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One Dollar

PRESIDENT OF THE BRONX BECOMES RESIDENT OF C.I.

By MIRIAM KLEINBERG



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. addressed the staff, parents and students of Public School 175 on Sept. 13, 2004, the first day of school. Now that Mr. Carrion is a resident of City Island, two of his children will be attending the school. Introducing him to the audience is principal Milagros Efre-Lopes; behind the piano is James Vacca, district manager of Community Board 10, whose daughter also attends P.S. 175.

When Adolfo Carrion was a little boy, his father used to bring him to City Island so they could go fishing, and as he grew up he continued to feel a strong bond for City Island and waterside communities in general. He loved swimming and water sports and even had a job as a lifeguard. And he always remembered City Island with great affection.

When he and his wife, attorney Linda Baldwin, started looking around the Bronx for a home, City Island seemed like a natural choice. Since he has four children, a large house also seemed like a necessary choice. The building at 620 City Island Avenue housing Le Refuge Inn was available, and the Carrions felt it would indeed be a refuge for them.

Born in Manhattan, the son of a Protestant minister, Mr. Carrion has lived in the Bronx for more than 30 years. He is the

third child in a family of four, and the only boy. His son, known as A.J., is six, also the youngest in a family of four, and also the only boy. Perhaps that's why he sometimes refers to A.J. as "mini me."

When Mr. Carrion speaks of his family, his joy and pride are obvious. His oldest is 15 year-old Raquel (nicknamed Rocky). Her father describes her as having a strong social conscience, and she sometimes accompanies her father on campaign trips. He refers to Sara, 11, as a natural leader, and Olivia, 9, is the family artist. Olivia and A.J. attend P.S. 175, and Sara and Raquel attend public schools off City Island. (This writer found that fact especially impressive, because almost all politicians pay lip service to supporting public schools, but very few actually send their children. His commitment to public education is both public and personal.)



Adolfo Carrion Jr., Borough President of the Bronx, met with Current staff writer Miriam Kleinberg at the City Island Diner, where he shared his ideas about education and life on City Island.

Mr. Carrion did not grow up dreaming about holding public office. He graduated from King's College, where he majored in world religions and philosophy and planned a career teaching college and writing. He was a fortunate college student, because he received both a full scholarship and a living stipend.

As we all know, life is what happens while we're making other plans. Other opportunities presented themselves to Mr. Carrion and he chose well. First he became an associate pastor for two years in a Bronx church, then a public school teacher, teaching a self-contained seventh-grade bilingual class. ("Self-contained" means that he was with the same kids all day every day and responsible for all subjects.)

While he was teaching, he completed a master's degree in Urban Planning (all New York City public school teachers must complete a master's degree) and went on to work for the Bronx Office of the Department of City Planning. After that, he became district manager of Community Board 5 in the Bronx and later joined Promesa, a community development organization. In 1997 Mr. Carrion was elected to the City Council where he sat on seven committees.

In 2001 Adolfo Carrion was elected

Borough President of the Bronx, pledging that for him leadership and accountability go hand in hand. This is a pledge that all politicians would do well to take.

When asked what he enjoys about life on City Island, he says: "City Island is a treasure, with a maritime flavor that needs to be protected and promoted," a sentiment that is music to every City Islander's ears. He says that he loves the real sense of community here—of being a village within the city.

He recognizes, however, the various problems that we have to deal with as a community. An immediate problem, he feels, is overdevelopment, which he defines as the conversion of maritime-related businesses and properties into land on which "ticky-tacky" structures benefit no one in the long run. He also believes that the Island needs better traffic management or at least tougher enforcement of the existing laws, and more respect for the community as it exists without tourists. He would like to see the police firing range at Rodman's Neck relocated to an indoor facility in the new police academy in the Bronx, away from residential and recreational areas so that everyone here could breathe a big sigh

Continued on page 11

ST MARY'S NEW PRINCIPAL

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Jane Dennehy

Jane Dennehy, the newly appointed principal of St. Mary, Star of the Sea grammar school, replacing Sister James Patrick, who moved on this summer to a new position, is brimming with enthusiasm and ideas for the future. Her main goal is that St. Mary's become, once again, a parish elementary school, which will in turn help strengthen church attendance.

A City Island resident, Mrs. Dennehy is married and the mother of four children. Raised in the Bronx, she attended Immaculate Conception elementary school and St. Raymond Academy. She received her B.A. degree from the College of New Rochelle and her masters from St. Joseph's Institute for Religious Studies.

After college, Mrs. Dennehy taught Spanish and history for seven years at Monsignor Scanlan High School. While her children were attending St. Mary's grammar school, she looked for and received a teaching job there, and for 12 years taught the seventh and eighth

grades. After her children graduated, she returned to Scanlan to teach history and religion. When she heard that the position of principal was open at St. Mary's earlier this year, she submitted an application and was accepted by the search committee and the pastor.

The school capably serves nearly 200 children at the present time. A 75th anniversary celebration will take place in 2006, and the school is planning to start up an alumni association to help promote school development. The faculty members all look forward to working with Mrs. Dennehy. "We are thrilled and excited by her new programs and visions for our school. Her professionalism and her successful years of teaching will be our guide to ensure a wonderful experience at St. Mary, Star of the Sea."

Mrs. Dennehy's family is very committed to Catholic education. Her son, Andrew, teaches English at Monsignor Scanlan High School; her daughter, Elizabeth, teaches fourth grade at St. Benedict's; and her husband, John, teaches CCD at St. Mary's. The whole family belongs to a non-profit musical group called The Songcatchers. In addition to singing in the concert choir and playing the guitar, Mrs. Dennehy serves on its board of directors. She is also a cantor at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

She is extremely grateful to her husband for being so supportive and encouraging. Her friends have also proved very helpful in her transition from teacher to administrator.

Mrs. Dennehy invites all who are interested to visit St. Mary's school and take a look at all the new kindergarten equipment and furnishings, the creative bulletin boards and the energy that permeates the school as it enters a new phase in its history.

BRIEFLY...

BATTLE OF PELL'S POINT ENCAMPMENT, commemorating the battle of Oct. 18, 1776, that saved Washington's army in Pelham Bay Park, will be held at St. Paul's Church, 897 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 15 and 16. A candlelight cemetery tour will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, followed by a performance of 18th-century music. Reenactments, performances and demonstrations will be presented on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children's historic games and toys will be available. Call 914-667-4116 for more information.

PUBLIC SAFE BOATING COURSE, presented by the City Island Power Squadron, a unit of the U.S. Power Squadrons, will be an eight-week program held at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning Monday, Oct. 18, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The course is for individuals 12 years and older and will provide personal water craft (PWC) certification. Topics covered are seamanship, navigation aids, marlinspike, boat handling, rules of the road, elementary piloting, plotting, regional boating, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio telephone usage and more. Instruction is free; cost of materials is \$55. Register on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Jim at 718-863-3855 (do not call after 10 p.m.), e-mail cipsboating@aol.com or visit the Web site www.cityislandpowersquadron.org.

THE HALLOWEEN PARADE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS. The parade will be held as usual on Oct. 31, starting at 6 p.m. at Hawkins Street Park. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Last year's parade was the largest ever with more than 800 participants. Volunteers are needed to organize, judge, collect prizes and escort the parade. Any prize donations can be dropped off at Atlantic Emeritus Realty. Please call Bob Carmody at 718-885-0088 with any questions or to volunteer.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during July and August 2004. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

JULY AND AUGUST

- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
1 - ASSAULT
4 - HARASSMENT
2 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
1 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
1 - FOUND NARCOTICS

Police report the following arrests and incidents for the months of July and August:
7/1 - Police are searching for a male, 33, who threatened to kill his girlfriend at 9 p.m. on Rochelle Street.
7/3 - At 12:30 p.m. on Terrace Street, an unknown male phoned a male victim, age 26, and told him to watch his back or "I will kill you." The suspect is wanted for aggravated harassment.
7/3 - At City Island Avenue and Bridge Street, at 2:50 a.m., a male, 30, was arrested and charged with DWI. The defendant was driving with the headlights off. The vehicle was stopped crossing the City Island Bridge, and police detected strong odor of alcohol and noticed his motor skills were impaired.
7/3 - Police are investigating an alleged incident of assault and criminal mischief at 8 a.m. on Horton Street. Complainant states that he observed a defendant hitting his dog through a fence causing damage to the fence. When complainant attempted to stop defendant, he was struck with an unknown object on his forearm.
7/23 - A male, 20, was arrested and charged

with DWI after being unable to maintain the lane of travel at City Island Avenue and Bridge Street at 11:10 p.m. When stopped, the defendant had bloodshot, watery eyes and was unsteady on his feet.
7/25 - On City Island Avenue, at 10:30 p.m., a male victim reported that another man verbally threatened his life causing alarm and annoyance.
7/27 - Police responded to a call from a female victim on Centre Street at 8 p.m. The victim had a verbal dispute with a male that escalated into a pushing and shoving match. According to police, there were no visible injuries and no arrest was made.
7/29 - On City Island Avenue, at 5:20 p.m., a female complainant found alleged narcotics (heroin) in a phone booth. The NYPD Narcotics Division was notified and is investigating.
8/1 - On Bridge Street, a female victim, 17, said she was harassed by her ex-boyfriend, who called her cell phone and threatened her.
8/11 - A fatal traffic accident occurred on City Island Avenue at 10:20 p.m. A male victim was crossing the avenue when he was struck by a northbound vehicle (see story in September 2004 Current).

City Island Tales of the Clam Diggers. brings alive three centuries of history about this colorful and little known island within New York City. Written by Alice Payne. Hard Cover - \$25.00 plus \$3.00 S&H-\$28. Soft Cover - \$16.00 plus \$3.00 S&H-\$19. www.cityislandclamdigger.com

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EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-0984
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner
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, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Teresa Teto.
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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Photos by RICK DeWITT

The Fall Arts and Crafts Fair was held on Sept. 18 and 19, 2004 on City Island Avenue. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the fair included handmade jewelry and folk art. To the disappointment of many, the fair was rained-out on Saturday which also cancelled the scheduled chowder tasting courtesy of Island restaurants.

Islanders Star As Pelham Bay Belles

Last month's issue of *The Current* ran an article about the Pelham Bay Little League's Girls' Softball League, known as the Pelham Bay Belles, but the role played by Islanders was not given sufficient coverage. In fact, three of the coaches were Islanders, Nick Lotrionte, Frank Muscolino and Bob Carmody, and their impressive daughters—Nicolette, Jillian and Briana Lotrionte (Briana played in the 12-and-under Division), Jill Muscolino and Kelly Carmody—put on quite a show.

The first playoff game was between the Crystals, the team on which Jill, Nicolette and Jillian played, and the Diamonds, Kelly's team. The game was exciting and competitive, and the Diamonds prevailed. When they moved on to the next game, the Diamonds were the ultimate underdogs, for the Rubies had the best pitchers, defense and offense. But the Diamonds

had more intensity, and they won the game 27 to 14. In the championship game between the Diamonds and the Emeralds, the game went into extra innings, but the Emeralds scored the winning run and were proclaimed the Pelham Bay Belles Champions.

At the Metro-State Championship, Jillian Lotrionte and Kelly Carmody represented the 14-and-under All-Star Team. In the first game, both Jillian and Kelly played spectacular defense, and the Belles won and went on to beat Glen Cove in two subsequent games to be crowned Metro-State Champions. On July 24 and 25, the team traveled to the regional playoffs in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and won two of the four games they played. Quite a season for the Belles. Congratulations on a job well done!

MORE ZONING CHANGES FOR CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Those who applauded in 2003 when the New York City Department of City Planning revised the Special City Island District Zoning to help curb inappropriate overdevelopment should be prepared to applaud again, as even greater restrictions on high-density housing in Community Board 10 become law early in October.

Inspired by the City Island zoning changes, residents of Throggs Neck appealed to the city last year for stricter zoning regulations in order to stem the high tide of housing construction, especially along the waterfront. Mayor Michael Bloomberg promised to support the move, and on Sept. 28, 2004, after nearly a year of preparation by City Planning, the City Council voted to adopt a rezoning of the Throggs Neck area.

Amanda Burden, director of City Planning, addressed the zoning subcommittee of the City Council by saying that the Throggs Neck rezoning is "part of an effort to revise outdated zoning regulations in one- and two-family neighborhoods all over the city where the prevailing low density character has been under siege from an extraordinary housing boom."

Although increased housing construction is good news for New York City's economy, residents of low-density neighborhoods, including City Island and Throggs Neck, have become increasingly concerned by the recent surge in new multifamily townhouses that are bulkier and taller than existing homes, as well as by the lack of parking, inappropriate waterfront developments that block views of the water and insufficient infrastructure to accommodate new residents.

As a result, City Planning has worked closely with many communities across the city to establish zoning rules that strengthen communities while directing growth to areas where the infrastructure can support it.

Mrs. Burden noted that the "Throggs Neck proposal includes a fine-grained rezoning that will go a long way in preventing tear downs of single-family homes for large rowhouse development. One of its key components includes a modification of waterfront zoning to protect views and public access in the Throggs Neck area. This modification also closes a city-wide loop-hole that allowed developers to circumvent waterfront zoning rules even when their property was physically located on the water."

Although several of the new changes affect only Throggs Neck, City Island, like the rest of the Community Board, will be affected by the application of Lower Density Growth Management regulations, which the Council approved last month for Staten Island. The proposed zoning changes apply to yards and open space, parking and related provisions, and to private road developments.

Rules will now be tighter for houses

in corner lots, requiring full 30-foot rear yards, limiting the number of houses that can be built behind other houses, and increasing the open space required between new and existing neighboring houses. All houses will be restricted from providing parking within the 30-foot rear yard. Additionally, landscaped buffers will be required between any group parking lot and an adjacent zoning lot, and street trees will be required in all new developments, in accordance with Department of Parks and Recreation standards.

The historic rule of one parking space for each housing unit no longer provides sufficient parking in most parts of the city, so the new rules require that new one-family houses must have two on-site parking spaces instead of one, and two-family houses must have three parking spaces instead of two. These parking spaces will not be permitted in the front yard, thus freeing up driveways and on-street parking for guest and visitor parking. Increased requirements for driveway widths and distances between driveways will ensure that adequate front yards are provided.

All residential projects on private roads will be governed by the same yard and setback requirements as those on public streets. No longer will residential developments on private roads be built without rear yards or with inadequate front yards. In addition to requiring more on-site parking, parking spaces on the private roads will no longer count toward meeting the parking requirement, freeing up more on-street spaces for visitors. Landscaped buffers between rear yards and public streets will be required and will provide an incentive for developers to locate front yards facing the public street.

Planned C.I. Developments

The site plan for the former Royal Marina site on City Island Avenue was approved before the adoption of the new Lower Density Growth Management regulations, but the plans conform for the most part to the new zoning. There is no announced date for construction to begin on this site, because considerable work apparently needs to be done on the bulkheads.

The long-anticipated development approved over a decade ago for the east end of Marine Street, to be called Sea Breeze Estates, will not have to conform to the new regulations, because the property is zoned commercial rather than residential. However, as the developer announced in the spring of 2004 to neighbors, the current plan is to build only 32 units rather than the originally approved 51 units and to increase the number of parking spaces. There will also be a marina that can accommodate 50 boats, at least 32 of which are expected to be owned by residents of the development.

An application has been made to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by Haim Joseph, developer of the Nautical Winds Condominiums at 190 Fordham Street, for the construction of five two-family houses on part of his property between Tier and Ditmars Streets. This residentially zoned property contains wetlands that many Islanders have for many years longed to preserve for wildlife and tidal flooding control. Objections to the development have been raised by the City Island Civic Association and a number of residents.

DEC expects to rule on this application within the next few weeks, but in any event the size and configuration of the development will be subject to the new zoning regulations recently approved by the city of New York.

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.
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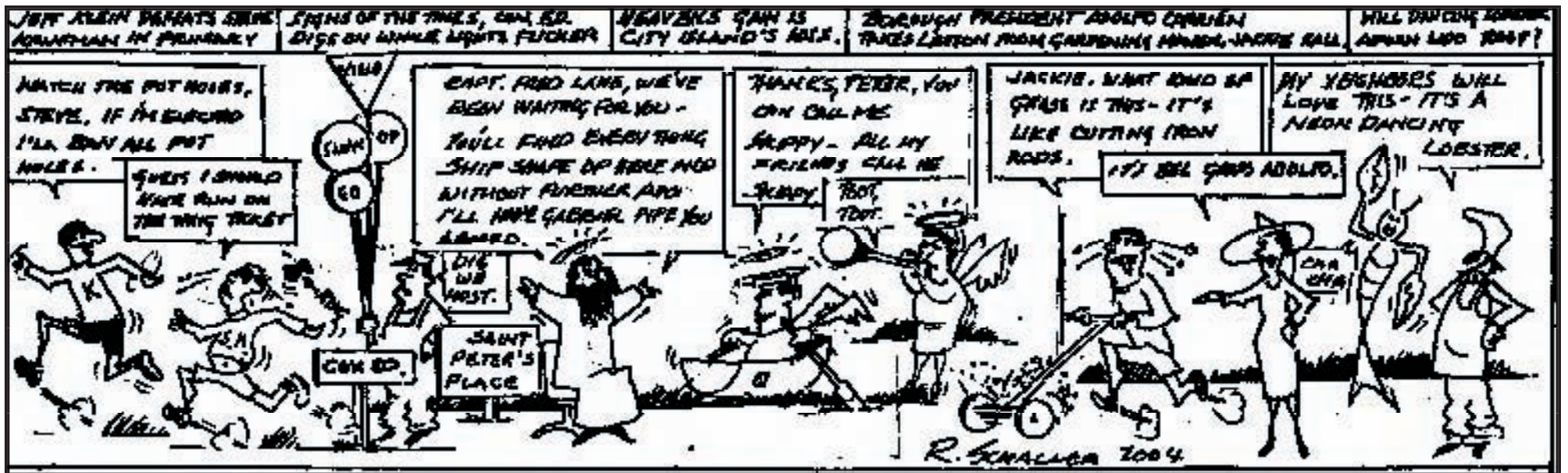


Photo by RICK DeWITT

Rena Hansen



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.

Save the Wetlands

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

To: Harold J. Dickey, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

We are writing to request a public hearing regarding the applications by H&J Management Realty to build five two-family houses adjacent to NYSDEC-regulated tidal wetlands.

Just decades ago tidal wetlands completely surrounded the archipelago of City Island. Even at that time, one of the richest of these habitats was the creek that flowed between what is now Tier and Ditmar Streets. Although highly modified, this creek is one of the few remaining of some 50 that were in place in the eastern Bronx a century ago. It is the only freshwater wetland left on City Island and one of only a half dozen tidal wetlands left on the island.

At present, the creek provides foraging habitat for black-crowned night heron, great blue and occasionally yellow-crowned night herons, as well as snowy and great egrets. In winter periods, osprey and juvenile loons have been seen foraging in the shallows. The creek bed provides habitat for killifish, silversides and bunker, and these often attract game fish, including bluefish and striped bass. This creek bed has at times supported huge numbers of clams and oysters. Each night in summer, the upland portion of this site provides a roosting area for black-crowned night herons. The wetland and forested section also provides critical foraging habitat for migrating neotropical birds.

The positioning of these proposed dwellings in and adjacent to critical wetland tidal and intertidal area appears in

Editorial

It is with considerable sadness that we bid farewell to Rena Hansen, who is moving to Ohio before the end of the year to live closer to her daughter. Rena has been an indispensable member of the staff of *The Island Current* for many years. She took and developed hundreds of photos, many of them on call, and we honestly don't know what we would have done without her. It seems inadequate to just say "thank you," but she deserves thanks from all of us. She is a vital member of the City Island community, having contributed her talent and wisdom to many activities—from theatrical groups such as Patchwork and the City Island Theater Group to art organizations, such as CIAO, and to efforts supporting the rights and role of women. The City Island Community Center and the Chamber of Commerce have given her well-deserved awards for her contributions to the community, and we will miss her very much.

direct contradiction to DEC's role in protecting this critical habitat.

More than five years ago, we laid out a framework for preserving this area as a parkland and wildlife refuge. Unfortunately, the present development appears to ignore the value of the estuarine habitat and adjacent wetland. Rather than making this a centerpiece of a program to add value to the land, as well as any salable properties on the site, the present plan appears to extend illegally into protected critical estuarine habitat.

The water table is near the surface on this site. It is, therefore, impossible to see how all storm water can be treated on-site. Rather than utilizing the water-holding and distribution patterns and processes on the land, this plan proposes to further fill the site with "clean fill" over a "rip rap wall." This kind of construction is the antithesis of habitat creation. Since inadequate specifications are given in terms of loading and water-storage capacity, it is impossible to see how the proposed "standard" infiltrator or sidewinder trench can work in a high water table/wetland environment.

In conclusion, without public input and review, we see the spare plans proposed for this site as likely to cause irreparable damage to a priceless resource.

We highly recommend, even strenuously request, a public hearing.

Paul S. Mankiewicz, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Gaia Institute
Julie A. Mankiewicz, Ph.D., Director of Research and Education, The Gaia Institute

Who Killed the Cats?

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, between 8 and 9 a.m., someone's car hit a beautiful black and white cat, named Fiesti, between Minneford Avenue and Cross Street. Fiesti was one of four cats that were run down by cars on Minneford Avenue during the preceding four weeks. These cats belonged to residents who cared for them, but none of the drivers stopped after hitting them.

People, you are driving too fast! This has long been a complaint of the residents of Minneford Avenue. Islanders and others use Minneford as an access road when City Island Avenue is backed up or because it is convenient. This is well and good, but it is not a speedway. This is a local street on which our homes are located.

What is it going to take before the police department and DOT do something to slow the traffic down? Some little child

darting out between two parked cars and getting mowed down? And what about the kids on those motorized scooters?

Where are you all going and what is so important that you have to drive at 40 m.p.h. or more on a local street? How many more pets are you going to kill? How many more accidents are going to happen?

I am tired of people who believe laws were made for everyone else but themselves. Does anyone remember the cell phone law that was enacted a couple of years ago? I am amazed at how many people I see driving their cars while talking on their cell phones.

Islanders have to pull together for our common good. As long as people are allowed to break the law, senseless loss of life will continue. If everyone would drive carefully and within the speed limits (25 m.p.h. on local streets), all of us would be safer to go about our business, to pull out of our driveways without having to worry about who is flying by. And if everyone would tell their family members to do likewise, City Island would be an even better place to live.

**Name Withheld Upon Request
Lights Still On**

To the Editor:

Your article "Lights Out" in the September *Current* was right on the money. As the last president of the City Island Preservation Association, I recall writing to many city agencies to try to get enforcement of the Special District Zoning regarding non-compliant signage. What we found was that many businesses on City Island were "permit shopping," which means asking for and getting permits from agencies that have no idea City Island was a Special Dis-

trict with unique rules about signage. Ports and Terminals was at that time the agency of choice for businesses seeking permits to circumvent the rules.

I went to the restaurant Bambu after reading the *Current* article. I asked the manager about the backlit signs and was treated to a diatribe about the past owner's various misdeeds and vices. In the end, he told me the signs would stay. I countered that I would not be patronizing his restaurant.

Perhaps this is a good way for all City Islanders to let their displeasure be known. For too long the restaurants on the Island have used our beautiful homes and generally pleasant residents as centerpieces for their businesses.

I respect anyone's right to make money, but that should entail an obligation to respect and abide by the rules that protect and preserve this community. Here is what I suggest: Turn off your illegal signs and replace them with ones that comply. Stop the self-aggrandizing practice of giving money for a photo op and start some job-training programs. Become part of the community.

As for us residents, we should stop going to restaurants that are lit in a manner that would make a Las Vegas casino operator wince. There are many fine establishments that comply with the Special District Zoning laws and that hire local people.

This is our Island; we live here; it's up to us.

Cynthia Conley

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VETERAN HANDS

Fred "Skippy" Lane 1922-2004

Reprinted from Nautical World magazine, April 1998. Skippy Lane passed away on Sept. 21, 2004 (see Obituary on page 12.)

With more than a million nautical miles under his stern, Captain Fred "Skippy" Lane swallowed the anchor in 1983 and returned to his place of birth, City Island, New York. Having spent more than 40 years driving tankers and delivering oil, grain and other cargoes all over the globe, he had delivered himself home.

Born in 1922, Captain Lane grew up on an island whose life blood was and is the sea. Boats, shipyards and sailors' yarns were the seminal influences of his youth. Like most residents of City Island, Skippy—as he is known to his friends—hails from a long line of seafarers. His grandfather captained a clipper ship which sailed the New York-India route.

As a teen, Lane followed in his father's footsteps by going to work at City Island's Henry B. Nevins shipyard. His starting salary as a worker's helper: eighty-four cents an hour. While at the yard, he watched countless launchings of yachts—many of which became legendary. With each fitting out and departure of these beautifully-crafted vessels, in Lane grew a desire to follow in their wake. He soon did.

He earned his sea legs by the age of eighteen, crewing on yachts that sailed up and down the East Coast. Shortly thereafter, Lane matriculated at the maritime school in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, where he trained and was certified as an ordinary seaman. On November 20, 1940, he shipped out of Martha's Hook, Pennsylvania, aboard a Sun Oil Company tanker. Underway 14 months, he accrued enough sea time to attend school at Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut, earning his



third mate papers.

In World War II, Lane helped fuel the Allied war effort, working aboard tankers making the run between Texas and New York and Aruba and New York. In the ensuing years, Lane sat for various exams, continuing to work his way up the promotion ladder. He became chief mate at 24. In 1949, he received his captain's license.

During his long and distinguished career, Lane transported oil around the world, traversed the Suez Canal, delivered grain to the Soviet Union, and even found himself escorted by ice breakers to the U.S. military base in Thule, Greenland. Like any Veteran Hand with decades of service at sea, Lane encountered his share of wild storms and heavy seas. When asked about his most memorable experiences, however, he does not relate the times he warded off pirate attacks in Southeast Asia and the Suez with fire monitors, or countless other dangerous scrapes, he speaks of a handful



Photo by RICK DeWITT

"Skippy" Lane

of events that, to others, might not stick-out—but perhaps best define this last-of-a-dying-breed sea captain.

Out of his hundreds of port calls and adventures, Lane vividly recalls a day in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Discharging cargo, he learned of a children's hospital in need of food. He returned to his ship and received permission to bring the children at least one good hearty meal. Benevolent actions would become a hallmark of Lane's career.

He also speaks of a day, years later, on the other side of the world, when he and his crew rescued ten Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea. Aghast that numerous other ships had passed them by, he took them to the Philippines. From there, the refugees eventually made their way to the United States. They eventually tracked down the good captain who had saved their lives and sent him a letter of gratitude.

Of the many places he visited, Lane counts Scapa Flow as among his favorites. He remembers times spent there—seven visits in all—with great fondness. The barren wind swept harbor is located in the Orkney Islands in northern Scotland. The islands create the northern shore of the Pentland Firth, a channel with a ten-knot current that has claimed many ships and crew. Sent to remove the heavy grade oil stored there after the closing of the British Navy base, Lane and his crew would spread good cheer among the townspeople. Upon their departures, much of the town would gather at the local lighthouse to bid him and his ship farewell.

Retired for nearly a decade and a half, Lane now lives quieter days with his wife of 54 years, Doris, at their home on City Island. The walls of their modest retreat are covered with mementos and artifacts brought back from people and ports around the world. At the age of 75, Lane continues to be a voracious reader and shares his knowledge with all who ask. With some prompting, he is quick to tell his great tales of adventure. Lane is a repository of so much local and world information that-like the yachts he saw launched as a young

Islander's Cloud Photo A First-Class Stamp

By ADELAIDE ROSENFELD BIALEK and BARBARA DOLENSEK



David Rosenfeld's photograph, *Cirrus radiatus*, is in the upper left hand corner of the 3 by 5 plate.

On Oct. 4, 2004, the United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a set of 15 37-cent stamps and a booklet of 20 postcards called "Cloudscapes" in which one image is a photograph taken by long-time Island resident David Rosenfeld. The series is the featured stamp for October, which is stamp-collecting month.

Born in 1907 as the eldest son of Morris and Esther Rosenfeld, David lived on City Island for most of his life. His parents lived at 194 Horton Street. In 1939, he and his wife, Adelaide Rodstrom Rosenfeld, moved to 91 Pell Place. Mrs. Rosenfeld died in 1985. In 1993 he moved from Pell Place to a retirement community near his son David in Horseheads, New York, where he died the following year. At his death, he left a stock of photographs with a photo-supply house, which sold his photograph "Cirrus radiatus" to the USPS.

The photograph was taken at the Seal Cove home of his sister-in-law Cynthia Rodstrom Kinsella, who was born and grew up on City Island. Seal Cove is on the east side of Mount Desert Island in Maine and looks across Blue Hill Bay to the Camden hills. David and Adelaide Rosenfeld often visited the house, where they especially enjoyed the extraordinary sunsets.

The cloud photographs were issued at Blue Hill Observatory in East Milton, Massachusetts, where extensive cloud studies, as well as the first sounding of the upper atmosphere by use of instruments carried by kites, were carried out early in the 20th century.

David's father, Morris Rosenfeld, was the principal photographer of the family firm, which produced some of the finest sailing photographs ever made in America

and are now deposited as the Rosenfeld Collection at Mystic Seaport. Although the photographs carried the name Morris Rosenfeld, his three sons also took many of the pictures.

In 1937, David began teaching photography at Metropolitan Vocational High School, where he was chairman of the Photography Department. Each day after school he worked at Rosenfelds' Nassau Street office, and during the summer, as well as on spring and fall weekends, he worked out of City Island. The Rosenfeld's specially equipped boat FOTO was moored on City Island, and Morris and David each had darkrooms at home.

During World War II David continued to teach but he also worked with his father photographing projects for the Navy. He took identification pictures for the shipyard workers who were cleared to build for the Navy on City Island.

Through the 1960s David's work appeared in "Yachting," "Life Magazine," "Reader's Digest," "Popular Photography," "Rudder" and the *New York Times*. In 1960 he transferred to the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, and he worked as assistant principal until 1971.

David once recalled, "When I was a youngster I worked Saturdays and Sundays or whenever my father needed help. As time went by I started to get paid, 50 percent of my salary went to room and board. That was from 1920, when I was 13, until 1931, when I got married. I paid my college tuition (New York University) from the 50 percent of my salary that I received.

For more information about the "Cloudscapes" stamps, visit the Web site www.usps.com/communications/news/stamps/2004/cr04_062.htm

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City Island Civic Association



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

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** at 327 City Island Avenue will show paintings by Madaline Braisted, Lino LoGuidice, Janet DeFino, Galina Lampert and Lois Weingarten, as well as photographs by Ruth Kraiem and Greta Jacklitsch through October. An opening reception will be held Friday, Oct. 8 from 7 to 10 p.m.

October at the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) features lots of music and a photography exhibition. On Saturday, Oct. 9, singer-songwriter Sam Leopold returns to the Starving Artist with another lively performance of his original music, beginning at 8 p.m. The City Island Jazz Trio will be making music on Sundays, Oct. 17 and 31, perhaps a little "spooky" jazz for that Halloween Sunday; those jazz performances begin at 3 p.m. Jazz guitarist Lou Volpe takes the stage on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. That Saturday also marks the debut of an exhibition of photography from husband and wife Neil and Susan Garcia; the Oct. 23 reception

will run from 3 to 6 p.m. Always on the menu at Starving Artist are the handmade jewelry creations by Elliott Glick; fine art and craft by various artists; and coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso and treats, including Jen's Sweets, the pastries that are works of art.

It has been a very good five years for **Livingrocks**, a creative project started at the Community Teen Center in 1999. The Livingrocks have been on the move—from P. S. 175 to Trinity United Methodist Church to Ron Turner's Focal Point Gallery to Seafood City, then to New Rochelle's New Dawn Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and back to the Bronx for I.S. 192, M.S. 302, WBedco Urban Development Center and the Bainbridge Public Library. Now they are on their way to Manhattan and the Donnell Public Library on 53rd Street, right across from the Museum of Modern Art. Jay Howard, the founding father, urges all Island residents to stop by that exciting part of the Big Apple to see the rock faces created by our City Island teens. Jay hopes then to bring the Livingrocks back to City Island for a welcome-homecoming at one of our galleries or at the Community Center.

The **David Amram Trio** will present a Jazz fest at Trader John's Worm Bar by the bridge on Thursday, Oct. 7, at 8 p.m.

Disability Employment Awareness Month

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. President Bush has noted that "for Americans with disabilities, employment is vital to independence, empowerment and quality of life. During [this month], we recognize the many contributions citizens with disabilities make to our society, and we reaffirm our commitment to helping them achieve their full inclusion in our workforce."

Social Security is proud of its contribution to this effort through the Ticket to Work program. About 10.5 million Americans with disabilities currently receive benefits under the Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability programs, and about 9 million of these beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program. It truly is one of the best ways to help Americans with disabilities realize their career dreams.

Over the past three years, nearly all of our disability program beneficiaries have received a ticket in the mail, together with information telling them how to use it to get vocational rehabilitation services, as well as employment and other support services. Social Security has contracts with hundreds of groups and organizations around the country, called Employment Networks, which work with disability beneficiaries to provide assistance to help with the transition to work.

Beneficiaries receive services from Employment Networks for free, and Social Security pays the Employment Networks for successfully helping people go to work.

The Ticket to Work program has other provisions to help people with disabilities who try to go to work. For example,

government health care coverage has been extended. Under the Ticket legislation, most Social Security disability beneficiaries are protected by Medicare for at least eight years and six months after they go to work. Some states allow working people with disabilities to buy Medicaid coverage even if they are no longer eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Another feature of the Ticket to Work law helps people restart benefits if they try to work but then have to stop work because of their disability. Their benefits can be started again without filing a new application. The request to start benefits, including Medicare and Medicaid, must be made within five years after benefits are stopped.

The Ticket to Work program is voluntary. Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries who receive a ticket are not required to work, but may choose to use their ticket to attempt to go to work. More beneficiaries are making this choice ... and more still may want to consider doing so.

If you or someone you know is receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits, think about taking advantage of the opportunity the Ticket program offers. For more information about the program, visit Social Security's Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov/work.

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REAL ESTATE REVIEW

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
81 Pilot Street	3/10/04	\$372,500	3 Family
471 Minneford Ave.	3/31/04	\$350,000	1 Family
35 Winters Street	5/27/04	\$437,000	1 Family
69 Carroll Street	6/29/04	\$565,000	1 Family
81 Carroll Street	7/6/04	\$500,000	1 Family
113 Buckley Street	7/9/04	\$427,500	1 Family

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City Island Chamber of Commerce

GUESS WHO WILL BE HONORED AT THE 9TH CITY ISLAND CHAMBER AWARDS DINNER ON DECEMBER 3, 2004 At the Lido Restaurant?

To find out, check out the next issue of *The Island Current*, or the Chamber's web site www.cityislandchamber.org in November!

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Photos by RICK DeWITT

The Dan Butterworth Marionettes presented puppets and jugglers in their show "Carnival of the World" at the Little League Field on Friday, Aug. 27, 2004, thanks to the support of Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano in conjunction with the City Parks Foundation's "City Parks Kids" program.



A STORY OF RENEWAL

By TERESA TETO



Photos courtesy of Sally Connolly

Pictured above: the Connolly house circa 1920. Below: the restored house as it appears now.



In 1998, Daniel and Sally Connolly moved into a tiny two-bedroom cottage on Horton Street to be near his widowed grandmother, Alice Connolly, who lived in the big house on the property.

After Alice Connelly died in 2000, Daniel and Sally, with their two sons, Nicholas, now eight, and Robert, now six, took over the big house, which had been in the family since 1973, and began the massive task of restoring it to its original condition.

The house was built in 1897 by Captain Frederick Gauss, who had given up his seafaring life to settle ashore. He and his wife, Sophie, bought part of the vast Horton family farm that fronted on a protected cove overlooking Eastchester Bay. There they raised their son, Philip, whose widow, Evelyn Gauss, still lives on Earley Street.

When Captain Gauss died, the Rodstrom family bought the house, and in 1930 they sold it to the Cotter family. Beginning in 1938, Daniel's father, Dr. Stephen Connolly, spent his boyhood summers in the rental cottage on the property, and when Mr. Cotter died in 1973, Stephen bought the house and cottage for his parents, Alice and Clem Connolly, remembering their City Island summers with great pleasure.

Daniel was born in Manhattan but always felt that City Island was a great place to live. His wife, Sally, who comes from the coastal town of Guilford, Connecticut, also feels very much at home here. Like many Islanders, they love the proximity to the Big Apple, but they especially enjoy the water, the air and the small-town feel of City Island. Their sons play in the City Island Little League, and both parents serve as coaches. Sally also volunteers as director of the Stuyvesant

Yacht Club junior sailing program, working closely with the instructors to teach sailing to 40 children and teaching two of the sessions herself.

Daniel, an attorney, was special counsel to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani during the last four years of his administration. He is a director at Giuliani Partners, the former mayor's consulting firm. In 2002 Daniel bought the Horton Street property from his father. Although the seawall built by Captain Gauss was still in good condition, the big house needed work. In 2003 Philip Mirando was hired to restore it on the basis of an old turn-of-the-19th-century photograph.

The attention to detail has been meticulous. For example, the fish-scale shingles on the upper third of the house were specially made to match the photograph. A stained-glass window with its elaborately carved frame also received special handling. Inside the house, all of the woodwork on stairs, banisters, window and door frames was stripped of many layers of paint and are being brought back to their original beauty. At the same time, the house is getting a new lease on life with a modernized kitchen and with bathrooms and lavatories added on each floor.

Sally and Daniel Connolly are animated and enthusiastic as they reveal the nooks and crannies all over the house and show the beautiful views from every window and the porch. Their love for this historic house has resulted not only in a moving tribute to their family but also in a gift to City Island and its place in history.

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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

OCTOBER

Thurs., Oct. 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Greek Church, 3573 Bruckner Blvd., Bronx.

Tues., Oct. 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Oct. 30, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Sun., Oct. 31, **Halloween Parade**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 2, **Election Day, P.S. 175**, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

The Grace Church family gathers every Sunday at 10 a.m. for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and you are invited to join us. If you have never visited Grace before, we encourage you to do so. We are a warm, inclusive, growing Christian community, and we would be delighted to count you among our number. We are also excited to announce our plans to begin a one-room Sunday School this fall. For more information or to enroll your children, please call Mother Patty Alexander at the Parish Office, 718-885-1080, as soon as possible.

Joe Nixon

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity has its service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school is in session at the same time.

Pastor Sue Chadwick regrets to announce that there will be no Disciple Bible Study this fall, but she looks forward to resuming classes in the near future.

Oct. 17 is Laity Sunday at Trinity. This year the focus will be on singing songs and living life.

George Cavalieri will finish his bible study course on Oct. 24, covering chapters 15 through 22 of the Book of Revelations. The class will take place after our regular service.

The long-awaited opening of the Budget Shop took place on Sept. 14. We can always use volunteers on Tuesdays and the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested, please call Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241.

Anne Sill

Chapter 3303 AARP

The Minneford Chapter 3303 will hold its annual fair on Thursday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Trinity United Methodist Hall, 113 Bay Street. The fair will include various items of art work, craft specialties, jewelry, a cake table and gifts for the holiday season. Members are busy creating these articles and getting gifts ready for the fair, which is open to the general public. Admission is free and refreshments are available.

All funds generated by the fair will be donated to the various charitable, religious, educational, health and youth organizations in our community. The committee promises to have a large assortment of interesting items, and we cordially invite the residents of City Island and the surrounding area to support us in this endeavor.

On Tuesday, Oct. 12, the chapter will sponsor a beautiful full-day trip to Mt. Haven Country Resort in Mulford, Pennsylvania, for its fabulous Oktoberfest.

We start with a mid-morning snack upon arrival, a buffet German dinner, a four-hour open bar including liquor, wine, beer and soda. There will be a theme show of the day, plus dancing, entertainment and a sing-a-long. Departure time is 8:30 a.m.

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 call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Chapter 318 AARP

Chapter 318 always meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Refreshments are served after the meeting.

Blood-pressure readings are taken on the first Wednesday of each month by Beryl Bertham. There is also a notary available to notarize any documents free of charge. Please see Dick Sauter.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Oct. 12. The bus leaves at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. Please call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844 for reservations.

Our penny auction will be on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The admission fee is \$4, which includes lunch and one sheet of tickets. Please try to attend as this is our only fund-raiser, which enables us to make our donations to many needy causes. Remember to mark your calendar.

Flo Bonicoro has been very busy this summer trying to put together a nice itinerary for our club. On Oct. 8, we will attend Oktoberfest at Mount Haven, Pennsylvania; open bar for four hours. In November there will be an overnight trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to see the "Miracle of Christmas."

In December we will have our annual luncheon at Marina del Rey, chaired by Florence Quinn and Gloria Salacan.

We have many day trips planned for the year 2005. Please attend our meetings for more information.

Marie Tirelli

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multi-ethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5765). We conduct Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all and holiday attendance is free. We are located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets.

A Shabbat/Simchat Torah Celebration will be led by Rabbi Shohama on Friday evening, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Shohama will lead the service with special musical guests assisting her. Our special Torah Study Group continues on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Tai Chi and yoga classes are conducted on Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Led by Marc Kaplan, his exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. Eight sessions: \$80 for members; \$120 for non-members. For more info, contact Marc at 718-885-2445.

Ballroom Dance classes led by Elaine Belasco return on Wednesdays starting on October 13 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Beginners and intermediate students welcome.

Shoham classes led by Rabbi Wiener



Photo by Bob Berent

On Thursday and Friday, September 16 and 17, Temple Beth-El of City Island ushered in the Jewish New Year with the penetrating sounds of the shofarot (rams' horns) to remind Jews this is a time for renewal and healing, thinking unselfishly, and a return to the Most High. It is also a clarion call for establishing a unity of peace for all mankind. Shown left to right are: Rabbi Shohama Wiener, Barry Goldman, Alan Dattner and Daniel S. Klipper.

offer Spiritual Healing of Health and Mind and will be conducted on the third Monday of each month starting on October 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Learn to Read Hebrew classes, sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program, will be conducted on each Tuesday in November and December at 7:30 p.m.

Our children's group, The Gan Yeladim, are planning a country outing on Sunday, October, 24. For more information, contact Jeri Stark at 914-760-3934.

Memorial Plaques for your departed loved ones are now available.

Visit our website at www.yourshulby-thesea.org or call 718-885-3098.

Bob Berent

Garden Club News

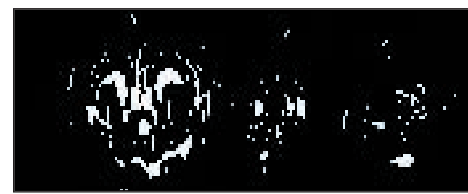
Members of the City Island Garden Club will enjoy a field trip to the New York Botanical Garden, including lunch and a tour, at the end of October.

Our semi-annual parks cleanup and spring bulb planting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Hawkins Street Park.

Gardening Hint: Only late-flowering plants, such as mums, asters and daisies, will keep your garden alive at this time of year. It's time to cut back the foliage on your other perennials for their winter rest. Trim them back to a couple of inches above the ground for healthy growth next spring.

We are actively seeking new members for the club, and we welcome all who are interested to attend our next meeting, which will be at noon on the first Monday in November at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. Or you may call Phyllis Goodman at 718-885-0521 for information.

Phyllis Goodman



City Island Theater Group

Maggie the Cat is Alive! Call now and reserve your tickets for the City Island Theater Group's stunning production of Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize winning play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," which will premiere on Friday, Oct. 15.

On the occasion of his 65th birthday, Big Daddy Pollitt's family gathers at his Southern mansion to stake their claims to his estate. Big Daddy's favorite son, Brick, has rejected his beautiful wife, Maggie, and seeks oblivion in alcohol, avoiding a truth that threatens his very existence. First performed almost 50 years ago in 1955, this American classic brings to life unforgettable characters driven by passion and trapped by lies.

Directed by Michael Flanagan, the talented cast includes promising newcomers Sharon Morrissey as Maggie the Cat and Mario Catanzaro as Brick. The cast also includes City Island's own Ellen Salzberg as Big Mama, Keith Trauceniek as Gooper, Liza Reid as the sinister Mae and Julie White as Lacey. Also in the cast are City Island Theater Group regulars Patrick Mahoney as Big Daddy, Bill Castro as Doc Baugh and TJ Meyers as Reverend Tooker. This production promises to be a real crowd-pleaser. Performance dates are Oct. 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 17 and 24 at 3 p.m. at the Grace Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your seats. Generous additional funding for this production is provided by JP's Waterside Restaurant.

Susan Rauh

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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

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

The Senior Nutrition Program held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will now be run by Presbyterian Senior Services. All senior citizens are welcome. 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.

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.

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

Art Classes: "Patterns Around the World" may still have openings for third- to eighth-graders Mondays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. "Experiments with Paper and Paint" for kindergarten through fourth grade will be held from Nov. 9 to Dec. 21, on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. These classes are funded in part by a grant from the Bronx Council on the Arts. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

Art and Playgroup: Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon or 12:30 to 2 p.m. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

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

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

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, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Mondays and Wednesdays 7 to 8:00 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.

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

Legion News

I am sure that by this time you have had an opportunity to peruse our new monthly newsletter, appropriately dubbed the "Post Dispatch." Not only is the new format attractive, but the content covers past, present and future Post activities. The "Dispatch" is the brainchild of Commander Mike Rauh and Post Adjutant William Clancy.

The flea market sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary was a financial success. Plaudits to all who gave their time to help. Many hands made light work.

The Post held an Everlasting Service at the last regular meeting, on Sept. 20. This moving ceremony honored those who departed within the last year. Paul Attanasio, Vincent Furnari, Edward Jones, A. Gerald Lopez, Rev. John Scanlon and Edward White Sr. were transferred from the Leonard Hawkins Post to Post Everlasting, at which time all names were duly recorded.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday, Sept. 18, to pay homage to Mari Anne Zavara, mother of Peter Zavara, an active worker at the Post, well regarded by his peers.

Unfortunately, on Sept. 21, we lost one of our most colorful members, Captain Fred (Skippy) Lane. I've known Skippy since we both graduated, summa cum difficult, from that citadel of learning P.S. 17, Skippy in 1936 and myself a year later.

There are many stories related to his 40 years at sea as a ship's master. The one I think best describes his character is the rescue of 10 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea. Skippy took them aboard, fed them, provided them with libation from his private stock (which he always carried for medical purposes, of course) and took them to the Philippines. When they eventually reached the United States, they sent him a letter of appreciation.

The first event for October is the annual pumpkin sale which takes place from Friday, Oct. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 3. Aside from the orange gourds, there will be chrysanthemums and hay.

The Sons of the Legion will sponsor a golf outing on Monday, Oct. 4. The Post voted to sponsor a hole for the princely sum of \$100.

Several members of the Sons of the Legion graciously volunteered to help with displaying the flags on City Island Avenue. My grandson Conal Schaller knocked on my door several days ago with the following names: Mikey and Tommy John McMahon, Nick Salacan and Brendan Murphy. To borrow a phrase from Skippy Lane: Welcome aboard.

Mike Treat, membership, informed me that 2005 dues are now due. See Mike or send your \$40 to the Post.

Regular meetings for October are Monday, Oct. 4, and Monday, Oct. 18. An executive board meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 11.

Our bar chairman announced that the prices of all drinks increased by 25 cents on Oct. 1. Tom said this also includes drinks purchased by senior citizens and veterans of the Big Deuce.

Every year I field a few calls relative to why we don't put flags up for Columbus Day. I mentioned in last year's October newsletter that Comrade Phil Tomsen did extensive research to prove that his ancestor Leif Ericson not only discovered America but also brought the first bocce balls to City Island.

Looking ahead to November, we have the Throggs Neck Veterans' Day Parade

on Sunday, Nov. 7, and the Pelham Bay Park Veterans Grove ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 11. The Bronx County Military Ball will be on Friday, Nov. 19, at Greentree in New Rochelle. Let's not forget our servicemen's dance at the Post at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20. The cost will be \$28 per person and includes dinner, a little libation and dessert. Contact General Robert Menonna, ret.

As you know, I have been lucky enough to visit those places in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany where I served during World War II. This year I visited a town in France called Graignes, where on June 6, 1944, the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment was dropped in the marshes south of Carentan, 16 miles off course. For anyone interested, I'd be happy to share Martin K. Morgan's "Triumph and Tragedy at Graignes." You can call me on extension 2087.

Until next month, at ease.

Russell Schaller

Boy Scout News

Troop meetings resumed Friday, Sept. 24. Any boy under 18 who has completed fifth grade and is at least 10 years old, or has earned the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, is welcome to register at troop meetings, which are held each Friday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Trinity's Fellowship Hall, 113 Bay St. Registered scouts will attend two upcoming camp-outs, one in October and one in November. We encourage you to join us and learn scouting skills.

The troop enjoyed a week of summer camp at Ten Mile River in upstate New York. The scouts earned merit badges and completed requirements for advancement in rank. On Oct. 1, the scouts received the merit badges earned during summer camp at a Court of Honor. Congratulations to all our scouts for their many accomplishments while they were having fun.

We would like to welcome back and thank our scout leaders for their commitment to scouting, and for their time and dedication, and for sharing their knowledge with our boys.

Stephanie Statkowski

Cub Scout News

As the summer of 2004 comes to an end and the school year begins, the Cub Scouts Pack 211 is also starting up its activities. We hope everyone had a wonderful and prosperous summer.

This year is going to be very productive for our young boys in Pack 211. Registration will be announced in early October. Our calendar is already full with new and exciting events.

Cub Scout Pack 211 is entering a crucial period this year. Scout regulations require a certain ratio of adults to scouts, and we are at the point where we will need more adults to volunteer as leaders or to help run the organization if the pack is to grow in membership.

The pack is going to run some fund-raisers this year to help pay for educational trips for our boys. The first event is our first ever, the "Cub Scout Pack 211 Cookbook." All of the delicious recipes were submitted by the parents of our scouts, and the book is available for the affordable price of \$10. Please support the organization by purchasing a cookbook or two; call 718-885-1740 to place an order. Delivery is free! See you all soon.

Angelo Bellocchio

Kalie was my baby sister.
She loved pink.
We were playing with her dolls.
I found a gun in the drawer.
It went off.
I made Kalie go away.
I hate me.

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Photo by JEANNE MIRABITO

The new Staten Island Ferry was delivered on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004. The ferry, which was built in Wisconsin, was brought down through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. When it reached Long Island Sound it stopped briefly near the southern point of Hart Island to pick up the NYC DOT Commissioner who was brought out to meet the ferry by a Miller launch from the Fordham Street ferry dock. A Hell Gate pilot was also put aboard by the City Island based pilot boat.



Overcoming Adversity

The triumph of the spirit is a very inspirational theme in diverse stories Hollywood has spun about the adversity that faces people in various walks of life. An all-too-common tale is that of a woman who must deal with the horrors of living with domestic violence. Although many have been turned off by the public persona of Jennifer Lopez, her performance as Slim, the mother of Gracie (Tessa Allen), in **Enough** (2002) is convincing and at times heartbreaking. When her perfect husband, Mitch (Billy Campbell), starts beating her, Slim embarks on a path that shows both her cleverness and incredible resiliency of spirit. Another film with the same theme is **Sleeping with the Enemy** (1991), which stars Julia Roberts as Sara, who is married to Martin, an abusive millionaire played by Patrick Bergin. Her attempt to escape and her subsequent triumph are also inspiring.

A movie that is timelier now than when it was filmed is **Not Without My Daughter** (1991). Betty (Sally Field) is an average American wife married to an Iranian physician named Moody (Alfred Molina). When they take their daughter, Mahtob (Sheila Rosenthal), to meet Moody's family in Iran, Betty finds herself trapped in a foreign country with no rights at all when Moody decides to stay in his homeland. This is a true story about a resourceful, courageous woman who is unwavering in her resolve to free her daughter and herself from involuntary captivity.

The story about the making of **Antwone Fisher** (2002) is almost as interesting as the film itself. Derek Luke is outstanding in the title role of a young sailor whose terrible bouts of temper have him sent to the naval base psychiatrist, Dr. Jerome Davenport (Denzel Washington). The real Antwone Fisher wrote the screenplay of his history of abuse, and it so impressed Denzel Washington that he chose it for his directorial debut. Also on hand is Joy Bryant as Cheryl, another sailor who as Antwone's love interest helps him learn about normalcy. This is an extremely moving film about a man whose triumphant

spirit is a true inspiration.

Moving to another era in time, we look at Adrien Brody's Oscar-winning performance in **The Pianist** (2003). This is the story of Polish Jew Wladyslaw Szpilman, a classical musician who managed to survive the Holocaust through fate and incredible good luck. The film was directed by Roman Polanski, who himself survived the Holocaust through the chance kindness of strangers.

Another Holocaust film uses humor as a tool of survival. Roberto Benigni co-wrote, directed and starred in **Life is Beautiful** (1998), the story of Guido who is sent to a concentration camp with his five-year-old son, Joshua (Giorgio Cantarini). To protect his child, Guido sets up an elaborate game in which he tells his son that the first person to win 1,000 points will win a real tank, not a toy. It is hard to convey how cleverly Benigni manages to pull this off without trivializing the atrocities suffered by millions of people. It is an inspirational film about human ingenuity rather than politics.

A film for children and adults alike is the animated **Chicken Run** (2000), a metaphor for the Holocaust. Living in chicken coops that closely resemble the barracks in concentration camps, this movie uses animals as surrogates for our hopes and horror, as the chickens unrelentingly concoct one escape attempt after another in an attempt to survive. It is a very sweet and clever Claymation film, which is both humorous and poignant and could inspire some people to consider becoming vegetarians.

The theme of **My Left Foot** (1990) is that of overcoming health-related adversity. Daniel Day Lewis received an Oscar for his performance as Christy Brown, who was born with cerebral palsy into a poor, loving Irish family in Dublin. Although he can control only his left foot, as the rest of his body seems to be in constant rebellion against him, he becomes a writer and a painter. I remember reading this story of haunting triumph when I was a child.

Russell Crowe received an Oscar nomination for his brilliant portrayal of Nobel Prize winner John Forbes Nash Jr. in 2001's best picture, **A Beautiful Mind**. One of the greatest mathematicians of our time is a victim of schizophrenia, but with the help of his wife, Alicia (Jennifer Connelly, Best Supporting Actress winner), he manages to overcome his descent into madness and to regain his ability to function in academia.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

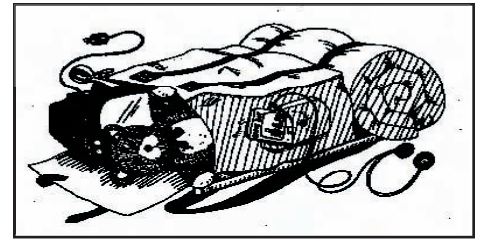


Public School 175

Principal Milagros Efre-Lopez and assistant principal Josephine Rondi would like to welcome back the children, parents and faculty that make up the P.S. 175 family. Ms. Carter-Spencer and Ms. Holzmann will be working with the kindergarten classes. Mrs. Stevelman and Mrs. Cambria are the first-grade teachers, and Mrs. Miskimmon and Mrs. McManus teach the second grade. Mrs. Cuevas and Mrs. Eisen will teach Grade 3 and the fourth-graders will have Mrs. DiMaio and Mrs. Tighe. The homeroom teachers for the fifth grade are Mrs. Mazzella and Mrs. Fateman, and for Grade 6, Ms. Loscalzo and Mr. Vouitsis. The seventh-grade teachers are Mr. Lafreniere and Ms. Horowitz, and the eighth grade will be taught by Mrs. Jensen, Ms. Heil and Mrs. Moscone.

The literacy coach is Mrs. Masotti; Mr. Breen will be guiding the computer program; and Mr. Fecht will be running the physical education program. Mrs. Botter will teach marine wildlife ecology, and math will be taught by Ms. Montero

and Mrs. DeGrasse. Mrs. DiIorio will run funded programs, and Ms. Shanahan, Mrs. White, Mrs. Driscoll, Mrs. Bellacero, Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Weiss will offer support services. The guidance counselor is Mrs. McDonald, and Mr. Weis supervises speech services.



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Mrs. Jane Dennehy welcomes the following faculty members for the 2004-2005 school year. The PreK/ kindergarten teacher is Ms. Beth Nesheiwat. Sister Joan McKinney will have the first grade, and Mrs. Theresa Bivona will teach Grade 2. Mrs. Janice Guarino is the third-grade teacher, and Mrs. Helen McMahon and a new faculty member, Miss Theresa Gunset, will teach Grades 4 and 5, respectively. The sixth-graders will again have Mr. Robert Garrison; Mr. Evan Beskin will teach Grade 7 and Mr. Peter Caddell will have the eighth-graders. The art program will be run by Mrs. Joyce Ocasio, and the music program by Miss Elizabeth Frenz. The physical education teacher is Mr. Corey Scagliola.

Fruits and Vegetables May Decrease Stroke Risk

A recent study published by the American Heart Association indicates that the risk of ischemic stroke may be reduced by sufficient blood levels of carotenoids, a family of antioxidants in fruits and vegetables.

An ischemic stroke is caused by a blood clot and is the most common type of stroke. The intake of fruits and vegetables has long been associated with a lower risk of stroke, but the study focuses on which antioxidants might have this positive effect.

By analyzing blood samples drawn from male stroke patients and comparing them with blood levels in the same number of

men who did not have stroke, researchers were able to observe that men with the lowest levels of carotenoids had the highest risk of ischemic stroke. Although this study does not prove that eating fruits and vegetables causes the lower risk, the results support a diet high in fruits and vegetables.

The American Heart Association recommends a well-balanced diet containing a variety of foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole-grain cereals and bread, nonfat and low-fat dairy products, lean meat, fish and poultry, as well as monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats.

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BARTOW-PELL EVENTS

Set aside some time this fall to visit the exciting new exhibition "In Search of the Lenape: The Delaware Indians Past and Present" at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. The show's curator, Dr. David Oestreicher, is a leading authority on the Lenape and related tribes, and his exhibit will highlight the material culture of Native Americans who for centuries inhabited the Mid-Atlantic region, which included the local Pelham Bay area.

The museum sits on land that was originally inhabited by the Siwanoy Indians, a Lenape tribe. This past June marked the 350th anniversary of an agreement entered into by that tribe and Thomas Pell, an ancestor of Robert Bartow, who built the mansion. A reproduction wigwam now stands beside a new visitor trail that leads to the site of the historic Treaty Oak.

Archeological finds from the Trowbridge Collection of Pelham Bay Park will be incorporated into the display. *The New York Times* described the exhibit as "an extended reverie" which captures "the vitality and poignancy of the Lenape saga." This new exhibition, made possible by a generous grant to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum from Con Edison, will be on view during museum hours, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

On the first Wednesday of September and October, tour four centuries of Pelham Bay history from 1 to 2 p.m. Each one-hour walking tour offers a glimpse into the area's rich heritage. Highlights include the

location of the Treaty Oak, where in 1654 Thomas Pell is believed to have bought much of today's northeast Bronx and lower Westchester from Siwanoy chieftains; the Pell family burial plot with headstones dating back to 1758; and the magnificent lily pool and iron-gated walls that surround the formal gardens designed by Delano and Aldrich in 1915. \$2.50 adults, \$1.25 seniors and children. Advance registration is appreciated. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail bartowpelled@aol.com (give name and telephone number, please).

On the last Wednesday of September and October, tour family life on a 19th-century country estate from 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Each 90-minute guided tour of the mansion and carriage house places an emphasis on the life and times of the Bartow family and the immigrants who lived and worked on the family estate. \$2.50 adults, \$1.25 seniors and children. Advance registration is appreciated.

On Wednesday, September 30, there will be a slide lecture and bird walk in Pelham Bay Park at 7 p.m. Using her own collection of slides, bird expert and nature photographer Deborah Allen will highlight the various species of birds that can be seen in the park. Ms. Allen will also offer suggestions and tips for the best spots to watch for the many winged beauties that inhabit New York City's largest public park. \$7 adults, \$3 children. Advanced registration is appreciated.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Civic Association held Candidate's Night at their meeting in August. Above, Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman addresses City Islanders.

Borough President

Continued from page 1

of relief.

Before Mr. Carrión moved to City Island, he served as Principal for the Day at the City Island School. The principal at that time, Mrs. Ellwanger, was thrilled to discover that the Borough President had a beautiful singing voice when he led the morning assembly in the national anthem. It turns out that he had indeed studied voice training and sung in a church choir, as well as in what he calls a "top 40" band.

What does he see for the future, for City

Island and for himself? For the Island Mr. Carrión would like to see all the organizations of City Island—the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the religious organizations, the school groups, the Garden Club and more—work together to accomplish things, such as more activities for children, teens and adults, more varied businesses, more structured activities using the waterfront.

For himself, Mr. Carrión's first great ambition is to be a good father to his kids. Then he plans to run for the office of Borough President again in 2005, and then possibly for mayor of the city of New York in the mayoralty campaign after that.

Adolfo Carrión is dedicated to public service. During his interview with *The Current*, he told a story about taking his daughter Raquel to Florida to campaign with him for John Kerry. In one of his speeches, Mr. Carrión said: "If women in the United States voted full force, we would not be involved in the kind of international conflict we're in now." When asked if he could be quoted saying that, he quickly replied, "Oh yes! I absolutely believe it."

One day Adolfo Carrión may be the mayor of New York City, and City Islanders can all say that he was their neighbor and friend before he belonged to the whole city.

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Obituaries

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

Owen E. Mercer Sr.

The Reverend Dr. Owen E. Mercer Sr., pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church from 1965 to 1975, passed away on Aug. 22, 2004. He was 90.

Dr. Mercer served 62 years in the ministry, beginning in 1935 in his home state of West Virginia. In New York City, as in previous pastorates, he was active in health, welfare and justice programs, including a position on the New York City Commission on Hospitals and Homes. He also served on several interfaith councils; worked with individuals from the television, film and radio industries in their support of drug and rehabilitation programs; and participated on a commission on rape and domestic violence under the Koch administration.

He and Mrs. Mercer helped to organize the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC) and the first chapter of AARP on the Island. Because of his work on behalf of the people of New York City, Dr. Mercer was called to be a consultant on employment at the White House during the presidency of Jimmy Carter and was awarded the Pelican Medal by Terrence Cardinal Cooke for his support of the Boy Scouts.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Edwards Mercer, whom he married on June 15, 1941; his children, the Rev. Dr. Owen Mercer II and Dr. Sloane Drayson-Knigge; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial fund has been established in his name at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, from which he received his Doctor of Ministry in 1978.

Fred (Skippy) Lane

One of City Island's legendary maritime figures, Fred Lane, known to all as Skippy, passed away on Sept. 21, 2004, after a long illness. He was 82.

Born March 8, 1922, on Minneford Avenue in a house overlooking Lane's Beach north of Cross Street, Skippy was a true clam digger whose life centered on the water. His grandfather had been captain of *Sweepstakes*, which sailed from New York to India and back during the late 19th century. His father, Victor Achilles Lane, worked as a ship builder at Nevins Shipyard, and Skippy spent his childhood on or about boats. His sister Evelyn worked at Ratsey and Laphorn Sailmakers, while his sister Virginia owned an antiques store at the corner of Bowne Street and City Island Avenue.

Skippy attended Public School 17 on City Island and graduated from Evander Childs High School. At 18, he got a job working on a yacht and eventually went to maritime school at Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, where he was certified as an ordinary seaman. After working for over a year at Sun Oil Company, he went back to school, this time in New London, where he eventually became a chief mate (at age 24) and master (at 29).

During his 40 years at sea, Skippy circumnavigated the globe five times. For 15 years he was captain of the oil tanker *Achilles* (no relation to his father!). He transported oil around the world, crossed the Suez Canal, delivered grain to Russia and even accompanied ice breakers to Greenland. His proudest achievement was saving the lives of 10 Vietnamese refugees from the South China Sea when other ships passed them by.

More than 60 years ago, in May 1943, Skippy married the love of his life, Doris Mullen, whose family had rented one of

his family's summer cottages on Lane's Beach. They had two children and lived for many years on Horton Street.

After retiring from the sea in 1983, Skippy became a City Island institution, a repository of information about City Island, especially its role in maritime history. He collected books, photographs and other memorabilia, which he stored in his basement.

He was a generous supporter and for several years president of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, where visitors would seek him out for information and conversation. Katherine Kirkpatrick, author of "Keeping the Good Light," a novel for young adults about Stepping Stone Lighthouse, credited Skippy for his help in her research. He was also helpful to Stu Miller and Sharon Seitz, authors of "The Other Islands of New York."

Skippy Lane was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery next to his parents. He is survived by his wife, Doris; his daughter, Jackie Taylor, and her husband, Brian, of White Plains; his son, Brian Lane, and his wife, Carol, of Throggs Neck; and five grandchildren.

Donations may be made in Skippy's name to Providence Rest Nursing Home, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465.

A funeral Mass was held for Skippy on Thursday, Sept. 23. In his eulogy, Cormac McEnery noted how fitting it was that Skippy died on the last day of summer at high tide, for he loved the summer, and when the first day of school came and the kids went back to school, he would go out to sea again.

TAX TIPS

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

The AMT Quandary

Taxpayers beware! The effects of the federal alternative minimum tax have gotten worse and are fast becoming a real taxpayers' dilemma. AMT in its original ideology was supposed to impose a minimum tax on the wealthy. However, like everything else in connection with taxation it has been and now really is a middle class burden.

Taxpayers hate surprises and you probably think that the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 will slash your tax bill this year, but unfortunately, it may just not turn out that way. In fact, you may actually find that in your case it may have exactly the opposite effect. Believe it or not, in some cases the tax cut act may increase your taxes because of a more pronounced effect involving the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

Even if you have never heard of it before, it may pay to address the AMT on a more regular basis in an attempt to avoid unhappiness comes tax time. The tax cut act has intensified the effects of the AMT, a trend that has been and will continue to increase as more tax cuts phase in over time. So here are some of the problems you may encounter now, before you start rejoicing over the new 15% tax on long-term capital gains and certain dividends.

The 2003 Tax Act lowered income tax rates, which throws many more taxpayers than ever before into the AMT scenario. AMT tax rates are 26% for AMT taxable income of up to \$175,000 and 28% for AMT taxable income above that amount. For married couples filing separately, the cut-off is half of the \$175,000, or \$87,500. Notice that I used the term "AMT taxable income" or AMTI. That is because that amount can differ radically from taxable income calculated under the regular tax method.

Once you determine your AMTI, you can reduce that amount by your AMT exemption. Under the AMT regulations, some taxpayers' biggest tax deductions will be disallowed and replaced with an overall AMT exemption amount. The long list of lost deductions includes state income taxes, real estate taxes, certain home equity interest, all work-related miscellaneous itemized deductions, and personal family exemptions. For 2003, those exemptions are \$3,050 per dependent.

The new tax law also increased the AMT exemption amount for tax years 2003 and 2004, to \$58,000 for married-joint filers and \$40,250 for singles. After 2004, however, the AMT exemption reverts back to pre-2003 amounts, which were \$45,000 and \$33,750, respectively.

This exemption amount is subject to certain income limits, which many taxpayers will find can and will be phased out at certain levels. The phase-out begins when AMTI exceeds these following amounts, \$150,000 for married filing joint, \$112,500 for singles, and \$75,000 for married-separate filers. Furthermore, the exemption amount phases out at the rate of \$0.25 for each dollar over the phase-out limits. For example, if your filing status is filing married-joint and your AMTI is \$250,000, the \$58,000 AMT exemption will be chopped down to \$33,000. Because you have exceeded the AMT phase-out limit of \$150,000 by \$100,000 and will therefore lose \$25,000 of your exemption amount. So, \$58,000 less \$25,000 leaves you with an AMT exemption of only \$33,000.

If or when your AMTI is \$382,000, married-joint filers lose their \$58,000 exemption in full. This is because \$382,000 exceeds the \$150,000 phase-out range by \$232,000, and 25% of \$232,000 is \$58,000, thus reducing the exemption amount to zero. Singles lose their exemption at \$273,500 and married-separates at \$191,000.

Once taxpayers lose all of their AMT exemptions, the regulations still cause you to lose all the other deductions not allowed under AMT as well, even though the AMT exemption was supposed to replace those deductions. Ouch! If their incomes are too high, they will lose both their tax deductions and the AMT exemptions, and they will usually end up paying more tax, especially after the new tax cuts.

Remember how you cheered when the new tax law cut the rates on long-term capital gains and certain dividends to 15%? You probably even started loading up on dividend-paying stocks. But guess what? The AMT increases that, too. The tax rate is still 15%, but capital gains and dividend income increase your AMTI, and if it proves high enough, you might lose your AMT exemptions, and may even pay a tax increase on capital gains in lieu of the anticipated decrease.

If you live in a high tax state, like New York for example, the extra state tax you pay on the capital gain is not deductible under AMT. The loss of a deduction is the same as a tax increase. Think of it this way, if you are in the AMT phase-out range, every dollar of capital gain increases your AMTI by \$1.25. Although the AMT tax rate is lower than the regular tax rate, it's still expensive because it is based on a higher income base.

Let's look at how a \$40,000 long-term capital gain (supposedly taxed at 15%) really costs a taxpayer more under the AMT. Remember, the tax rate is still 15%, but the extra capital gain income causes you to lose part of your AMT exemption. A \$40,000 capital gain, for example, will reduce your AMT exemption by \$10,000 (25% of the \$40,000). By losing \$10,000 of this AMT exemption, and assuming, like most middle income taxpayers, you are in the 28% AMT rate bracket, you may be surprised to find that you owe an additional \$2,800 in AMT. Add that \$2,800 to the \$6,000 capital gains tax (\$40,000x15% = \$6,000), and the real tax burden on the \$40,000 is \$8,800, effectively raising your capital gains tax rate from 15% to 22% (\$8,800/\$40,000 = 22%). That rate will be even higher in a state, like New York, that taxes capital gains. At 22%, the AMT actually causes a 46.67% increase in the "lower" 15% capital gains rate.

While the AMT system is tough to beat, there are some planning moves that can lessen

the pain to some extent. So, if it looks like you may get hit with the AMT, you can go into a reverse planning mode. That is to say if you find yourself forced into AMT you will most likely be in one of the lower tax rate brackets. And, at lower tax rates, you may want to reverse traditional planning strategies by bringing income into the current year and deferring expenses until next year. The usual regular tax strategy is of course exactly the opposite. Deductions are worth less at lower tax rates and are completely worthless if they are lost under the AMT system.

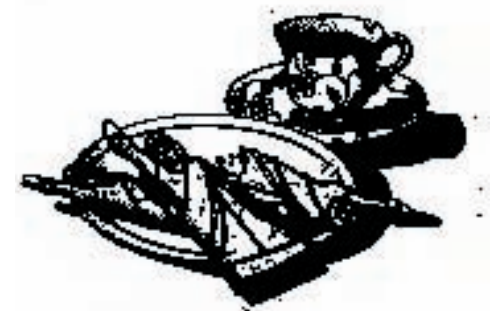
On the income side, taxpayers might want to withdraw more from their IRAs, take lump-sum distributions, or convert IRAs to Roth IRAs. If you increase your income enough, it might throw you out of the AMT tax trap and as a result reduce your overall tax on the additional income as well. The general idea is to have deductions included in tax years when you are under the regular tax system and move income into years when the AMT applies. As a reminder you cannot convert to a Roth IRA if your income exceeds \$100,000, which is most likely for AMT candidates. However, the income conversion itself does not count against the \$100,000 income limit.

If you are able to arrange and/or shift your income and tax deductions around in order to keep yourself out of the AMT tax trap at least every other year, that leaves you some planning flexibility to accelerate and defer your income and deductions. This way you might be able to lessen the blow of the AMT in the years that it applies. It should be obvious that self-employed individuals and investors have the greatest flexibility in shifting income.

There is also an AMT credit, which can reduce the impact of AMT to some extent. The AMT credit does not apply to items like state tax deductions and exemptions for children; those are lost forever. But it does apply to deferral items, such as depreciation or incentive stock options, where the tax breaks might be lost because of timing. These items do not cause a permanent difference in income like state tax deductions would. For example, depreciation deductions are recaptured when the asset is sold, so the deduction is only temporary.

The AMT credit clearly has minor appeal. Taxpayers cannot claim it in any year when they are subject to the AMT. In addition, the credit is limited in many cases. Taxpayers can only use the credit to the extent that their regular tax liability exceeds what would have been their AMT. If a taxpayer has a \$20,000 AMT credit and the regular tax is \$50,000, but the AMT for that year would have been \$48,000, you can only use \$2,000 of the \$20,000 AMT credit. The AMT credit is claimed on Form 8801.

When it comes to the AMT the best thing you can do is to try and plan for it before you see the effects on your tax return and wonder what the heck happened. The AMT is one of the all-time greatest stealth tax increases ever enacted. The tax revenue it generates keeps increasing, so please don't expect Congress and/or the IRS to end this cash cow any time soon.



CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
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
 numerical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. time
 (e.g., 1325 - 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

OCTOBER 2004

DAY	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0202	7.8	0814	0.4	1410	8.0	2051	0.1	Fri 01
02 Sat	0243	7.2	0837	0.8	1442	7.7	2125	0.5	Sat 02
03 Sun	0323	6.8	0858	1.1	1517	7.4	2204	1.0	Sun 03
04 Mon	0407	6.6	0934	1.5	1557	7.1	2248	1.4	Mon 04
05 Tue	0607	6.4	1020	1.8	1648	6.9	2352	1.7	Tue 05
06 Wed	0820	6.4	1117	2.1	1808	6.7			Wed 06
07 Thu	0104	1.8	0725	2.5	1232	2.2	1937	6.8	Thu 07
08 Fri	0203	1.7	0820	2.8	1406	2.0	2054	7.0	Fri 08
09 Sat	0253	1.5	0907	3.1	1503	1.7	2120	7.2	Sat 09
10 Sun	0334	1.2	0945	3.4	1548	1.2	2155	7.4	Sun 10
11 Mon	0409	0.8	1014	3.7	1627	0.8	2228	7.6	Mon 11
12 Tue	0438	0.5	1038	4.1	1704	0.1	2256	7.8	Tue 12
13 Wed	0510	0.2	1107	4.4	1741	-0.3	2332	8.0	Wed 13
14 Thu	0545	-0.1	1143	4.7	1820	-0.6			Thu 14
15 Fri	0611	0.0	0623	-0.2	1223	0.9	1902	-0.7	Fri 15
16 Sat	0654	0.0	0704	-0.2	1306	0.8	1947	-0.5	Sat 16
17 Sun	0140	0.0	0750	0.1	1353	0.9	2037	-0.3	Sun 17
18 Mon	0230	0.0	0830	0.5	1444	0.9	2138	0.2	Mon 18
19 Tue	0328	0.0	0938	0.9	1542	0.8	2258	0.6	Tue 19
20 Wed	0439	0.0	1051	1.3	1653	0.7			Wed 20
21 Thu	0509	0.0	0828	0.7	1248	1.4	1949	7.2	Thu 21
22 Fri	0144	0.0	0748	0.0	1400	1.1	2014	7.3	Fri 22
23 Sat	0247	0.4	0850	0.4	1519	0.5	2117	7.8	Sat 23
24 Sun	0342	0.2	0943	0.9	1608	0.0	2210	7.8	Sun 24
25 Mon	0432	-0.1	1031	1.2	1658	-0.4	2259	7.8	Mon 25
26 Tue	0518	-0.2	1116	1.6	1748	-0.7	2343	7.9	Tue 26
27 Wed	0600	-0.1	1167	1.9	1829	-0.7			Wed 27
28 Thu	0625	0.0	0839	0.0	1234	0.9	1910	-0.6	Thu 28
29 Fri	0105	0.0	0713	0.3	1308	0.1	1948	-0.3	Fri 29
30 Sat	0141	0.0	0738	0.6	1337	0.8	2022	0.1	Sat 30
31 Sun	0115	0.0	0653	0.8	1302	0.8	1948	0.5	Sun 31

ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

NOVEMBER 2004

DAY	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0147	0.0	0718	1.2	1332	0.4	2010	0.9	Mon 01
02 Tue	0220	0.0	0757	1.4	1410	0.1	2042	1.2	Tue 02
03 Wed	0301	0.0	0843	1.7	1455	0.8	2127	1.4	Wed 03
04 Thu	0351	0.0	0938	1.9	1527	0.6	2219	1.5	Thu 04
05 Fri	0459	0.0	1035	1.9	1647	0.7	2318	1.5	Fri 05



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

With all the talk around here lately about the signage on City Island—about what does and does not adhere to which code—we have a recommendation or two to contribute. First, how about a “Warning: Deer Crossing” sign (hold the neon!) over there by Glover’s Rock? The resident population may be small, but it is already brash. And as the food supply dwindles, the deer are only more likely to run even greater risks searching for sustenance.

Another recommendation is actually a reminder. Now that beach weather is behind us and autumn upon us, try taking a walk along one of the nature trails of Hunter and Twin Islands (the woodland areas adjacent to Orchard Beach). The Parks Department has recently added explanatory signs along the way to let hikers know a little something about the wildlife they might encounter there and about the history of the area.

An interesting little book that readers of this column may enjoy is “The Last Algonquin” by Theodore Kazimiroff. Set in the pre-Orchard Beach years of Pelham Bay Park, this is the story (a true story, we are told) of the friendship between Mr. Kazimiroff’s father and a Native American, Joe Two Trees, who lived secretly in the park, off the land, as his ancestors had done hundreds of years before him. A way of life is preserved first by Joe, then by the boy he befriended, then by the boy’s son, who wrote the book. Until recently the

book was out of print, but now it has been reissued, and we hear there may even be a movie in the making.

Last month we told you about some of the fish to look out for: the striped bass and the snapper and so on. This month we want you to be on the lookout for fish hawks. Fish hawks, also called osprey, are frequently observed returning to their nests grasping their fish food with their talons. It is a special treat seeing an osprey dive into the water to catch its food, like watching for shooting stars. If the water around here remains as full of fish as it did this past summer, however, what seems special today may seem only ordinary tomorrow . . . if we let it.

Another bird to look out for is the goldfinch. The male’s striking yellow and black plumage is hard to miss; the female is a drab olive green. Listen for these birds, too. They fly overhead emitting a coo-coo sound (like the clock), which is unmistakable. The Montauk daisies are also unmistakable. They are the classic daisy size, shape and color, and best of all, they bloom in October.

Speaking of coo-coo, that’s what we’ve been driven these past few months by our computer. As a result, we’ve got a new e-mail address – jdsstrat@msn.com, to which we continue to welcome your feedback and invite your input. We apologize to those readers who may have tried to contact us at the old address. Happy Halloween!

Husbands, Wives and Retirement Decisions

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

Earlier this summer one of the think tanks that studies Social Security issues came out with a very interesting report. It noted that most American husbands and wives both work today, and when they make future plans, they do so with expectations of retiring about the same time. However, because husbands tend to be older than their wives (by an average of four years), retirement-age decisions may become complicated and should be coordinated.

As the report (from the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College) stated, “Many husbands and wives differ in age and health status, and they often belong to separate employer-sponsored pension plans.”

The one common denominator for nearly all couples is that they are covered by Social Security, so here is a brief primer on some basic Social Security considerations that couples should take into account when choosing a retirement date.

Both a husband and wife are, of course, eligible for their own retirement benefits

based on their own work records. Often, however, one spouse may work at much lower-paying jobs throughout his or her career, or stay at home to care for the couple’s children. In that case, Social Security always pays the lower-earning spouse whatever benefit he or she might have earned through work—and then does calculations to see if his or her benefits as a spouse would be higher. If they would be, that person would get a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse’s benefit.

And that is where the calculations and the decision-making can become tricky. A spouse is entitled to one-half of the retired worker’s full benefit amount, unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before his or her own full retirement age. In that case, the amount of the spouse’s benefit is permanently reduced.

For example, based on the present full retirement age of 65 and 4 months, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

- at 64, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker’s full benefit;
- at age 63, it would be about 42 percent; and
- at age 62, 37.5 percent.

Just to show how tough real-life financial decisions can become, let’s suppose that there is a big age difference between the couple and that they have a child. In that case, if one spouse is taking care of a child who is younger than age 16 or disabled and receiving Social Security benefits, he or she gets full (one-half) benefits, regardless of age.

Please note that a Social Security spousal benefit may be reduced if either the husband or wife receives a pension from a federal, state or local government based on work where he or she did not pay Social Security taxes.

For a better idea of your own situation, visit the benefit planners on the Web site www.socialsecurity.gov. There you can find more detailed information and use various calculators to tailor benefit estimates to your own situation.

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Remember When...



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Kelly's Newbridge Hotel circa 1904 (or 100 years ago). Look closely and you can see that this is the building at 555 City Island Avenue, now Portofino.



The end of Tier Street on Eastchester Bay circa 1910, Fred Glasier oysterman and boat builder of 80 Fordham Street with an oyster skiff he had built. At the barn at his home, he built skiffs of this type as well as livery row boats, motor launches, and oyster sloops. The Glasier family were among the early settlers at City Island in the mid 1800's.

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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$8.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 8, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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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.

Greetings across the miles to former Laurels residents Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld and Georg Weyand, who are celebrating their anniversary on Oct. 22.

A warm welcome to Atlantic Emeritus Realty's newest sales associate, Candy Mancuso.

If you are running in the New York City Marathon this November, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. We want to take a photo for *The Current*.

Happy 18th birthday wishes to Sunjay Sebastian on Oct. 29, with much love from all your City Island friends.

Get well wishes to Terry Carmody from your neighbors and friends at Pilot Cove. Bingo isn't the same without you!

Happy eighth birthday on Oct. 10 to little Bob Carmody; to Kelly Carmody, who turns 14 on Oct. 20; to Mikey Carmody, who turns 13 on Oct. 24; and to Faith Elizabeth Zapata on her second birthday. Love from the Cebek and Carmody families.

October anniversary greetings go out this month to Mike and Judy Rauh, John and Linda Wright and their cousins Mike and Roseann Bunyan, who are celebrating their 25th.

Happy sixth birthday on Oct. 8 to Cole Strnad, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

Happy 18th birthday on Oct. 1 to Bay Street's Nicole McIntyre, who is studying abroad at Richmond—the American University in London.

Sincere thanks to Phil Ficarelli and Fred Ramftl, who have performed a fantastic job in really caring about keeping City Island clean. God bless you and thanks to the Garden Club of City Island for its continued success, from Frank B. Ring Sr.

Congratulations to Islander Michael Sowa, who landed a huge striped bass off Montauk Point this summer. Twelve-year-old Michael reeled in the big fish with a

little help from family members aboard the Lady Grace IV fishing charter. The 39-pounder was one of the largest striped bass caught in Montauk this year.



Michael Sowa and his catch.

Keep up the good work, Lauren O'Donnell of Bay Street. Lauren, the daughter of Steven and Linda O'Donnell, was named to the Marist College Dean's List for the Spring 2004 semester. She is a member of the class of 2005 and is majoring in business/marketing.

Stay well and good luck to Francine Brill's son, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Charles D. Brill, who was recently deployed to the central Iraqi province of Northern Babil. Charles is a 2001 graduate of Herbert Lehman High School and joined the Marine Corps in July 2001.

Maria Swieciki



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Deacon William Mueller of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church presided over the blessing of the animals on Sept. 26, 2004 in St. Mary's schoolyard. The annual blessing is in honor of St. Francis of Assisi and drew many Islanders and their pets.



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 Bronx, NY 10465
 (718) 792-0270

GARY COTTAM (718) 885-3328
 President/Owner Fax (718) 885-0219

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