that they were indeed listened to and really heard.

We live in a world of voice mail and indifference, and it was refreshing to be a part of a pocket of sincere humanity.

Ruth Markowe
Early Ruth Antiques

Contextual Zoning

Continued from page 3

recommendation on July 22, 2003, approving the applications with a slight modification. The City Planning Commission will vote on the application after the Aug. 13 public hearing, after which the City Council will have an opportunity to review the proposal.

Council Member Madeline Provenzano, who supports the proposal, said: "I am pleased that the New York City Plan-

ning Commission has addressed the concerns of City Island residents and has proposed a zoning change that will decrease the density of construction of new residential units on City Island. I congratulate the many community groups on City Island who brought this issue to the forefront and have succeeded in maintaining City Island's historical character."

Those who are interested in reading the complete text of the rezoning proposal can find it on the DCP Web site (www.nyc.gov/html.dcp.home.html).

FLEET WEEKEND PART 2



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Because of the spring rains, some of the 2003 Fleet Weekend festivities were postponed to July 12. Better weather prevailed on that day, and Fleet Weekenders were treated to a model-boat building workshop, a dinosaur exhibit and a concert. It's not too early to get involved in Fleet Weekend 2004, so call IDEA at 718-885-3781.

Bloomberg

Continued from page 1

is our position that the current design, while appropriate for the original movable bridge, is not an appropriate design for a new stationary bridge."

At presentations made by DOT to Community Board 10 and to the Civic Association in 2002, the bridge engineers made it clear that they do not want to build a new bridge with piers in the water, because these require special inspections and extra maintenance. Their first recommendation was a cable-stayed bridge with a 450-foot tower in Pelham Bay Park, a dramatic design but the community felt that this was inconsistent with City Island's low-rise, historic character.

DOT's second recommendation was a cable-stayed bridge called the "Mast," whose tower was not as high, at 240 feet, but was much wider and again, according to members of the Civic Association, not appropriate for the Island. Representatives of the Civic Association met with Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and with DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and Mr. Perahia in January 2003. At the request of the Civic, Mr. Carrión asked DOT to revise the design to make it more aesthetically appropriate.

In June and again in August, officers of the Civic Association met with elected officials Assemblyman Stephen B. Kauf-

man, State Senator Guy J. Veleva and Council Member Madeline Provenzano, to protest DOT's determination to give City Island a bridge that was not acceptable to the community. As a result of their discussions with the Mayor's office and with DOT, a third design was prepared, and this is what was shown to City Island by the Mayor on Aug. 20.

The final design, which is estimated to cost \$7 million more than the previously recommended designs, is still a cable-stayed bridge but the overall height is 150 feet—300 feet lower than the original recommended design—and the tapered towers are less heavy in appearance. The designers took some care to reflect something of City Island's first bridge, a wooden toll bridge constructed in 1873, allegedly built with materials salvaged from the *North Carolina*, an old battleship dismantled at Carl's Shipyard in City Island. That bridge was demolished and replaced by the current structure, which was completed in 1901.

Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, was pleased that the Mayor had taken enough interest in City Island and the bridge proposal to visit in person, and he told *The Current* that he and the other Civic officers were very grateful to the elected officials for their part in negotiating a bridge design that he felt Island residents and business owners would welcome.



Photo courtesy City Island Historical Society

City Island's first bridge, a wooden structure built in 1873.

City Island G.I. Update

By RUSSELL SCHALLER



Photo courtesy of MARY ANNE CLANCY

Islanders who have been serving in the military during the conflict in Iraq are beginning to return home and resume civilian activities. Captain Michael Clancy was recently married to Major Hailey Hartley at the chapel at West Point.

Since the June issue of *The Current*, many City Island servicemen have relocated and are home or on their way home. First Sergeant Edward Joslin is in Balad, Iraq, with an Army helicopter unit that is engaged in supply operations. Ed, like all the troops over there, is anxious to get home. His home base is in Germany.

Captain Gregory Clancy, U.S.M.C., completed his tour in Iraq with a combat engineering unit and is teaching engineering in New York. You may have seen Greg on television while he was in Iraq.

Captain Michael Clancy, U.S. Army, is at Camp Drum, New York. Michael was recently married to Major Hailey Hartley at the chapel at West Point, where she is an instructor. It should be obvious as to who will be assigned to K.P. duty in the Clancy home.

Ensign Chris Muller is still assigned to the *U.S.S. Kearsarge*, which has returned to Norfolk, Virginia.

Lance Corporal Charles Brill is now at Camp Lejeune with a Marine helicopter unit. Charles was also seen on television.

Sergeant Michael Knapp, U.S. Army, is still in Iraq but will be back at Fort Dix,

New Jersey, by Christmas. His wife, Lisa, is looking forward to his return.

Lance Corporal Kyle Kuciamba, U.S.M.C., is still in Iraq. Kyle and Greg Clancy, who were both Boy Scouts in Troop 211, met while they were in Iraq before Greg returned to the States.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Matthew Delaney is at Norfolk, Virginia, and should be released from active duty by November.

Specialist Raymond Bremen is now with the 411 Civil Affairs 'B' detachment, APO, A.E.O. 935 in Iraq and has no firm date for his return. A note would be appreciated.

Chief Warrant Officer Joe Goonan, a veteran of three wars, became City Island's first casualty. Serving in Washington D.C. with an elite intelligence unit, Joe was following a "suspected saboteur" when he was struck by a girl riding a bicycle. Although the bicycle was totaled, Joe's only injury was a broken arm. Commander Hecker of the American Legion Post 156 feels that Joe is entitled to a Purple Heart.



Photo by Frank Sena

When Island resident Frank Sena saw a man caught between the scaffolding and the building at 246 City Island Avenue, having fallen from the roof, he ran to the fire station on Schofield Street, and the Fire Department responded immediately and rescued him. The unidentified man was taken to Jacobi Medical Center, where he was treated and released.

NOW

IS A GREAT TIME TO INCREASE YOUR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

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Photo by RENA HANSEN

A poetry reading by Marie Pacha, known as Emme, was held on July 19, 2003, at Tea and Empathy, 249 City Island Avenue. Robert Crocket hosted the event, which drew a number of Islanders who listened to readings from the author's book *Whimsey*.



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

At long last, the **Sugar and Spice Bake Shop**, 536 City Island Avenue, will open its doors for business by mid-September. The proprietor, Irina Brandler, is a graduate of the pastry arts program at the French Culinary Institute, and she will be offering a wonderful assortment of goodies, from decorated cookies and coconut cake to artisan breads, tarts and quiches, along with her catering business for weddings and private parties. Irina recently moved with her family to City Island after having stopped by for lunch here several years ago—"I guess it was a really long lunch," she says. "I fell in love. City Island is really like no other place I've ever been."

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery**, 327 City Island Avenue, will host an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 12, from 7 to 11 p.m. On display will be recent works by Glen and Nadiya Goldstein, Richard Meyer, Mary Rappold and Lois Weingarten.



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
2 Windward Lane	10/15/02	\$500,000	Condo
4 Windward Lane	11/5/02	\$520,000	Condo
690 Bridge Street	12/13/02	\$334,620	1 Family
456 Minneford Ave.	12/31/02	\$300,000	1 Family
316 King Avenue	1/7/03	\$283,000	1 Family
686 Bridge Street	1/17/03	\$350,000	1 Family
170 Schofield Street	1/31/03	\$315,000	Condo
62 Schofield Street	5/2/03	\$340,000	1 Family
176 Ditmars Street	5/21/03	\$385,000	1 Family



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Photo courtesy of the City Island Nautical Museum

The incoming students at P.S. 175 may dress a little differently than the ones shown here in 1926 at P.S. 17, but they will probably share the range of emotions expressed on these faces.

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS

By TERESA TETO

When stores start advertising Back to School Sales, we know that summer is almost over and that winter will soon enough be approaching. This year New York City faces a new school year full of many changes and challenges. The goals are to have every child acquire basic skills and develop conceptual problem-solving skills and to have every teacher receive the tools and professional development necessary to provide first-rate instruction.

New York State has established a very specific set of standards that spells out a step-by-step plan taking students from kindergarten through high school. The standards carefully lay the groundwork and build on the skills and knowledge students need to have in our culture.

In addition to end-of-year testing, there will be interim assessments of student progress, which will tell the teacher exactly what students have learned and what they still need to learn. The Princeton Review, a New York City-based company with a working knowledge of New York State standards and of the new reading, writing and math programs being introduced this September, has designed the informative assessments.

New York City has disbanded the autonomous and political Board of Education and established the NYC Department

of Education, which is leaner, more focused on children and directly responsible to the Mayor. This agency has designed a new, coherent instructional approach for city schools using proven curricula in language arts and math, classroom libraries, and coaches for reading and math in every school.

Mrs. Milagros Efre-Lopez, principal of Public School 175, is excited by the language arts and math curriculum. She is also pleased with the hundreds of books that have been delivered to the school, where they will serve as tools to implement the programs that will make the standards achievable for every student. Early this summer, Mrs. Lopez attended several principals' workshops set up by the city's Department of Education and she, in turn, encouraged interested staff to attend math workshops and literacy programs at Lehman College during the month of August.

In order to be ready for classes in September, Mrs. Lopez and Miss Vargas have been drawing up schedules for the school that will include 2 hours of reading and writing in the lower grades, where basic skills are acquired, and 90 minutes in the middle and upper grades, plus 60 minutes of math in grades K-2 and 75 minutes in grades 3-8.

Everyone preparing for the arrival of the children is upbeat and enthusiastic about working with students and their parents this year. Parents will have an especially important part to play in the new school year, particularly in talking with their children about their goals and expectations. Because many changes will be taking place at the school, the schools chancellor has set up a hotline to answer questions at 718-482-3777. You may also check the Department of Education Web site at www.nyenet.edu.

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Islander Receives 2003 BRIO Award

Susan Farley, photojournalist, portrait photographer and long-time City Island resident, was awarded a 2003 BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) Individual Artist Grant in the Visual Arts category. The prestigious BRIO Awards were presented at the Bronx Council on the Arts' Annual Festival of the Arts barbeque at the Bronx Zoo on Thursday, June 19, 2003.

For grant review, Ms. Farley submitted five images from her "Faces of City Island" photography show which consisted of 49 individual group portraits, and was exhibited at the Focal Point Gallery here throughout November 2002. The one-woman show was Farley's first solo exhibition, and drew large local attention and attendance.

"I am thrilled to be recognized by the Bronx artistic community for my first

venture in presenting a one-woman exhibition. The City Island community has been extremely supportive and enthusiastic, which is very rewarding. It was important for me to present a project that the community would be proud to be part of, since I've lived here since 1988," said Farley. "I am grateful to Ron Turner of Focal Point Gallery who is extremely supportive and encouraging to local artists who wish to present their work. It is very expensive for individual artists to self-finance an exhibition, and receiving this grant makes it possible to look forward to planning another show."

Susan Farley has worked as staff photographer at *New York Newsday*, *The Journal News* and *Agence France Presse*, and is currently freelancing for publications such as *The New York Times*, *People Magazine*, *The National Post*, MTV, ABC Disney and numerous private clients. She lives on City Island with her daughter, Samantha Emmert.

WAY TO GO GIRLS!

Photos by RICK DeWITT

City Island girls participated in the long 2003 softball season that began during the rainy spring and came to an end in the hot summer. The girls worked hard and made their coaches and parents proud. Coach Nick Lotrionte extended thanks to all the girls who participated in the 2003 softball program. He congratulated the departing eighth graders and wished them luck in high school.



The fourth-grade girls' softball team (bottom l to r): Amanda Connell, Marrisa Ferris, Megan Hayes, Gianna Fusco and Julia Doyle. Standing are Alyssa Manfredonia, Melissa Pryor, Alyssa Molloy and Sarah Graves. Coaches: Jimmy Doyle, Mike Pryor and Keith Manfredonia. Not shown: Julianna Jiminez, Kassandra Romirez, Rebecca Taffet, Danielle Mitchell and Emily Sexton.



The junior varsity girls' softball team (bottom l. to r.): Delia Berger, Alycia DaLoia-Moore, Alyssa Owens, Bridget McGowan, Sarah Pryor, Briana Lotrionte and Nicole Cody. Standing: Sonia Andrades, Julia Walker, Devan Eccles, Lauren Branley, Phoebe Mankiewicz and Jessica Lombardo. Coaches: John Moore, Mike Pryor and Jimmy McGowan. Not shown: D'Anna Rossi, Cait Hennessey, Samantha Pecoraro, Chelsea Rodstrom and Sophie Piscatelli.



There were two varsity girls' teams. The first varsity team (bottom l to r): Tina McGuire, Sathita Frey, Elisa Piparo, Courtney Quinn and Jennifer Brick. Top: Terese MacIndoe, Jillian Lotrionte, Kim Nye and Dani Tocci. Coaches: Kevin Quinn and Nick Lotrionte. Not shown: Deanna Rivera and Amanda Figuerado.



The second varsity team (bottom l. to r.): Jessica Lirio, Samantha Emerick, Valerie Della Cerra, Alaura Mancuso and Fabiola Miria. Top row: Victoria Namanworth, Alexandra Sowa, Caitlin Schlottman, Nicole Henning and Sarah Anderson. Coaches: Nick Lotrionte and Joe Emerick. Not shown: Jessica Mercado.



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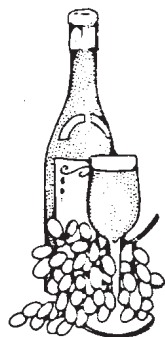
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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sun., Sept. 7, **Cut-a-Thon**, City Island Community Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., Sept. 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., P.S./I.S. 194, Waterbury/Zerega Avenue.

Sat., Sept. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.

Tues., Sept. 30, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Chapter 3303 AARP

The New York State AARP office has notified us that the state legislature passed two bills that would give New York grandparents much-needed help in caring for their grandchildren. AARP supports bill S.2062-A/A.4584-A, which would provide grandparents the authority to make medical and school decisions for a child under their care. AARP also supports S.4224/A-8302, which enumerates the extraordinary circumstances in which grandparents may petition the court for standing to be considered in a custody hearing. Now we need help from the members and everyone else to encourage the governor to sign these bills into law.

On Wednesday Oct. 29, 2003, the chapter will sponsor a beautiful trip to the Fiesta Theatre in Wood Ridge, New Jersey, for a complete luncheon with various choices of menu and then the opportunity to see and enjoy one of Irving Berlin's best productions "Annie Get Your Gun." We will surely enjoy this classic musical with all its famous songs made popular originally by Ethel Merman and recently by Bernadette Peters. It should be a fun day for everyone attending.

A full program of trips, tours and luncheons has been scheduled for the remainder of the year. Further announcements will be forthcoming, as the dates of these events become known. Prices and more details for the above events will be discussed at our meetings or you may call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

City Island Civic Association

This was a busy summer for the Civic Association. We sent a large contingent to the Department of City Planning public hearing on Aug. 13 to support the application for City Island's contextual rezoning proposal. We arrived at 10 a.m. but our item on the agenda did not come up for discussion until 1:30 p.m! Barbara Dolensek, Mary Jean Dux, Frank Fitts, Virginia Gallagher, Jackie Kall, Ruth Markowe, Karen Nani, Inge Otto, Jane Protzman, Steve Roth, Russell Schaller, Bob Simons, George Spencer and Sue Strazzera all waited patiently for our time on the agenda.

We also met with Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman, Senator Guy Vellella, Council Member Madeline Provenzano and Joe Palmieri of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss the fate of the City Island bridge. All of the politicians agreed that the cable-stayed bridge was too tall and inappropriate and agreed to follow through to urge the construction of a bridge that was more consistent with City Island's character. The Mayor himself is very interested in meeting with City

Island representatives on this issue.

Bob Simons of our Traffic Committee is collecting complaints about traffic, missing or stolen signs and other traffic issues in order to convey them to the appropriate DOT officials. The Civic has urged DOT to repaint the lines on City Island Road, and we have been assured this will take place shortly.

When the Civic questioned the light police presence on the Island during weekends in July, the Police Department explained that the rain kept traffic down but assured us that the number of officers were brought back to full strength in August. Certainly we were well covered during the blackout hours. The loud bombs at Rodman's Neck last Thursday were the result of an accident, not a deliberate bomb detonation. We will ask the police to issue a warning siren in the future.

It was voted at our July meeting that the Civic should not support the application for an outdoor café of 11 tables at Tito Puente. Concerns included loud music and the fact that the café is already in operation although the permit has not been granted.

Complaints were made at our July meeting about properties that are kept in poor condition, including private homes, empty lots and businesses that do not keep their sidewalks and curbs clean. Private sanitation trucks are creating a mess when they pick up garbage from the restaurants.

For this or any other kind of complaint that is not an emergency, we urge Island residents to call 311 to complain. Our many calls to date have been handled with efficiency, courtesy and effectiveness. If you have a message for the Civic, don't forget that our telephone number is 718-885-3823 and our email address is civic-ci@yahoo.com.

A special thanks to all of our members who heeded our call for renewals and sent in their dues. Those who still haven't done so are invited to send a check for \$20 made out to the City Island Civic Association, P. O. Box 117, City Island, NY 10464.

Frank Fitts

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. We will discuss fall planting for spring blooms. Our Beautification Committee planted a beautiful Korean dogwood tree surrounded by barberry, holly and azalea bushes at the City Island Post Office. We also worked closely with the Bronx Parks Department to plant trees on many of the streets of City Island.

The club's Annual Luncheon was held at the City Island Yacht Club in June. We raffled off some wonderful gift baskets and gift certificates for local restaurants.

The new officers were introduced at our Summer Luncheon in July at the City Island Yacht Club. They are Ruth Collins, president; Susan Strazzera, vice president; Phyllis Goodman, secretary; Joan Lyons, treasurer.

Gardening hint: September is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. To prepare beds, dig up six to eight inches of soil. Add peat moss or other organic matter and mix in bone meal. Plant tulips and daffodil eight inches apart, crocuses and grape hyacinths four inches apart.

Phyllis Goodman

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) meets every second Monday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue.

Alcoholics Anonymous: Open meetings are held every Monday, 8:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

The American Association of Retired Persons City Island Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month, 1 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

Boy Scout Troop 211 meets every Friday during the school year, 7:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

The American Association of Retired Persons Minneford Chapter 3303 meets the first and third Thursday of each month, 1 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street. (No summer meetings.)

The Bronx County Detachment of the **Marine Corps League** meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Ave. All active and former Marines invited.

The American Legion meets the first and third Monday of the month, 8 p.m., Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue.

The City Island Civic Association meets on the last Tuesday of every month except December, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

The City Island Power Squadron meets the last Thursday of the month, City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street.

City Island Community Center Members meet the first Tuesday of each month, 8 p.m. at the Center, 190 Fordham Street.

The Garden Club of City Island meets the first Monday of the month, 10 a.m., City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street.

Narcotics Anonymous meets every Thursday from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

The American Legion Auxiliary meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m. Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue.

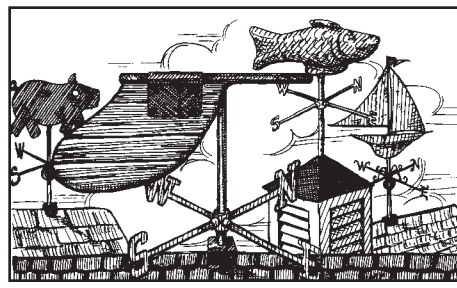
Pelham Lodge meets every first and third Tuesday of the month except July and August. Call 885-3233 for information.

The City Island Historical Society meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Museum, 190 Fordham Street. Call 885-0008 or 885-0507 for information.

The City Island Seniors meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

The City Island Chamber of Commerce meets monthly. Call 885-9100 for information.

The Bronx Rotary Club meets every Tuesday of every month at 12:15 at the Harbor restaurant, 565 City Island Avenue.



Chapter 318 AARP

Don't forget: Our Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Trinity Methodist Church on 113 Bay Street at 1 p.m. Refreshments and cake will be served after the meeting.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 3; blood pressure readings will be taken prior to the meeting, on the first Wednesday of each month. We will endeavor to have a notary available before and after all meetings to notarize any document free of charge.

Flo Bonicoro, our travel person, has been busy this summer trying to put together day trips and a five-day trip. There will be more information at our meetings, so please attend.

Florence Quinn, the chairperson for our luncheons, has already made plans for our annual Christmas luncheon.

Jean Ringel also has made plans for us to go to the Westchester Evening Theater in October. She and John Bonicoro are in charge of our monthly trip to Atlantic City.

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

Marie Tirelli

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity's Sunday School begins a new year on Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. We welcome back all our regulars and encourage newcomers to visit and see what our program is all about. Our new program will have wonderful projects to get involved in.

The Budget Corner will reopen on Sept. 16 and will be open each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month during the same hours. Our Budget Shop container will be open for deposits on Sept. 1. Thank you to all of you who waited so patiently with your donations during the summer months. Should you have some extra time to donate to Budget, please call Ellie at 718-518-7241. We would be grateful for your help.

Donna LaValle

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

Announcements

CUT-A-THON! Haircuts for back to school! Manicures, braids and beads, face painting, 10-minute massage, reflexology! Coffee, bake sale and raffles! Sunday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. To volunteer or make a donation, call Brenda at 885-9040.

Movie Night, Saturday, Sept. 20, featuring "The African Queen".

Art Classes starting in September. Call now! Concepts in 20th-century art, funded by the Bronx Council on the Arts, Preschool Art and Playgroup, and Clay Workshop. Taught by Laury Hopkins B.F.A. See details below.

Dance and Movement for Tots starting in September, taught by Natasha Adler. See details below.

Scrapbook Club: If you are interested in getting all those old photos out of boxes and into attractive books without cluttering up your dining room table, call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713.

Ongoing Events

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

To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

Millennium Babies: A Moms and Babies Playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Senior Nutrition Program: Held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. All senior citizens are welcome; the cost is only \$1 per meal. Call 718-885-0727 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for your monthly calendar with daily lunch menus and schedule of visits to shopping centers.

Dance and Movement for Tots: ages two through six. A variety of music and dance activities. Mondays from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.; six-week session starting Sept. 22. Pre-register with Natasha at 718-885-9660.

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

Concepts in 20th-century Art: Make art using ideas from surrealism, minimalism, pop, and found objects. Portfolio quality art for students ages 10 to 15. Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sept. 11 to Dec. 11. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Preschool Art and Playgroup: Early socialization and fun for two- to four-year-olds. Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Sept. 9 to Dec. 11. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Clay Workshop: Create sculptures, containers and ornaments in oven bake clays. For grades K through 4. Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sept. 9 to Dec. 9. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Dance Classes: Preballet, jazz and tap for kids. Adult ballroom. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576-5515.

Belly Dancing Classes: Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Hip scarves are provided! Call Nadia at 718-885-9660.

Muy Thai Kick Boxing: Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Call James and Kathy Criveau at 718-885-1137.

Kundalini Yoga: Saturdays at 9 a.m. Call Ann Ward at 718-885-1478.

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-885-2011.

Photography Classes: For adults and teens. Call Ron Terner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

Step Aerobics Classes: Sundays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9 to 10:30 a.m., and Mondays and Wednesdays 7 to 8 p.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Yoga: Basic-level Hatha Yoga classes include yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing practices, and stress management for peace of mind and physical well-being. Call Annette at 718-885-0724 for further information.

Laury Hopkins

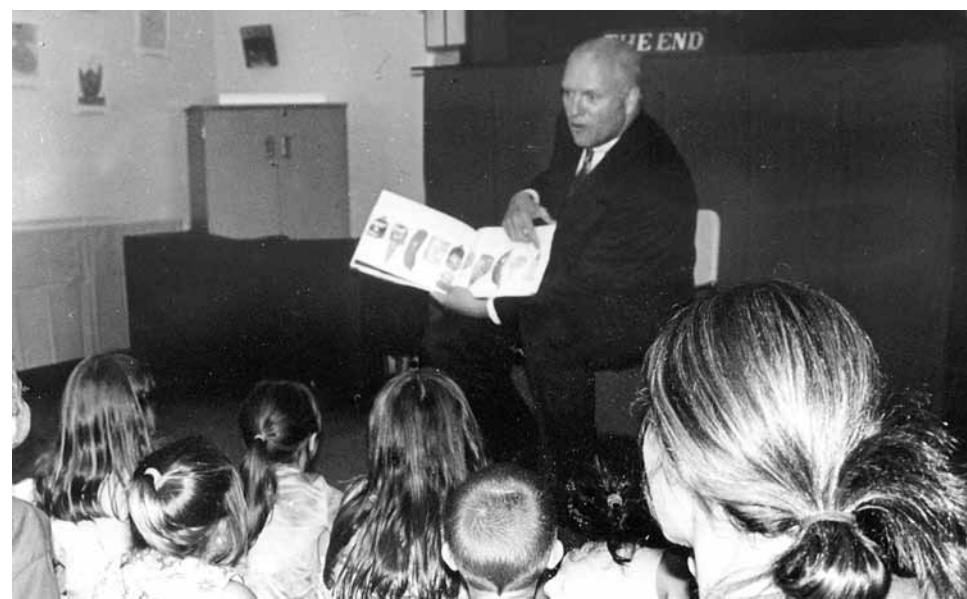


Photo by RENA HANSEN

U.S. Congressman Joseph Crowley stopped by the City Island Library on Aug. 19, 2003, to celebrate the completion of the summer reading program with some young readers.

Legion News

We are fast approaching the end of summer and are looking forward to cooler and drier weather. The inclement weather did not deter members and friends from attending the annual Post Clambake. Commodore Hecker said that about 120 attended and enjoyed the fare of lobster, clams and myriad culinary delights. For those who enjoy a little libation, there was an open bar. The affair was catered by Lazy Susan's.



Among coming events is the Throggs Neck Veteran's Day Parade, which will be held in November. More information will follow in subsequent newsletters. Dues are due for the year 2004. Should you know any fellow Islanders eligible for regular membership, please encourage them to join.

The August newsletter was in error, as we do not put flags up for Columbus Day, so the flag detail can relax until Veteran's Day. The crew has done a great job all year, and their work is recognized not only by the good burghers of City Island but also by our visitors.

The reason we decided not to put up the flags for Columbus Day is that many Islanders, especially those of Scandinavian heritage, believe that Leif Ericsson, son of Eric the Red, discovered America when he came in contact with land along the coast of what we know as New England. Phil Tomsen told me that a Norwegian ancestor, Olaf Tomsen, Leif's first mate, was sent ashore at a number of locations, as far west as Orchard Beach and Turtle Cove, where he inscribed on stones "Olaf Tomsen was here." That would have been 500 years before Columbus landed in the New World.

At our August meeting, four new members were inducted: Arthur Rinker, Fred Sammut, Ed McKeever and Richard Bach. Welcome aboard.

Mike Treat reports that Buddy Howard and Joe Englehard are at Sound Shore. Bill Stuttgart is at Calvary. Donald Varian, Dick Eberhart and Buddy Scollon are at home. Take a few minutes to call, send a card or visit our homebound members. Greg Penny has also reported to Sick Call.

Commander Hecker informed me that the Auxiliary will sponsor a boat ride on the RipTide III on Saturday, Sept. 18. The boat sails at 7 p.m. For passage, contact Dee Mazzella at 885-0522 or Linda Ulmer at 885-1352. Tickets are \$35 and refreshments are included.

Regular meetings will be on Monday, Sept. 8 and 22. An executive board meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 15. All meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m.

It's hard to believe that just 58 years ago—Aug. 14, 1945, Emperor Hirohito surrendered, ending World War II. For you WWII buffs: Did you know that Reba Tobiason was the only American female captured by the Germans in WWII and a 9th Army Air Force nurse? Reba's aircraft was shot down near Aachen in 1944. Since the Germans had no facilities for female prisoners, she was housed in a solitary cell at Stalag Luft 9. She was released in February 1945 as part of a prisoner exchange.

My friend Tom McGuire visited me several weeks ago and gave me a copy of an article he wrote for the European edition of the Wall Street Journal about Robert Leupp's untimely end somewhere in Belgium during World War II (reprinted in this issue). Robby is buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupré, Belgium. He received the Purple Heart

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, 480 City Island Avenue, an all-inclusive egalitarian congregation, wishes all of our friends and neighbors a most happy and healthy New Year (5764). Our doors are open to all and attendance is free.

Our Summer Dance by the Sea and Shabbat Service & Dinner by the Water were both well attended as were the two Shabbats at sea this summer.

Each Friday evening, services begin at 7:30 p.m. Special events are as follows:

Friday, Sept. 5: Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Wiener begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 14: Arts, Antique and Crafts Show from 11 a.m..

Tuesday, Sept. 16: Open board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Friday, Sept. 19: Memorial service for Stuart Brill at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20: Glichot service begins at 9 p.m.

Our High Holy Days Schedule begins on Friday, Sept. 26, with the Rosh Hashana evening service at 8 p.m.

First Day's morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. (Saturday, Sept. 27) and Torah reading at 10:15 a.m. and evening service at 8 p.m.

Second Day service begins at 9:30 a.m. (Sunday, Sept. 28) with Torah reading at 10:15 a.m., Shofar at 10:45 a.m., Children's service at 12:20 p.m. and Tashlich at 12:45 p.m.

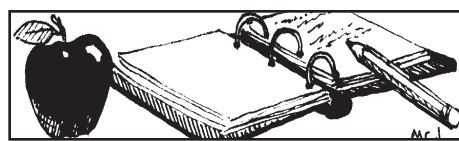
Yom Kippur Eve begins with Kol Nidre at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5.

Yom Kippur Day service will start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5.

Our policy has always been to provide free seating for all who wish to attend and come early enough to find seats.

Please visit our website at www.your-shulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent



City Island Chamber Music

On Aug. 31 we will present one of the highlights of the year—violinists John Andersen and Meesun Hong with violist Jessica Troy, cellist Wolfram Koessel, clarinetist Dean LeBlanc and double-bass player Benjamin Wand, who will perform Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Dvorak's String Quintet.

City Island goes Baroque on Sept. 7 with a series of pieces by Telemann, J.C. Bach, Geminiani, Leclair and others, played by flutist Laura Thompson, violinist Vita Wallace, violist Margret Hjaltestad, cellist Michael Dolbow, gamba player Virginia Kaycoff, theorboist Gary Hess and harpist Holly Mentzer.

Two outstanding performers will be introduced on Sept. 14: violinist Georgy Valtchev and pianist Lora Tchekorotova, who will present pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Piazzolla and others.

Sept. 21 will see the return of our favorite clarinetist Vadim Lando and pianist Pippa Borisy as they present an inspiring performance of romantic show pieces, plus Brahms's Clarinet Sonata.

Our first concert of the autumn will be Messiah's Quartet for the End of Time, performed by four musicians, including the recent winner of the Concert Artists Guild competition violinist Azmira Woodward Page, pianist Blair McMillan, clarinetist Benjamin Finland, violist Jessica Meyer and cellist Sumire Kudo.

All concerts are held at Le Refuge Inn, 620 City Island Avenue, at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays; each concert is followed by a reception. Admission is \$16. For information, call 212-724-4474.

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Directed by Ang Lee

Born in Taiwan, the son of a high school principal, Ang Lee came to the United States and studied film at New York University. His movies are all studies of family relationships in an eclectic variety of settings and time periods.

His first three films are all about the clash of American culture and Chinese tradition. In **Pushing Hands** (1992), he tells the story of Chu (played by Sihung Lung, who appears in many of Ang Lee's films), a retired Chinese tai-chi master who moves to the United States to live with his son Alex (Bo Z. Wang) and his Caucasian daughter-in-law, Martha (Deb Snyder). This is a strong directorial debut in which the strained relationship between Chu and Martha is wordlessly established in the first scene of the film. Chu had had a difficult life in Beijing, but as he says to his son, "Compared to loneliness, persecution is nothing." Alex genuinely wants to take care of his father, who feels lost in America, in the Chinese tradition. Lee based the film on the loneliness and isolation he felt when he first moved to White Plains, New York.

Lee's second film, **The Wedding Banquet** (1993), is a delightful comedy about Wai-Tung (Winston Chao), a gay man happily living with his partner, Simon

(Mitchell Lichtenstein), in New York City. He is plagued, however, by the match-making efforts of his parents, who live in Taiwan and are obviously unaware of his homosexuality. He agrees to marry Wei-Wei (May Chin), one of his tenants, in order to satisfy his parents and to help her get a green card. Hilarity results when his parents come for the wedding, balanced by some poignant moments with Wai-Tung's father (Sihung Lung).

The third film in the trilogy is **Eat Drink Man Woman** (1994), which is set in Taipei. This is the touching story of Chu (Sihung Lung), a retired chef and a widower who has complex relationships with his grown daughters, all of whom live with him. Both this film and the previous one received Oscar nominations as best foreign-language film.

Although Ang Lee did not receive a directorial nomination for his next film, it did receive the Academy Award for Best Picture. **Sense and Sensibility** (1995) is a Victorian England comedy of manners based on Jane Austen's novel about the Dashwood sisters, Elinor (Emma Thompson, who won an Oscar for her screenplay), Marianne (Kate Winslet) and Margaret (Emile Francois). After their father dies, leaving his estate to a stingy male relative, the women are forced to find themselves husbands. The men to whom they give their hearts include the excellent actors Hugh Grant, Greg Wise and Alan Rickman. The choice of Lee to direct this film was questioned at first, but its success reveals that the family traditions and social alliances in Taiwan are not so far, after all, from those in the Western world.

Lee's next film, **The Ice Storm** (1997), explores another culture and time period—suburban America in the 1970s. This

is a dark film about the deterioration of social mores. Ben Hood (Kevin Kline) is married to Elena (Joan Allen), but he is having a joyless affair with a neighbor, Janey Carver (Sigourney Weaver), whose husband, Jim (Jamey Sheridan), is never around. The story is told by Ben and Elena's son Paul (Tobey Maguire), who reads comic books about the Fantastic Four (a foreshadowing of Lee's most recent directorial effort). Meanwhile, teenagers Wendy Hood (Christina Ricci) and Mikey Carver (Elijah Wood) are experimenting on their own. This is an insightful but disturbing film.

Lee's next film, **Ride with the Devil** (1999), is set in the American Civil War and is perhaps one of his weakest efforts. However, his next film, **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (2000), completely captivated audiences and finally earned him a much deserved Oscar nomination for Best Director (he won the Directors' Guild and Golden Globe awards). This ranks among the best martial arts films ever made and is filled with romance, intrigue, revenge, spiritual themes and the elevation of women onto an equal footing with men. Chow Yun-Fat is outstanding as Li Mu Bai, a warrior who has vowed to avenge his master's death at the hands of Jade Fox (Cheng Pei Pei), but he is tired of bloodshed. He has long been in love with Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh), the head of a security company, but their mutual affection has not been consummated because of her previous attachment to a friend of Li Mu Bai who died in battle and they do not wish to dishonor his memory. Much of the film is devoted to retrieving Li Mu Bai's stolen sword, Green Destiny. Jen (Zhang Ziyi), the governor's daughter, is involved with the theft, and her acrobatic ability is a wonder to behold. The

choreography is the best part of the film, where the only special effects used are those to hide the wires when the actors are dueling in the treetops.

Lee's most recent effort is **Hulk** (2003), a superhero film in search of an audience. Lee focuses largely on the family relationships between Bruce Banner (Eric Bana) and his father (Nick Nolte), as well as between Bruce's only friend, Betty Ross (Jennifer Connelly), and her father (Sam Elliott). Both young people are the wounded adult children of egomaniacs, with all the angst that involves. This is a message movie about the misuse of scientific research and genetic experimentation, but the outstanding aspect of the movie is the extraordinary cinematography, which successfully uses the split-screen technique as a dynamic, comic book story-telling device, which will fascinate those who don't necessarily like super-hero films.

Be safe, and until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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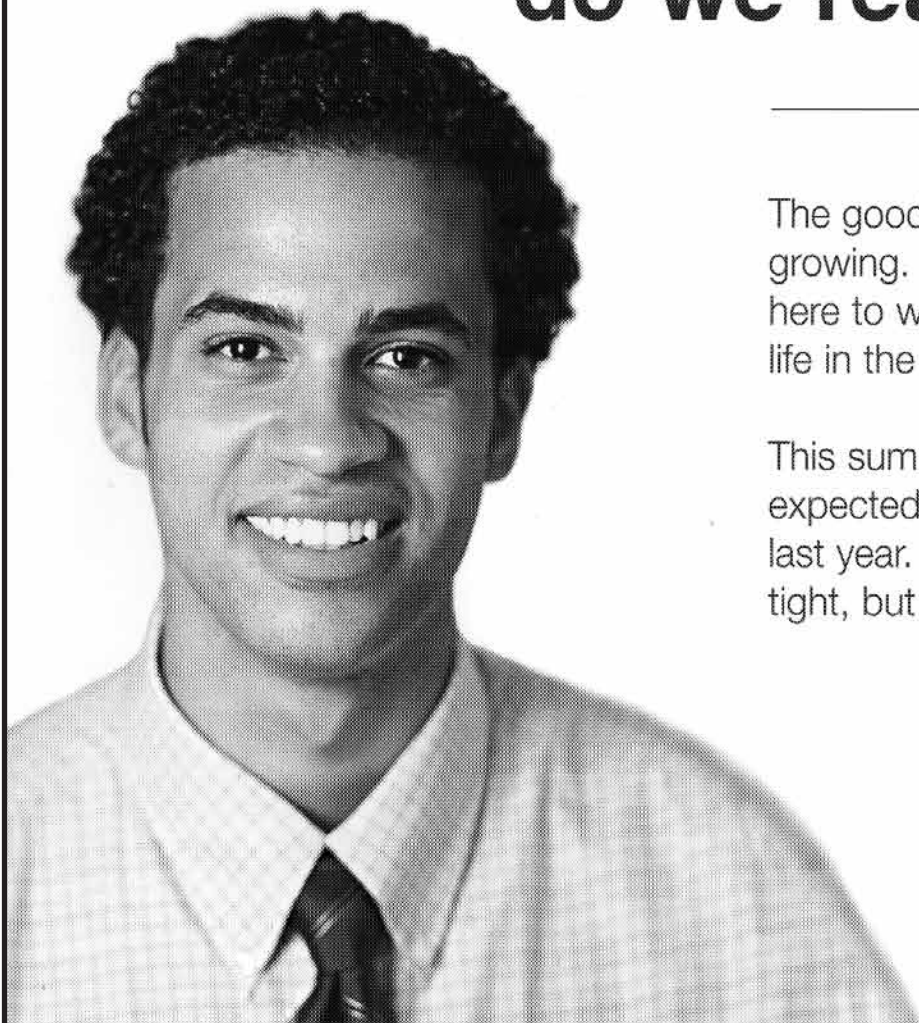
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TO THE FALLEN G.I.'S

BY THOMAS FRANCIS McGUIRE



Photos courtesy of RUSSELL SCHALLER and ROBERT McGUIRE

Islander Robert Leupp was a Private First Class in the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry Division, of the U.S. Army. During World War II, on July 4, 1944, he was crossing a field in France and stepped on a land mine. Shown is his grave in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

A version of the following article appeared in The Wall Street Journal on May 26, 2003, and is published here with the author's permission. Thomas McGuire is a former Islander who now lives in Brussels, Belgium. He graduated from Fordham Prep and Fordham University and was an early contributor to The Island Current. His most famous article, "City Island is Sinking," which appeared in the April 1973 edition of The Current, caused a furor among many Islanders. The article reported that the Island was sinking into Long Island Sound at a rate of 1/4 of an inch per year. The editor, Sally McPherson, was deluged with calls, homeowners sought the advice of Jackie Kall about selling their homes, and

waterfront property owners appeared at the Kyle and Waugh Insurance office to increase their flood insurance. The April Fool's edition is on file at the City Island Nautical Museum.

On Memorial Day, when Americans remember their war dead, the minds of many turn to Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Germany, where so many soldiers fell and still lie. Around this time I always remember Robby Leupp Jr., a family friend from City Island who is buried in the World War II Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium. His is not a dramatic story but it evokes a time gone by and lost, and the very telling of it today makes one wince.

I was born in 1950 and grew up on City



Island. I learned about Robby from his younger brother, Clint, another veteran of WW II. The Leupp family and mine shared a two-family house near Nevins Shipyard, where PT boats had been built during the war. Clint's wife, Helen, who still summers on City Island, remembers her brother-in-law as fair, with curly light hair always cut short. "Robby had the City Island-famous Leupp blue eyes. He was very good-looking. He laughed a lot."

Robby worked weekends during high school on *The Polly*, the shipyard owner's private sailing yacht. He joined the Army because the Navy wouldn't take him (his eyes weren't good enough). On his first leave, he married his childhood sweetheart, a redhead named Mimi. Ten days later he was shipped overseas.

After D-Day on June 6, 1944, Private First Class Leupp and other soldiers from the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Infantry

Division, moved into Belgium. While they were crossing a field, Robby stepped on a land mine. Some of the men with him had been in his wedding party, which is how his family found out what had happened to him, although Clint learned of Robby's death when he saw some men with his patch, the cross of Lorraine.

Robby was one of 405,399 Americans who sacrificed their lives in the war, including 78,976 missing in action. Robby was classified as MIA for years. Eventually, the Army found a shoe with his serial number and some bone fragments, along with a handkerchief. In June 1949, Robby's father got a letter asking what he would like to do with the remains.

As Helen Leupp recalls it, "So many years had passed and we all felt it would be too hard to know what was left of Robby in that box. So that is why he is in Belgium. The pain and anger were too hard to bear. I wish I could give more information. Everyone who would know more is dead and the rest too young to know much."

Last year more than three million people visited American military cemeteries outside the United States, most of them in Normandy. Robby's cemetery is on the edge of a village called Neuville-en-Condroz, and the American dead occupy 90 acres marked by perfectly aligned headstones and framed by masses of oak, beech, pine and dignified linden. The burial area slopes slightly north toward Neupré and the Belgian countryside.

Years ago I was told that Robby was killed as soon as he landed in Normandy, but after I visited his grave the first time I discovered he actually died in France on the Fourth of July, 1944, just before the battle for St. Lo. The date of his death indicates that he was near Lessay, a village west of St. Lo. The Ardennes American Cemetery, where his remains are interred, is the final resting place for many soldiers missing in action for years.

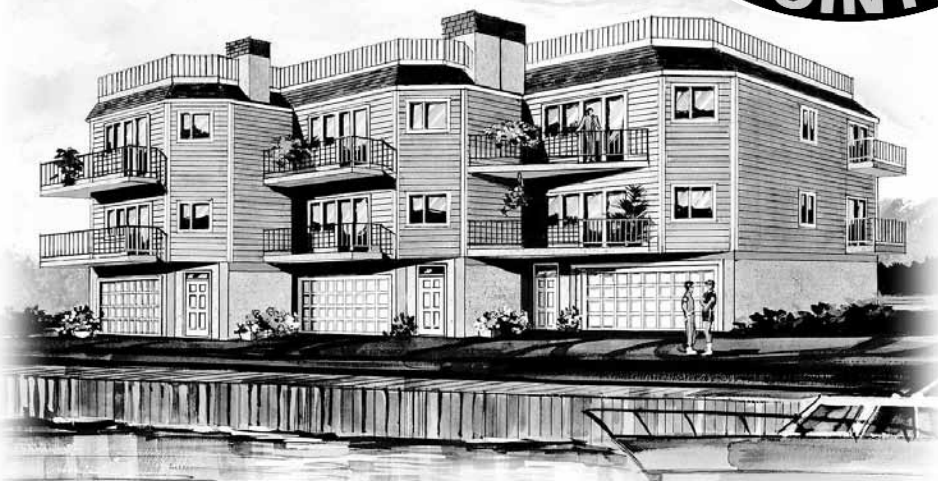
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SOCIAL SECURITY MYTHS

By DIANA VALDES

Social Security Manager,
East Bronx Office

Social Security is one of the biggest Federal government programs. And sometimes it seems the number of myths and misconceptions about Social Security has a direct correlation to the size of the program. I will help clear up some of those misunderstandings and set the record straight.

Myth One: "My benefit is based on my last three years of work or my highest five years of earnings."

Social Security retirement benefits are based on your lifetime average earnings, not just your last three years or five highest years. In almost all cases, we use your highest 35 years (not necessarily consecutive) to figure your retirement benefit. If you haven't worked for 35 years, we must add "zero" years to your computation. One upside to the high number of years used to compute benefits is that a few years of lower earnings won't have a dramatic impact on your Social Security pension. Many people retire before they turn 62 (the earliest age they can get Social Security) or they work part time for a few years before they retire. A few years of lower earnings, when averaged out over a 35-year time span, will not have a great impact on your eventual Social Security benefits.

Myth Two: "I can start my Social Security at 62 at a reduced rate and later switch to full retirement benefits."

Sorry, but that's just wrong. If you take a reduced benefit, the reduction generally will stay with you for the rest of your life. There are only two exceptions. One happens if you retire and take reduced benefits, and then return to work for a while, forcing us to stop your benefits while you're working. When you reach your full retirement age, we will refigure your benefits and charge you with a reduction only for those months you actually got a Social Security check. The other exception applies only to widows and widowers. They can start getting reduced benefits on one record and later switch to a full benefit on another record. Let's say you are a widow due a \$1,000 retirement benefit or a \$1,500 widow's benefit. You could take a reduced retirement benefit of about \$800 at age 62 and then switch to your full \$1,500 widow's benefit at your full retirement age.

Myth Three: "There's a limit that you will pay to a married couple."

That's true only in the sense that there is a limit to the Social Security retirement benefits that any person can receive. But two people married to each other can each receive the maximum payment. In other words, there is no "marriage penalty." A husband's Social Security benefit does not offset a wife's Social Security benefit, and vice versa. In 2003, the maximum retirement benefit payable to someone turning age 65 and 2 months (the "full retirement age") is \$1,741. So if a husband and wife each turned 65 and 2 months this year and if each earned the maximum benefit, each would get \$1,741, or \$3,482 combined.

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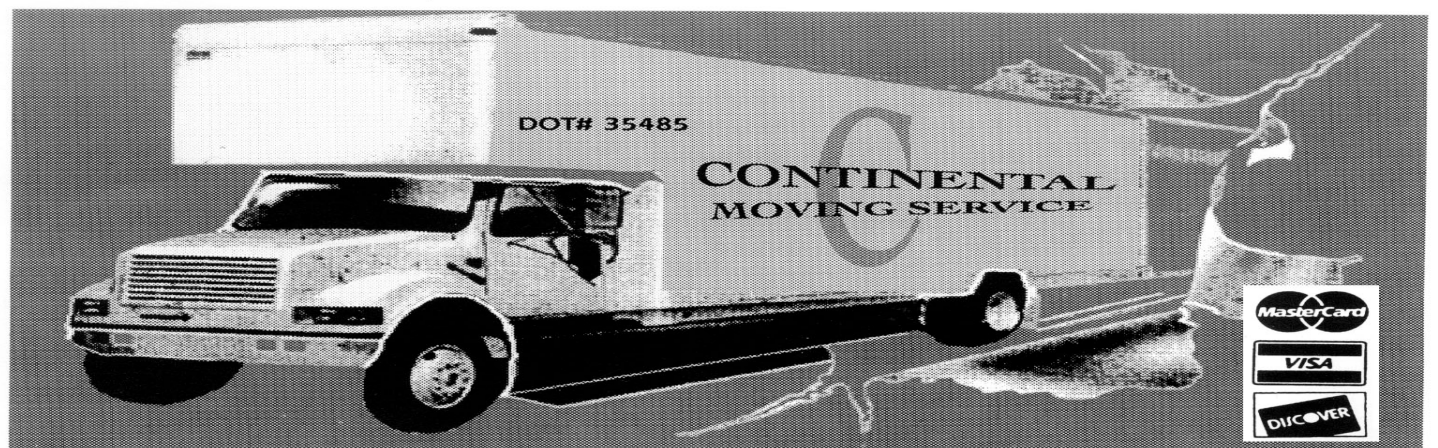
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Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Savings Time)

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

Tide chart by Tom Smith

SEPTEMBER 2003

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0256	7.8	0915	0.0	1519	8.4	2202	0.0	Mon 01
02 Tue	0352	7.4	1007	0.4	1614	8.1	2316	0.4	Tue 02
03 Wed	0457	6.9	1109	0.9	1720	7.7			Wed 03
04 Thu	0048	0.6	0629	6.6	1244	1.2	1853	7.5	Thu 04
05 Fri	0205	0.6	0801	6.7	1417	1.2	2025	7.6	Fri 05
06 Sat	0311	0.4	0909	7.0	1525	0.9	2132	7.9	Sat 06
07 Sun	0409	0.1	1006	7.4	1624	0.6	2228	8.1	Sun 07
08 Mon	0501	-0.1	1057	7.7	1716	0.2	2319	8.3	Mon 08
09 Tue	0548	-0.2	1143	8.0	1804	0.0			Tue 09
10 Wed	0004	8.3	0631	-0.1	1225	8.1	1847	-0.1	Wed 10
11 Thu	0046	8.2	0710	0.0	1304	8.1	1927	0.0	Thu 11
12 Fri	0125	7.9	0745	0.3	1338	8.0	2003	0.2	Fri 12
13 Sat	0159	7.6	0811	0.6	1406	7.8	2033	0.4	Sat 13
14 Sun	0228	7.3	0822	0.8	1428	7.6	2052	0.7	Sun 14
15 Mon	0254	7.0	0841	1.0	1455	7.4	2116	1.0	Mon 15
16 Tue	0325	6.8	0915	1.3	1530	7.3	2153	1.3	Tue 16
17 Wed	0405	6.5	0958	1.6	1612	7.1	2240	1.5	Wed 17
18 Thu	0454	6.4	1047	1.8	1702	7.0	2337	1.7	Thu 18
19 Fri	0556	6.3	1143	2.0	1800	6.9			Fri 19
20 Sat	0049	1.8	0730	6.4	1248	2.1	1907	7.0	Sat 20
21 Sun	0219	1.6	0838	6.7	1402	1.8	2020	7.2	Sun 21
22 Mon	0317	1.2	0923	7.1	1514	1.4	2118	7.6	Mon 22
23 Tue	0402	0.8	1000	7.6	1609	0.8	2205	7.9	Tue 23
24 Wed	0443	0.3	1035	8.1	1657	0.2	2249	8.3	Wed 24
25 Thu	0521	-0.1	1112	8.5	1742	-0.3	2332	8.5	Thu 25
26 Fri	0600	-0.4	1152	8.8	1827	-0.7			Fri 26
27 Sat	0016	8.5	0640	-0.6	1235	9.0	1913	-0.9	Sat 27
28 Sun	0102	8.4	0722	-0.5	1319	9.0	2002	-0.8	Sun 28
29 Mon	0151	8.1	0807	-0.3	1407	8.8	2055	-0.5	Mon 29
30 Tue	0243	7.7	0856	0.1	1459	8.5	2159	-0.1	Tue 30

OCTOBER 2003

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0342	7.2	0954	0.6	1558	8.0	2320	0.3	Wed 01
02 Thu	0501	6.8	1115	1.1	1718	7.5			Thu 02
03 Fri	0041	0.6	0639	6.7	1256	1.3	1905	7.4	Fri 02
04 Sat	0151	0.6	0754	6.9	1411	1.1	2020	7.5	Sat 04



Where Were You?

For a couple of years now, City Islanders have been looking across Eastchester Bay to Country Club and Throggs Neck, watching as the old marinas there have slowly given way to new waterfront developments. Many displaced boaters from across the bay have found both summer and winter homes for their vessels here on City Island. But now it seems that the times have caught up with at least one of our own. We understand that Royal Marina will be shutting down for good this fall. This means less space for what is already a crowded situation for boat owners.

And as if that weren't enough to dampen a sailor's spirits, this summer will be going down in the record books as one of the wettest. In May and June alone we had 280 percent of the normal rainfall for our area. That's enough to make this sailor guy and gal pine for the droughty days of 2002.

For a little good nautical news, Island boaters of all ages (and landlubbers, too!) should make their way over to the Nautical Museum at 190 Fordham Street. Tommy Nye and the rest of the volunteers have done an outstanding job piecing together a comprehensive City Island retrospective that stimulates the senses. The place simply teems with City Island history. You just have to check it out. Their hours are every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Check out the wild turkey poults, too (poults are young wild turkeys). We were wondering where those by-now-familiar fowl had gone to and now we know. Mother and poults have been spotted alongside the road to and from the Bartow-Pell traffic circle. As always, drive very carefully.

Where were you when the lights went out? We were on the road, driving carefully of course, to Point Lookout. And when they came back on? All we know is that where we wanted to be was Fordham Street. They had their air conditioners up and humming again while most of the rest of us were settling for quick opens and shuts of refrigerator and freezer doors to stay cool.

In the darkness of the blackout, it was interesting to note how many more stars

than usual were clearly apparent in the night sky. Ordinarily, the glow of city lights obscures celestial bodies, limiting what we can see, and ordinarily, those limitations are many. Anyone familiar with the sky at night out in the country knows that there is much, much more than meets the eye in a City Island sky at night, even with the added influence of a power outage. Still, it was nice to see stars without some of the blur for a change.

One celestial body that has certainly been making its presence known this summer is Mars. On Aug. 27 Mars was as close to Earth as it has been in 70,000 years (only about 35,000,000 miles away). You can still catch the show at night this September if you look to the south and east. Mars is the low, non-twinkling, bright light you will see there. With a good telescope, you may even be able to view Mars's polar cap.

We understand that some of the residents of Buckley and Horton Streets had their own private viewing this summer. It was of a hawk swooping down to snatch a pigeon off the ground near the beach there. Actually, it all happened so fast that there is some question as to the true identities of predator and prey. Some claim it was a falcon, not a hawk. And others say it was a mourning dove, not a pigeon. (For the record, we hope it was the pigeon.)

We guess the lesson here is to keep those bird identification books even closer than before because you never know. It is such a much more satisfying experience when one can put names positively to the players of a drama such as this.

Back on Buckley and Horton, they are still trying to figure out what force of nature hit them on the afternoon of July 22. Whatever it was, it swept through their little enclave like a demon, uprooting trees, smashing cars. Was it a twister? A water spout? A line squall? They (and we) welcome your input on this subject and others at jdsstrat@earthlink.net.

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Cardiovascular Disease/Cardiac Arrest: Facts And Statistics

Cardiovascular Disease

- Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of adults in the United States, responsible for about 960,000 deaths annually. Cardiovascular diseases claim more lives than the next seven leading causes of death combined, including cancer, accidents, influenza and pneumonia, and diabetes.

- One in five Americans has some form of cardiovascular disease
- The cost of cardiovascular diseases in 2002 is estimated to be \$329.2 billion in direct costs, such as hospital visits, and indirect costs, such as lost productivity.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- Sudden cardiac arrest (caused by ventricular fibrillation) suffered in settings outside the hospital is responsible for about 250,000 deaths annually in the United States. Each day more than 680 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest.

- Sudden cardiac arrest is most often caused by an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). VF usually results from cardiovascular disease but may also result from electrocution or near-drowning.

- When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the victim collapses, becomes unresponsive to gentle shaking, stops normal breathing and has no signs of circulation such as normal breathing, coughing, or movement.

- About 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

- About 74 to 80 percent of all sudden cardiac arrests happen at home; so being trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one.

- Survival is directly linked to the amount of time between the onset of sudden cardiac arrest and defibrillation. If no bystander CPR is provided, a victim's chances of survival are reduced by 7 to 10 percent with every minute of delay until defibrillation. Few attempts at resuscitation are successful if no treatment is provided within minutes of collapse.

- Effective bystander CPR, provided

immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double a victim's chance of survival.

- Death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. If more people know CPR, more lives could be saved.

Defibrillation and Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

- CPR is not a substitute for defibrillation. CPR helps maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain until defibrillation can be administered.

- Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are safe for trained lay rescuers to treat sudden cardiac arrest. The device automatically analyzes a victim's heart rhythm and only allows an electric shock to be delivered when necessary. AEDs are easy to use, compact, battery operated, lightweight and durable.

- The American Heart Association encourages the widespread use of AEDs by trained lay rescuers through community AED programs. Elements of a successful community AED program include the use of FDA-approved equipment, medical supervision of the program, training in CPR and use of the AED, proper maintenance of AED equipment, and coordination with the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

For more information call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit www.american-heart.org or for information on CPR classes near you call 1-877-AHA-4CPR.

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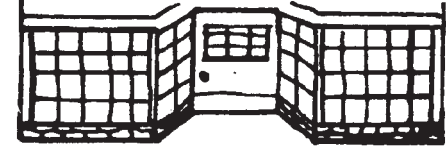
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Photos by RICK DeWITT

Senator Guy Velella and the New York City Department of Parks sponsored fireworks on July 1, 2003, off Orchard Beach. Islanders went to the beach or congregated at the north end of City Island to view the spectacular pyrotechnics, which were dedicated to the service men and women fighting the war against terror. Some Islanders who watched from their boats reported that one of the barges caught fire at the end of the show. The fire was quickly extinguished by a fireboat.

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ROWERS: For sale - two pairs of good old-fashioned oars. One pair 7 feet, bare wood, never used. Second pair, varnished, used but in good condition. Asking \$45 per pair. Call 718-885-1517.

FLOWER CLEARANCE SALE: Saturday, September 13. Specials on plants, annuals and hanging baskets. 233 Fordham Street, City Island, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

DRIVER WANTED: Responsible young adult wanted to drive senior citizen (woman) on local errands in my car. Call Kathy at 885-1377.

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MULTI - FAMILY YARD SALE: 94 Centre Street. Labor Day Weekend. Sunday and Monday August 31st and September 1st. 10am-8pm.

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Photo by RENA HANSEN

The Swedish-born sailors Mats Tormark, 57, and Lena Jensen, 55, are embarking on a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to Gothenburg, Sweden. Their 45-foot steel ketch, *Elena*, is being fitted with a new mast at Consolidated Shipyard. While they waited on City Island, the couple met Lars Westvind, the owner of 134 Horton Street, who keeps a boat in Minneford Shipyard. Lars has decided to join them on the voyage, which should begin in September. Fair winds and safe passage to the three adventurers!

BOOKS TO REMEMBER

The New York Public Library unveiled its selection of the 25 "Books to Remember" for 2003. Chosen for their ability to provide an informative or transformative reading experience, these outstanding literary works span all genres.

The event was attended by authors whose works are featured in the list, including Kristin Borjesson, editor of *Into the Buzzsaw: Leading Journalists Expose the Myth of a Free Press* (Prometheus Books), a series of provocative essays that underscore the dangerous trends in American journalism, and Darin Straus, author of *The Real McCoy: A Novel* (Dutton), the story of "Kid" McCoy, a boxer, swindler and bigamist.

"Books to Remember" has a long-standing tradition of featuring the best that the publishing world has to offer. Among this year's choices are *The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd* (Hyperion Books), by Richard Zacks, an entertaining, richly narrated account of the notorious buccaneer's life; *Insect Dreams: The Half Life of Gregor Samsa* (BlueHen Books), by Marc Estrin, an astonishing debut novel that provides a

kaleidoscopic view of the 20th century via Kafka's cockroach; *A Simple Habana Melody (From When the World Was Good)* (HarperCollins), by Oscar Hijuelos, a sensual bittersweet story of a Cuban's composer life and loves; and *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War*, by T.J. Stiles (Alfred A. Knopf), a compelling biography about the notorious outlaw placed in the context of Southern Reconstruction.

Other selections that made the list are *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Apt. 3W*, by Gabriel Brownstein (W.W. Norton), a series of charming, offbeat stories featuring the eccentric tenants of an apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side; as well as *Noble Obsession: Charles Goodyear, Thomas Hancock, and the Race to Unlock the Greatest Industrial Secret of the Nineteenth Century* (Hyperion Books), Charles Slack's captivating hard luck story of the man who revolutionized the rubber industry. Poetry is represented by *Without an Alphabet, Without a Face: Selected Poems of Saadi Youssef* (Graywolf Press), by Saadi Youssef, a collection of lyrical, engaging poetry rooted in urban landscape and the politics of place.

"Books to Remember", now in its 47th year, is published by The New York Public Library's Office of Adult Services. It is an annual list of books chosen by specialty librarians for their ability to provide an informative or transformative reading experience for adults, and includes fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The booklist is available free at all 85 branches of The New York Public Library.

Selected titles appearing on this booklist may be available in recorded, braille or large print versions. For more information, please contact the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, (212) 206-5400.

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

A very happy 17th birthday on Sept. 2 to Bay Street's Stephen Swieciki, with love from your family.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5.

It's a boy! Congratulations to William Avenue's James and Jinyoung Glynn on the June 30 birth of Aran James Glynn. Proud grandparents are John and Kathleen Glynn of Throggs Neck and Jung Hee Choi and Young Rok Lee of Korea.

A very happy belated birthday to Kyra Nicole Varnavas, who celebrated her first birthday on July 9, with love from Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt Karen, Uncle Paul and cousin Paul Alexander. Also, birthday wishes and love to Kyra's mom, Helene Collier Varnavas, who celebrated her birthday on June 8.

Happy Sept. 5 birthday wishes to my favorite art teacher, Ann McGuire, with love from Maria Christina Swieciki and family.

Happy birthday(s) on Sept. 12 to Bay Street residents Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson.

Happy Birthday to Mike Rauh, in

training for the NYC marathon.

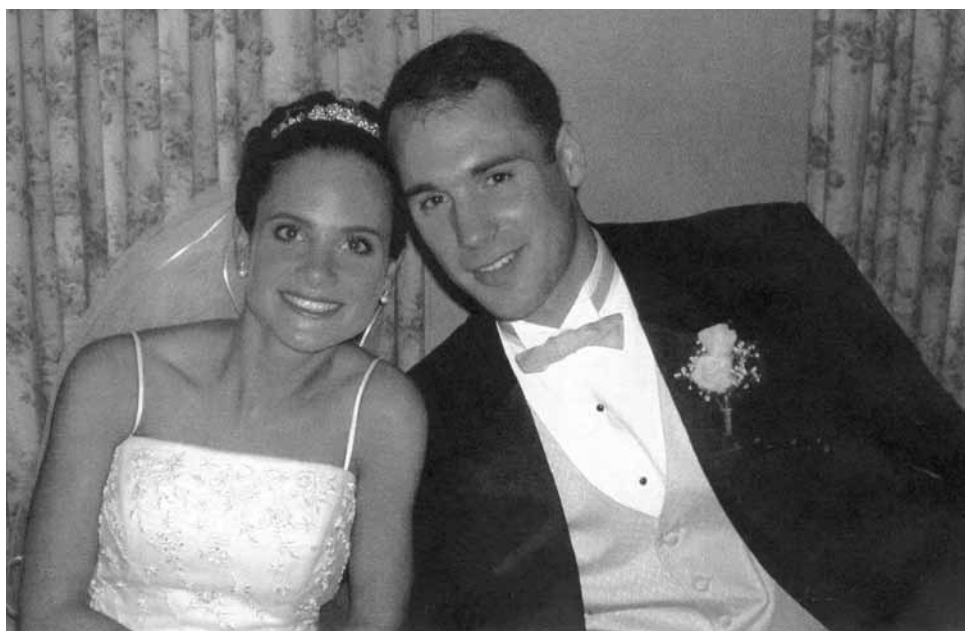
Congratulations to Buckley Street's Deborah and Matthew Henning on the July 21 birth of Ben Henning. Proud big brother Matthew and sister Julia Skye are thrilled and even prouder great-grandpa, namesake Ben DiGregorio and great-grandma Virginia DiGregorio.

Belated happy birthday(s) to Cathy Cebek on Aug. 3 and to Frankie Cebek, who turned 15 on Aug. 22, with love from the Cebek and Carmody families.

Birthday greetings to Hawkins Street's Diane Carmody on Sept. 5 and Frank Cebek on Sept. 21. Frank and Cathy will be celebrating their 20th anniversary this month. Congratulations to all with love from Frankie, Alex and Grandma!

Dr. Vladimir Kvetan and Ms. Cynthia Conley are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Henry John Conley-Kvetan, from Salesian High School on May 21, 2003. They wish to acknowledge the help and support given by Brother Robert Masotti, Sister James Patrick and a phalanx of enthusiastic friends both present and absent.

Congratulations and best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Christa Lachman and Nathan Cady, who were married on July 26, 2003, at Belhurst Castle, Geneva, New York. Belhurst Castle, built in the 1800s, is located on Seneca Lake and was a magnificent storybook setting for their beautiful wedding ceremony and reception. After a honeymoon in Hawaii, Nathan and Christa will live in Ithaca, New York. Nathan's family is from Grand Isle, Vermont, and Christa is the daughter of Mary Lou and Bob Lachman and the granddaughter of Jean and Bob Lachman.



Belhurst Castle in Geneva, NY was the site of the beautiful July 26, 2003 wedding ceremony and reception of Christa Lachman and Nathan Cady.

Birthday wishes on Sept. 15 to Haim Joseph of the Nautical Winds from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc.

Happy birthday on Sept. 25 to Buckley Street's Bette Lacina, from your family and friends.

Anne and Tom Costello of Tier Street are very proud of their son Michael, who recently completed his 30th year with the FBI. He has worked in many cities throughout the country in the areas of foreign counter-intelligence and Russian organized crime, and he is now working with on a joint anti-terrorist taskforce with the New York City Police Department. He has received a number of awards over the years, including the U.S. Department of Justice Award for Public Service. Congratulations, Michael!

What a year it's been for Mildred Jewett! She traveled west to California to visit the Storch/Jewett clan and arrived in time for the birth of her first great-grandchild, Nicolas Nataniel Storch. Proud parents are Tiffany and Wes Storch. Soon after, Mildred headed south for Florida, where she visited with

Gary's family and shared in the celebration of granddaughter Dena's engagement. While in the Sunshine State, she squeezed in visits with transplanted City Island friends. She left Florida and headed back to California in time for the baptism of little Nicolas and enjoyed every minute of her visit there. Proud new grandparents are Gail (Jewett) and Walt Storch and new aunt and uncle are Gaileen (Storch) and Jeff Rautenberg. Stay tuned and keep an eye out for Mildred and her Frequent Flyer Miles as she zips through City Island on her way to her next exciting destination.

Belated congratulations to Minneford Avenue resident Melissa Dzenis who graduated with numerous academic honors and service awards from Pelham Middle School in June. Melissa was also the keynote student speaker at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new middle school addition. She was featured on the cover of *The Pelham Weekly* with Senator Guy Veleva and school board members with shovels in hand to mark the start of construction.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The first City Island Jazz Festival was held on Thursday, June 26, 2003, on the dock at Trader John's Boatyard on Bridge Street. The festival featured the David Amram Trio and was well-attended by residents and guests. Many Islanders said they hoped it would become an annual event.

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