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One Dollar

MORRIS YACHT CLUB WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT, BARBARA DOLENSEK and MARK NANI

A four-alarm fire destroyed the historic clubhouse of the Morris Yacht Club in the pre-dawn hours of March 10, 2006. The New York City Fire Department responded with 170 firefighters and took over four hours to control what Morris members described as a "relentless blaze." Although the fire department is conducting a full investigation, the fire is not considered suspicious. The beach, lawn and dock facilities were untouched, and none of the boats stored on the premises were damaged. The board of directors and members of the Morris have vowed to rebuild the clubhouse and resume summer operations.



Although the fire that broke out in the early morning of March 10, 2006, destroyed the 150-year-old Morris Yacht Club building, members of the club have vowed to build a new clubhouse and to carry on business as usual for the 2006 season. Unanimous support for the rebuilding of the club was expressed by the overflow crowd of more than 100 members at a meeting held at the Harlem Yacht Club on March 28. Board chairman Elliott Manders told *The Current* that everyone was fully determined to work together to get the club up and running and to keep City Island's nautical heritage alive and well.

The fire was first called in to the Fire Department at 1:31 a.m. on March 10, and the City Island Station responded immediately, according to resident Jeane Pezone, who lives on Schofield Street and saw their lights as the trucks raced down City Island Avenue. The fire went out of control very quickly, because of the four-story structure's large rooms and high ceilings, according to Deputy Chief Es-

posito, and escalated to a four-alarm fire that brought about 50 trucks, including ambulances, and more than 150 firefighters. Ten firefighters were injured, none seriously, and treated at Jacobi Hospital. Deputy Chief Esposito had recently been at a Fire Department function at the Morris and expressed his deep sadness about the destruction of the building.

By 4:30 a.m., when the fire was finally brought under control, the building had been gutted, but smoke continued to pour out the windows, and firefighters struggled to control the smoldering fire, which continued for much of the day. Miraculously, no neighboring houses were threatened by the fire, nor were any boats damaged, in spite of being stored only 20 feet south of the back porch.

Many Islanders were awakened by the noise of a television news helicopter that circled overhead as early as 2:30 a.m., according to resident Dominick Mincielli. When the east wind shifted and began to blow from the

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FIGHT COMMENCES TO SAVE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York announced plans to close St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, among 13 other schools and 15 parishes in New York City, on March 28, 2006. St. Mary's leadership, students, faculty, parishioners and many Islanders have vowed to fight to save the school, which is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary in June.

The announcement by the archdiocese came as a shock to both Father Michael Challinor, pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and Jane Dennehy, principal of the school. They were notified at 3 p.m. on March 28, only hours before the news was reported on local television channels. "We are baffled as to why St. Mary's is on the list. It doesn't make sense, and we will appeal," Father Challinor told *The Current*.

Father Challinor, who has been pastor for a little over a year, attended a meeting at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers on March 30 to receive the details of the archdiocese's plan. Later that evening, he and Mrs. Dennehy held a meeting at the school, which is located on Minneford Avenue behind the parish church, to pass along the information to parents of children currently attending the school. More than 150 parents, students, faculty and alumni attended the meeting, and all showed support to continue the school's long tradition on City Island.

Father Challinor told the audience that representatives from the archdiocese explained the three main criteria used to place schools on the closing list: enrollment, finances and mission. "Based on these criteria, St. Mary's should not be on the list, because our enrollment is up and is expected to continue increasing; we have drastically cut costs; and we are fulfilling our mission of faith and religious education to two communities, City Island and Co-op City."

An appeal process is available, and Father Challinor is ready to fight to save the school. A committee of eight, the number specified by the archdiocese, was formed to present the case for St. Mary's on Monday, April 3. In addition to Father Challinor and Mrs. Dennehy, representatives from the Home School Association and the City Island community will be

included.

The news seemed particularly surprising in light of the recent progress made at St. Mary's school. Enrollment has increased from both City Island and Co-op City residents. An after-school program began just this year, and many activities have been organized by the new Home School Association, led by Islanders Larry Saulnier and Tina Ruggiero and Wakefield-area resident Ophelia Smith. Mrs. Smith commented that St. Mary's "is not merely a school—it is an extension of my family. When I drop off my children in the morning, I feel that I am dropping them off at a family member's house. I know that they are safe and being watched over by every member of the faculty."

Reaction from members of St. Mary's, as well as other members of the community, ranged from sadness to resignation to outrage. "I owe my faith and my education to St. Mary, Star of the Sea School," said Bill Mueller, a deacon at the church. "Children who go to school here are getting an ethical foundation to live by."

Minneford Avenue resident Lisa Moore "felt like crying" when she heard the news. "Whether you are Catholic or not, you want a choice of where to send your children." Mrs. Moore sent her two oldest sons to P.S. 175, but her third son is in the first grade at St. Mary's. "It's a caring environment," she said, one that is well suited to her youngest child.

Those who will be affected the most, the children of St. Mary's school, expressed sadness and concern for their future. One third-grader said tearfully, "If they close this school, I don't want to go to school anymore."

The sentiment that this is an issue affecting the entire City Island community was echoed by many. St. Mary's programs, especially the successful basketball program (see article this issue), serve the needs of many residents and non-residents alike. In addition to the basketball program, the school gym is used for community meetings and activities, and the parking lot is used for those attending church services and weddings, as well as for carnivals and other events.

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TRIPLE CROWNS!



Photo Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2006 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball program produced three Bronx Championship teams: the Girls Varsity, the Girls Gidgets and the Boys Junior Varsity. The victorious members of the championship Girls Varsity are (above, kneeling l. to r.): Roman Baker, Bernadette McMahon, Melissa Pryor and Marissa Ferris. Standing are Julia Doyle, Bridget McGowan, Phoebe Mankiewicz, Alycia DaLoia-Moore, Sonia Andrades, Sara Pryor and Sarah Graves. Proud coaches are John Moore and Tom McMahon. See article in this issue for season results for all St. Mary's teams.

BRIEFLY...

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP proudly presents its spring production, "The Women" by Clare Booth Luce. Performances will be held at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue, on April 21, 23, 28, 29 and May 4, 5, and 6 at 8 p.m. and on April 22 and 30 at 3 p.m. To reserve tickets, please call: 718-885-3066 or e-mail citythewomen@yahoo.com. Don't miss these engaging women!

SPRING GARDEN TOUR, sponsored by the Garden Club of City Island will be held on Saturday, May 13, starting at 21 Tier Street at 1 p.m. You will receive a map with the locations of participating gardens. There will be refreshments at the final stop. Suggested donation: \$5. And hold the date: The Garden Club's annual spring luncheon this year will be on Thursday, June 8. The price will be \$30. Prizes will include many wonderful gift baskets and gift certificates.

TEMPLE BETH-EL is celebrating its 72nd anniversary on Saturday, April 29, with a gala dinner-dance at the City Island Yacht Club. Festivities will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature entertainment by D.J. Ray, fine wine and food and the warmth and fellowship of friends and members of the temple. Contributions are \$65 per person. R.S.V.P. by April 10 by calling Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820.

VIP DANCE NIGHT: The Ajkun Ballet Theater, whose artistic directors, Leonard and Chiara Ajkun, have recently moved to City Island, will be kicking off its 2006 season this year with a special event on Friday May 5, 2006, at the Lido Restaurant, 101 City Island Avenue, to which all are invited to preview the company's performances before it departs for a European tour (May 8 to July 11). After returning to New York, the company will perform for two months in the New York area, but this evening will be a unique chance to meet them in person. For \$55 per person, you will have a four-course buffet dinner, open bar, a preview of classical and modern dances, and the opportunity to dance with the performers. For reservations, call the Lido (718-885-2177) or the Ajkun Ballet Theater Company (646-202-1852). For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.ajkunbt.org.

THE COAST GUARD SAFETY SEMINAR previously scheduled for March 25, 2006, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2006, at 11 a.m. Ralph Irizarry of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will discuss Coast Guard Safety Requirements. The seminar will be held at South Minneford Yacht Club, 148 City Island Avenue, City Island. Admission is free and open to all but seating is limited; non-members must register in advance by calling 718-885-3113.

SCOUTING THOSE FLOWERS: You can buy your Easter and Mother's Day flowers and support City Island's scout troops at the same time this year. The Boy Scouts are planning an Easter Flower Sale from Thursday, April 13, to Saturday, April 15 in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue. The Girl Scouts will hold a Mother's Day Flower Sale on Saturday, May 13, also in front of Trinity Church from 10 a.m. till they are sold out. Mark your calendars!

CITY ISLAND COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA) celebrates its sixth year of operation this year. For 24 weeks, from June 14 until Thanksgiving, members enjoy dozens of varieties of vegetables, herbs and fruit. Payment is made in the spring, no later than June 1, for the whole season. The vegetable and herb share is a reasonable \$425. Fruit shares are an extra \$200. The CSA is a volunteer organization and all money collected goes right to the farmer. In return, members pick up fresh, locally grown, mouth-watering produce every Wednesday evening at a location on Buckley Street. You can find CSA brochures at Exotiqua and Sugar & Spice or get in touch with CSA organizers Dr. Carolyn Dean and Marie Caesar. Call 718-885-1104 for more information.

REGISTER NOW FOR BCC ANNUAL 10K RUN. On Saturday, May 6, at 10 a.m., rain or shine, Bronx Community College will hold a 10K run and a two-mile fitness walk, sponsored by the Morris Heights Health Center and Bronx Lebanon Hospital. There will be prizes for winners in various age categories from 7 to 80, as well as overall winners. A raffle and barbecue for race entrants will follow the race; showers and restroom facilities will be available, and children may participate in supervised games. The first 200 who register will receive t-shirts and medallions. Pre-registration is essential: call 718-289-5989 for an entry form or download a form from www.bcc.cuny.edu/10krace. Or you may register at www.active.com. The cost is \$12 and special rates of \$5 are offered for students.

GRACE CHURCH HEALTH TALK. On Sunday, April 30, at 12 noon in the Parish Hall on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, Grace Church will present its Monthly Health Talk for April. This month's important topic will be "Health Care and End-of-Life Planning," presented by the Reverend John G.W. Zacker, Esq., who is both an Episcopal priest and a trusts and estates lawyer. Monthly Health Talks are sponsored by the Grace Church Health and Healing Ministry and are free and open to the public. On Sunday, May 7, the subject of the Monthly Health Talk will be "Women and Heart Disease."

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Member
EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

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

STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Cheryl Koller, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Muller, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Alice Rotello, Nancy Lotrionte, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Teresa Teto.

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Free Gardening Program

A home-gardening program at the New York Botanical Garden will be made available free of charge to residents of the 34th Senate District, thanks to a state grant obtained by State Senator Jeff Klein. The programs will be taught by renowned faculty and horticulturists from across the region.

"We are lucky to have the renowned Botanical Garden in our district," said Senator Klein. "Gardening not only adds to the beauty of our communities but also

has been proven to be therapeutic and increase property values. That's why I worked so hard to obtain the funding to make this program available to my Bronx and Westchester constituents free of charge."

The courses, held on Saturdays in April at the Botanical Garden between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, will each emphasize a different aspect of gardening: April 8: Easy Indoor Plants; April 15, Reliable Perennial Flowers; April 22: Low-Maintenance Landscaping.

To register for the program, call the New York Botanical Garden Center for Continuing Education at 718-817- 8747.

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Morris Burns

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south, the island became blanketed with the acrid smoke, and residents began to walk down toward the club, many in tears at the sight. Reporters and camera crews from the local television stations and newspapers were on the scene for much of the day, interviewing Island residents, including Bob Lachman, Claudia Deich, Edward Sadler and Carl Steiner, about their response to the disaster.

Rumors abounded regarding the origin of the fire, but firefighters at the scene did not feel that there was anything suspicious about it. Later in the morning, Battalion Chief Michael Keenan, who had been a member of the club, told *The Current* that the fire was likely accidental and that it seemed to have started in the basement, where paints, rags, and other flammable substances were stored in the lockers. The caretaker had gone home at about 11:30 p.m., and the building had remained securely locked.

As soon as the Department of Buildings declared the building safe enough to be entered, the fire marshal began the investigation and eventually reported to the board that the fire had started in the lockers and was not considered suspicious.

Other rumors circulated regarding the disposition of the five-acre property, which has been the most desirable piece of real estate on City Island since the mid-19th century (see story on this page). Developers have approached the club for years with attractive offers, but the members have remained determined to keep the club going rather than to allow the construction of a gated community of private houses or condominiums. The property is zoned residential, but its use by the club puts it in the highest tax bracket, a constant burden

for the membership, which must pay over \$100,000 a year in real-estate taxes for property whose estimated market value is \$2.1 million. Luckily, the gradually increasing assessment prompted the board to increase the club's insurance to a respectable amount that will enable the rebuilding effort to go forward.

The Department of Buildings condemned the building on the morning of the fire, and a protective fence was quickly built around it. The first step for the Morris board is to obtain permits for demolition, after rescuing some of the artifacts and the pool table, which remarkably escaped serious damage. The Tiki bar had been undergoing renovation, and the pool table had been covered with a tarp and plywood, which protected it from the fire. Mr. Manders said that it was important to have these survivors incorporated into the new building.

Plans for the scope and design of a new clubhouse have not been determined and will be the subject of future meetings of the board and the membership. According to Mr. Manders, "nothing is off the table. Proposals for a swimming pool, tennis courts and other amenities have been put forward for years, and these may be considered again in order to attract new members, but the main focus of the club will be to proceed on schedule for the 2006 season, to get the boats into the water and to get the grounds in good condition."

Islander Steve Breines, commodore of the club, told *The Current* that the travel lift from Royal Marina, which will improve the efficiency of getting boats in and out of the water, is scheduled to be put into operation as soon as permits are obtained. "It is becoming very difficult to find a place for your boat these days, so we want to be sure that we continue to offer this service without interruption."

According to Island resident and longtime member Steve Lott, the other yacht clubs and



groups on City Island have shown tremendous support, offering the use of their facilities until the Morris gets back on its feet. Elliott Manders agreed wholeheartedly: "Within days of the fire, officers from the other clubs, as well as the American Legion, called with their condolences and offering meeting space for us. We've met at the Harlem, the Lido, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club and the American Legion. It's difficult to adequately express our gratitude for the support and community spirit of our fellow City Islanders." A number of residents have also shown their support by

applying to join the club, which offers an associate (or beach) level in addition to full membership and life membership. Those interested are asked to call Mr. Lott at 347-386-9330.

The positive, resilient attitude of the Morris membership is very good news for residents of the community who feared that the property might end up in the hands of developers. However, the memory of that once grand presence on Belden Point, and a deep sense of sadness at its loss, will continue to haunt the community long after the burned-out building has disappeared.

A HOUSE WITH A HISTORY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM
The Belden Point house about 1900.

There are many wonderful houses on City Island, from small cottages to impressive waterfront dwellings, but the most wonderful has always been the Morris Yacht Club building, at least in the eyes of Island residents if not architectural historians. In spite of numerous additions and remodeling over the years, this mid-19th century Victorian mansion always maintained an impressive presence.

A major aspect of the building's stature has always been its spectacular setting on the end of Belden Point, overlooking Long Island Sound, with a clear view of Stepping Stone Lighthouse, the Throggs Neck Bridge and Kings Point. For many of us, coming home to City Island after a day on the Sound involved rounding Belden Point, and the sight of the Morris always took our breath away.

Perhaps the most intriguing appeal of the building, however, was its history, which is shrouded in rumor, misinformation and scandal, along with all the pleasant memories of wedding receptions, birthday parties, and other happy events.

It is well documented that the southern

end of City Island was owned by the Horton family, beginning with George Washington Horton, who bought 42 acres in 1819 from Joshua Huestes. G.W. Horton built his own house on the east side of the street (it still stands, hidden inside the stucco façade of the Lobster Box Restaurant), and his son, Stephen Decatur Horton, built his own, more substantial house within a circular driveway on the site of what became the Morris clubhouse. The exact date for the construction of the house is not known but early maps make it clear that it was built after 1858 but before 1867.

In April 1877, Stephen Decatur Horton and his wife, Caroline, sold over six acres of his property, including the underwater rights, to a New York millionaire and broker named William Belden for the sum of \$21,500. Belden, who purchased even more of the property in October of that year, used the house as his summer residence, and he undoubtedly put a great deal of money into enlarging and improving it. In 1879, for example, he signed a contract for the installation of a "three-manual and pedal organ costing \$6700 for his residence in City Island."

William Belden is perhaps best remembered as one of three investors, along with Jay Gould and Jim Fisk, who were behind the stock market crash of Sept. 24, 1869. They had artificially inflated the price of gold and caused thousands to lose their life savings. Belden was, according to those who knew him, a "very low fellow," who seems to have spent most of his life in court, either suing or being sued. The New York Times is rich in

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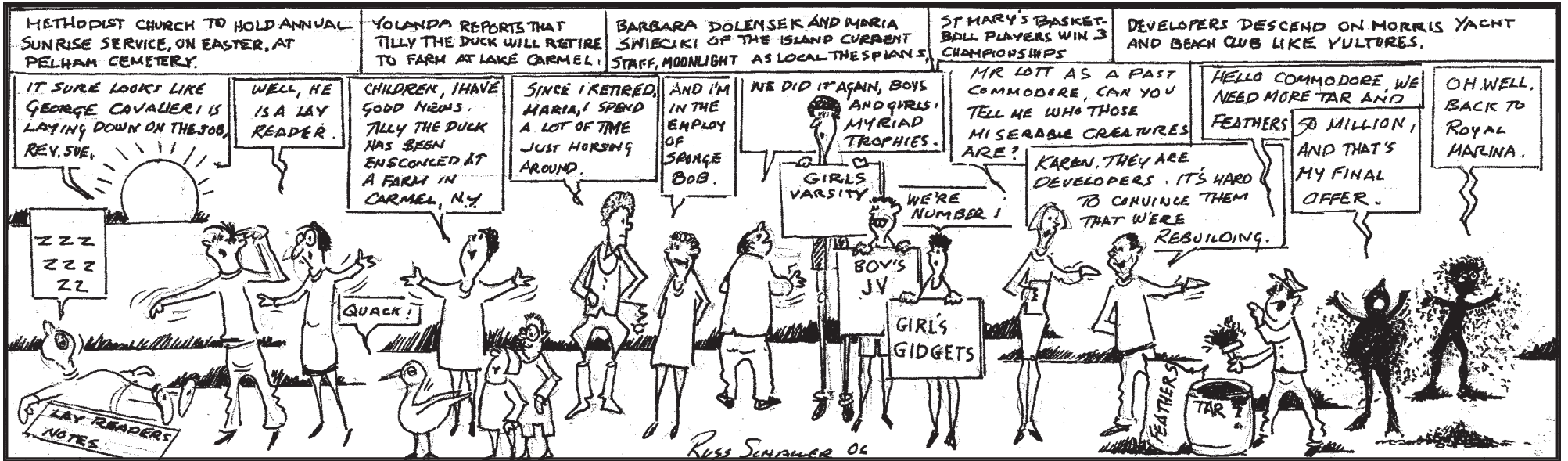
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Editorial

March Madness

The month of March is well-known for its unpredictability, even as the signs of spring are approaching. This year, City Island residents were preparing themselves for a month of disruption with the sewer-replacement project and the inevitable traffic problems that begin to erupt with the first warm weekend. But early in the morning of March 10, an acrid south wind and the buzzing of media helicopters awoke us to the very bad news that our beloved Morris Yacht Club building was on fire. Dozens of firefighters were joined by dozens of residents who came to witness in horror as the clubhouse went up in smoke, along with their memories of events they had attended in the 150-year-old mansion. By the end of March, however, club members had joined together enthusiastically with plans to rebuild and to proceed with "business as usual," grateful for the support shown by residents and other Island groups.

But then, just as the month was supposed to be going out like a lamb, the spirit of City Island was again dealt a serious body blow with the announced closing on March 28 of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. The final decision about the fate of the school will not be made by the diocese until April 24, and we hope that City Islanders will again rise to the challenge of supporting one of our beloved and venerable institutions. As developers continue to build housing on City Island, there will be an increased need for school facilities here. St. Mary's has always offered excellent educational quality, as well as its wonderful basketball program, and we need to convince the diocese that eliminating a school that has thrived for 75 years would be a disastrous decision for this community.



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.

The Morris Moves Ahead

(The following letter is printed with permission from the Morris Yacht Club board chairman.)

Morris Yacht & Beach Club, Inc.
25 City Island Avenue
P.O. Box 10
City Island, NY 10464

Dear Morris member,

By now everyone is aware of the total loss of our clubhouse. For many of us, this was like losing a family member. The clubhouse was where many of us shared our most cherished family events. Some of you have had your baby showers, children's baptisms and first communion celebrations at the club, followed, years later, by sweet-sixteens and graduation parties. These children have had marriage celebrations in the casino, and the clubhouse is where we met to share food and drink after saying our last goodbyes to a long time friend or relative.

We will always have the memories of into-commissions, St. Patrick's Days, New Year's and Oktoberfest celebrations. The bar had been a familiar meeting place where we caught up with friends, shared conversation and laughter and, of course, the experience of a cold beer quenching that long thirst from a day's work or a day of boating.

The loss is especially poignant for the people who were involved in various projects in the clubhouse; the cleaning out of the fourth floor; the painting of the third floor, the refinishing the bar tables, and efforts of

all the people who did such great work on the barroom to get it ready for St. Patrick's Day.

Yes, in the early morning hours of Friday, March 10, we lost our clubhouse. On that night the familiar bustle of the restaurants near Belden Point was finally still. Most of City Island slept quietly as a fire started, hidden, in the equipment room in the bottom of the club. It snaked its way unseen and unnoticed through the chases and hidden pathways of the clubhouse's 150-year-old architecture.

When it finally erupted from the roof and windows of the club, it required the full measure of 170 firefighters on the scene. At one point, in the ebb and flow of the battle, water pressure dropped and the fire roared back. A fireboat tied up to our dock and pumped additional seawater to the site. It took over four hours for New York's Bravest to vanquish the relentless blaze. A number of them were treated at Jacobi Hospital. Many of NYC's firefighters know the Morris Yacht & Beach Club as the place where they come every year for their annual party.

We should be grateful there was no loss of life and that no one was seriously injured. The beach, lawn and dock facilities were untouched. None of the boats stored on the premises were damaged and the hauling/launching equipment is intact and fully operational.

About a year ago the board had the wisdom to initiate an extensive and much overdue insurance review with our insurance agent. We implemented his recommendations, which turned out to be very timely and fortunate. Neighboring clubs have reached out and extended to us the use of their facilities.

The board is exhausted yet anxious to meet with the membership. We have many things to share with you regarding our immediate steps after the fire, what will happen with the building and how we will go about rebuilding. The operation of the beach, grounds and launching operation should go as usual and on schedule with, hopefully, some enhancements for the coming season. The travel lift is on course; we need to share how the permit process will affect the ulti-

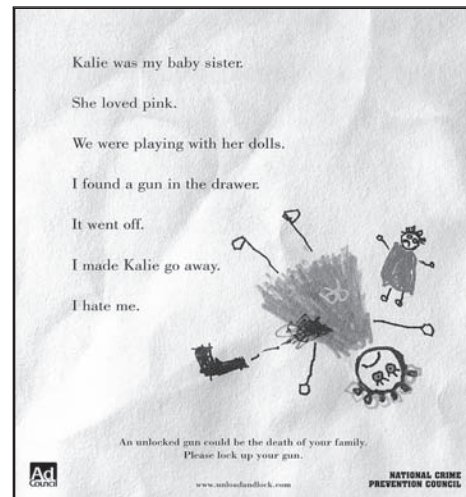
mate design, and explain how the board sees financing it after our loss.

We know people have questions about meeting our financial obligations post-fire. We will report on exactly what our financial obligations are and how we intend to meet them. The offers of a place to meet from the neighboring clubs will allow us to continue with our regularly scheduled meetings; however, any Sunday dates will have to change so as not to impose on our gracious hosts. Regardless, all future meeting dates, places and times will be well publicized in advance. The board feels that our social calendar is important; we would like to discuss how and where these functions would take place.

Until we meet, take heart and remember. Yes, we have lost our clubhouse, but we have not lost the Morris Yacht & Beach Club. The club is the members, all of you. It's time for everyone to come together to work to build our future. When you come to this meeting, we think you will share our optimism that Morris's future is indeed bright and attainable.

Sincerely,

Steve Breines, Commodore
Elliott Manders, Chairman of the Board



What About St. Mary's?

To the Editor:

As most members of our community are already aware, St. Mary Star of the Sea School has been put on a list by the Archdiocese of New York of Catholic schools that may be forced to close. Before receiving this news, I had written the following letter to be published in the April issue of *The Current*. Needless to say, I was very saddened by the news, but we will have an opportunity to be heard and appeal to the diocese.

We are confident that, under the leadership of Father Michael and Mrs. Dennehy, we have a good chance to succeed and keep our school open. All members of this community should be concerned. St. Mary, Star of the Sea not only provides a fantastic education, but it is also the home of religious education for our parishioners, CYO basketball and St. Mary's softball, and it has the only large indoor gymnasium accessible to the residents of City Island.

As we gather more information, we may ask the community for assistance. Please come out and support St. Mary, Star of the Sea. This year the school celebrates 75 years of excellence in education and service to this community, and we promise we will not give up without a fight. Although there will be a period of uncertainty, I stand by my opinion as stated below and encourage people to enroll their children at St. Mary's.

This year my wife and I enrolled three of our children at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School right here on City Island. We could not be happier with our decision. The faculty and administration provide a loving and caring environment for our children, and the faculty members are well educated

Continued on page 14

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A Banner Year for SMSS Basketball

By KAREN NANI



Photos Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball Boys Varsity team finished their regular season in second place in their division and were seeded #2 in the Bronx A division playoffs. Shown above are team members (kneeling, l. to r.) Ryan Pena, Alex Cebek, Andrew McGuire, Tommy MacIndoe and Omar Salas. Standing are coach George Spencer, players Duane Alston, Kieran Spencer, Triston Howell, David Struthers, Jovan Smith and Sal Kulka, and coach Frank Cebek.

The St. Mary Star of the Sea basketball program had an outstanding year with the Girls Varsity, Girls Gidgets and the Boys Junior Varsity winning Bronx Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) B Division Championships. The Boys Varsity team was also very successful, finishing the regular season in second place in Division A of the entire Bronx.

More than 100 children participated in the program, which ranged from intramural teams to six travel teams for boys and girls in the third to eighth grades. The season began with registration in September of 2005 and concluded in March 2006 with Trophy Day. All players received trophies, and certain children were presented with special awards recognizing their individual achievements. Three new championship banners were raised in St. Mary's gym.

For the sixth straight year, Cathy and Frank Cebek directed the program with outstanding leadership. During their tenure, seven Bronx championship banners were added to the collection on display in St. Mary's gym. Frank and Cathy, along with assistant director John Moore, will be stepping down as program directors, and the coaches, players and parents congratulate them for their dedication, tireless work and devotion to the children. Rumor has it that Frank, who has coached for over 14 years, is not ready to hang up his sneakers and will continue to provide the program with his expertise as a coach.

Congratulations were also extended to coaches Tom and Helen McMahon and John and Caryn Moore, who are retiring after having achieved their goal of winning a championship banner.

Bob and Anna Whalen have stepped up and agreed to direct the program. Everyone at St. Mary's is confident that the program will continue to thrive under their able leadership.

Father Michael Challinor, the pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, and the school principal, Jane Dennehy, were thanked for

their enthusiastic support and guidance.

Finally, Cathy and Frank told *The Current* that they are grateful to all the coaches, players and parents who represented the program so well throughout the season.

A summary of each team's season follows.

Girls Varsity

The Girls Varsity team had an outstanding season culminating in a win over St. Gabriel's for the Division B championship.

The team improved throughout the year and developed into a cohesive unit, displaying consistently strong defense and effective scoring. The girls came together on and off the court and finished the season with an excellent run, winning 12 of their last 14 games.

In the championship game, the team was trailing by four points at halftime and struggling to stay in the game. They were only able to do so because of good defensive play.

In the second half, the turning point came with a breakaway score by Bridget McGowan that tied the game. This sparked the team, and MVP Sonia Andrades led St. Mary's to a 10-point lead with her outstanding play, despite being saddled with four fouls. Sonia's contribution in the championship game was consistent with her play throughout the season and was the key to the team's success. Phoebe Mankiewicz, as always, garnered numerous rebounds and provided excellent defense. Sarah Graves contributed needed scoring and hit some clutch foul shots.

Bernadette McMahon and Kristen Clark played their usual great game at the guard position by breaking the press and making accurate passes. Bernie's unselfish defensive play prevented Sonia from fouling out of the game. Sarah Pryor was also a big factor by contributing excellent play at both guard and forward.

The lead provided time for the seventh-graders to display their usual enthusiastic talents, and the coaches wish good luck to these



The Girls Junior Varsity Debs finished an exciting season with a winning record of 13 and 7. Pictured above (kneeling): Shannon Monaghan, Veronica Weyrauch, Amber Tudor, Nicole Cerrato, Gabrielle Vitiello and Birla Gonzalez. Standing are coach Carlo Volpe, players Vittoria Volpe, Emily Ricci, Rosie O'Donnell, Larissa Pirraglia, Paige O'Donnell, Julia Hayes, Ashlee Yarusso, Chervante Thomas, Jennifer Branley and Victoria Strazzera, and coach Frank Strazzera.



Just when it looked as if St. Mary's Girls teams would bring home the only championship banners, the Boys Junior Varsity Tyros A team scored their own Bronx CYO Division B championship. The victorious teammates are (above, kneeling) Brandyn Reilly, Makai Hawkins, Devin Navarro, Andrew Carrión and Kevin Saulnier. Standing: Amir Smith, O'Shea Bell, Avery Haley, Kevin Whelan, Robert Pirraglia and Kadeem Holmes. Proud coaches are Paul Saulnier and Chris Hawkins.

returning future stars who contributed throughout the year to the team's success. Congratulations to Melissa Pryor, Amanda Heffernan, Marissa Ferris, Julia Doyle, Megan Hayes and Roman Baker. Along with Sarah Graves, this group will make next year's team very successful.

They would also like to give special thanks and recognition to Alycia DaLoia-Moore, who was injured in practice before the season started. Despite this, she continued to attend practice and every game and provided the team with enthusiastic support. She was a role model for displaying team spirit and sportsmanship. Despite her injury, she managed to play hard for a few minutes in the team's last home game.

Coaches John Moore and Tom McMahon would like to congratulate the team for their success and thank them for being such wonderful girls on and off the court. They were a joy to coach and they will be missed. Additionally, Tom and John extend a special thanks to all the parents for their enthusiastic support and encouragement and for having raised such wonderful daughters.

Finally, they say goodbye to the eighth-grade girls: Sonia, Kristen, Bernie, Alycia, Bridget, Sarah and Phoebe and wish them best of luck in high school.

Boys Varsity

The 2005-2006 Boy's Varsity completed another successful season under the direction of coaches Frank Cebek and George Spencer. The team amassed more than 20 wins, finished second overall in their Bronx division and competed in the A division playoffs. In addition, the team participated in several tournaments, including a second place at the St. Theresa Tournament and third place at the St. Helena tournament. During the OLA tournament over the Christmas holiday, they participated with a limited roster. Some of the players who really stepped up their game were Frank Apollo, Keiran Spencer, Henry Sancez, Omar Salas, Alex Cebek, Triston Howell and Kevin Whelan from the Junior Varsity team.

The following awards were handed out at the end of the season: MVP Jovan Smith, Best Offensive Players Alex Cebek and Andrew Mc-

Guire, Best Defensive Players Dwayne Alston and Kieran Spencer, Most Improved Player Frank Apollo, Three pointer Award Omar Salas, Coaches Award for Sportsmanship Triston Howell. Rookie of the Year honors went to Sal Kulka and Henry Sancez. Other participants this year were Tom MacIndoe, Joe Noahvicka, David Strothers and John Mazzella.

Coaches Frank and George would like to wish the eighth-graders much success in high school. They look forward to another great season with future senior players.

Girls Debs

The fifth- and sixth-grade Debs Basketball Team had yet another exciting season. They were entered into two different tournaments and their record for the year was 13 to 7. Many of the girls had their first experience with the full court press and made the adjustment with ease. All of the girls worked hard, and some were recognized at the breakfast in March.

Paige O'Donnell received the trophy for Most Improved, Ashlee Yarusso received the Offensive Award and the Defensive Award was given to Chervante Thomas. Coaches Awards were given to Victoria Strazzera, Amber Tudor, Gabrielle Vitiello and Vittoria Volpe.

Congratulations for a job well done are in order for coaches Volpe and Strazzera, whose dedication and the time they give to the girls and the game were remarkable. They in turn would like to thank the girls for their tremendous effort and success, as well as the parents for their cooperation. The coaches, players and parents can't wait until next year, when these girls intend to dominate the court. Enjoy the time off and look forward to next season!

Boys Junior Varsity Tyros A

The JV Boys had a great season that ended with a win in the championship game of the B Division. The team played very well during the second half of the season with terrific play from the MVP, O'Shea Bell, and the other starters, Robert Pirraglia, Amir Smith, Makai Hawkins and Kadeem Holmes.

The team also received some nice support from players coming off the bench, led by

Continued on page 17

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The Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery, 249 City Island Avenue (718-885-3779) continues with plenty of music and art "on the menu" throughout April. On Thursday, April 6 will be the regular first Thursday of the month Open Mike Comedy Night, beginning at 8 p.m. This month we're moving up the end-of-month Open Mike Nights to Thursday, April 20 (for poetry), and Friday, April 21 (for songwriters); both kick off at 8 p.m. Singer-songwriters are on stage for two Fridays and Saturdays in a row: Friday, April 7, at 8 p.m., Eric Sommer, folk/rock/blues/singer-songwriter (debut performance); Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m., singer-songwriter Fred Gillen returns; Friday, April 14, at 8 p.m. Allan Chapman, rock/soul/blues/singer-songwriter (also debut performance); Saturday, April 15, at 8 p.m., 15-year-old Anthony da Costa—a must-see performer—returns to the cafe/gallery. On Sunday afternoon, April 9, at 3 p.m., transport yourself back in time to the Renaissance with the duo of

Musica Flammarum. And if you weren't able to get seats for the Beatles tribute band, Rubber Soul, for their sold-out performances on Saturday, April 22, try booking now for their return, on Saturday, May 20, with shows at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. For more on our schedule, through the summer, visit: www.starvingartistonline.com.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
422 City Island Ave.	1/6/05	\$655,000	1 Family
190 Fordham Street	9/19/05	\$422,000	Condo
76 Winters Street	12/19/05	\$610,000	2 Family
146 Reville Street	1/05/06	\$610,000	1 Family
190 Fordham Street	2/9/06	\$310,500	Condo
64 Hawkins Street	2/15/06	\$485,000	2 Family

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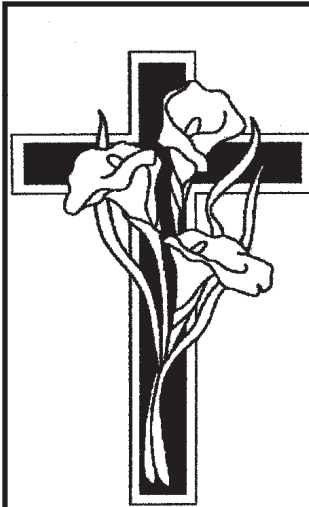
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April 14th noon-3:00p.m. Good Friday at Calvary United Methodist Church,
1885 University Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10453
8:00p.m. Good Friday. We will be joined by Grace Episcopal
April 15th 9:00a.m. Tenebrae Service at St. Mary's Star of the Sea
April 16th 6:00a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery
10:00a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity



St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Holy Week Schedule 2006

CONFESSIONS
SATURDAY, April 8
4:30 - 5:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY - April 9
VIGIL MASS - SATURDAY, 5:15 P.M.
SUNDAY - 8:00, 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
8:00 A.M. - TENEBRAE
Consists of Psalms and Readings
NO MORNING MASS

HOLY THURSDAY, April 13
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
Procession to Repository
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14
COMMEMORATION OF THE
PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS - 3:00 P.M.
Confessions 4:00-5:00 P.M.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15
Confessions 9:00-10:00A.M. & 4:00-5:00P.M.
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL- 8:00 P.M.
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16
MASSES - 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon

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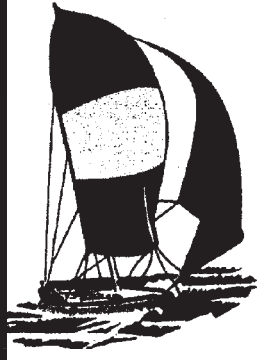


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Nicole Hart & NRG Band
 Roxy Perry large Picture

MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS

By BETH RAUH ROTA

Editor's note: Beth and Matt Rota moved to New Orleans shortly after their wedding on City Island, 10 days before Hurricane Katrina hit. They evacuated the city and did not return until Oct. 17, 2005. The city is still struggling with the destruction caused by the storm, but the spirit of Mardi Gras clearly lives on.

Everywhere else in the world, it was just Tuesday, and people were at work and school, doing their regular routines. But in New Orleans, it was the biggest holiday of the year, and we are so happy to have celebrated it. Although there is still a lot of sadness in the city, no one showed it during the holiday. There were some costumes that reflected the situation: people dressed as houses, or dressed all in one color with water lines going around their bodies. Plenty of people dressed in blue tarp material (one couple even made a suit and fancy dress out of it!), and one guy wore a suit that was wired crooked, so it looked as if he were standing in heavy winds with his tie and coattails blowing to the side.

We got up early, put on some New Orleans music, opened all our shades and watched as tons of people in interesting costumes wandered up and down our street. The house right across Marigny seemed to be a meeting spot for a bunch of people dressed up as cats. Matt put on his "Make Levees, Not War" shirt and a sparkly jester hat. I painted my eyes teal and put on a teal cat/peacock mask. Then we filled his bag with a few drinks and walked up through the French Quarter to the parades.

We saw plenty more costumes throughout the quarter. Even dogs and children were dressed up! We watched the Zulu and Rex parades from a few different places along Canal Street, which is the long street you've probably seen a lot of on the news. It is a neutral area where the streetcars run, and there are palm trees lining the road. (The Zulu parade is organized by the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, which was founded in 1916, and the Rex procession, in which the King of Carnival greets his city and its subjects) has been in existence since 1872.)

We caught lots of beads and trinkets, even a Zulu coconut (which is hard to do



Photo courtesy of BETH RAUH ROTA
Former Islanders Beth and Matt Rota at Mardi Gras 2006, New Orleans.

since each float throws only a few of them to the crowds). They are real coconuts, but painted in black and gold trim, with the word "Zulu" and the year "2006" painted on them.

I had no idea what a family holiday Mardi Gras is. Everywhere we looked there were entire families watching the parades. Parents were sitting in camp chairs as their kids grabbed sodas out of coolers; everyone got to their feet to reach for beads when the floats came by. Matt and I actually caught a second coconut, but we gave it to a little boy who was standing near us with his mother. He wasn't catching a lot, because he was so short, and the other kids near us were much bigger. We could tell he really wanted a coconut, so we gave it to him.

On our way back from the parades, we took a walk down Bourbon Street, so we could see some of the other side of the holiday. Plenty of drunkenness and a little bit of nudity (some women painted their torsos in lieu of wearing a shirt). Fortunately for them, it was about 75 degrees out. All in all, a beautiful day. Sunny, warm, great music and happy people everywhere.

For Mardi Gras everybody smiled and had a good time. As they say, "Laissez les bon temps rouler." This year some signs added "encore" to the end of it.

St. Mary Closing

Continued from page 1

"This is not about which school is better;" one St. Mary's teacher told *The Current*. "It's about having another option and being able to let your kids walk to school and to religious-education classes rather than have to go off the Island. In addition, the school serves the needs of hard-working families in Co-op City and other neighborhoods close to City Island. All these children will be forced out of this community if St. Mary's closes."

Other Islanders worry what would become of the property. On the heels of the devastating fire at the Morris Yacht Club (see article this issue) and fear of development at the south end of the Island, residents are concerned about the sale of St. Mary's to developers. "No good can come of this. P.S. 175 has been overcrowded for years, and closing St. Mary's would only aggravate the situation," worried City Island Civic Association secretary Barbara Dolensek. "Many new houses are already being built in our old marinas, which means that there will be more children than ever in need of schooling. It would make matters even worse if the St. Mary's property were gobbled up by developers for housing."

When asked what the archdiocese's plans are for the school if it is closed, Father Challinor said, "I have no clue. Other clergy came up to me at the [March 30] meeting and expressed their confusion as well. They asked me, 'Aren't you on an island? Why would they close you?'" He said that two of the schools being closed are slated to be used for other

religious purposes for the archdiocese. Our Lady of Solace in the Morris Park section of the Bronx would become a regional Catholic center, and St. Mary's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) classes would probably be held there if the City Island school closes. But the archdiocese plans for St. Mary's property was not known as of press time. The final decision concerning schools will be made by April 24, according to the archdiocese.

One parishioner from St. Mary's said he was not surprised by the archdiocese's announcement. "This has been hinted at for a while. Many Catholic Islanders have not been sending their children to the school for years, so this plan should not come as a surprise."

Mrs. Dennehy, who is only in her second year as principal, believes there is a chance to save the school. "Good things are happening. Both the pre-kindergarten and after-school programs are generating interest from the community. We have students from both St. Mary's and P.S. 175 in the after-school program. The Home School Association has held several terrific fund-raisers already, like the carnival last spring, and is planning more." According to Father Challinor, St. Mary's school does not depend on or take funding from the parish church.

Ironically, as this crisis was unfolding, Father Challinor was approached by an independent film company that wants to use St. Mary's school as a backdrop for a movie. They specifically asked to film inside the classrooms and offered to include actual students as part of the cast of the movie.

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

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On March 12, several scouts earned their individual religious medals at the 10 a.m. mass at St. Mary's. Multiple denominations were awarded. Front row (l. to r.): Wolf leader Roberta Gvonaj, scouts Nicholas Gvonaj, Shaban Pajlevic, Michael Bellocchio, Sean Lyons and Jack Green, Wolf leader Liz Lyons. Second row: scouts Robert Weyhrauch, David Verghese, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Daniel Green and Nicholas Bellocchio and Webelos leader Pete Green. Third row: Leader Angelo Bellocchio and Father Michael Challinor.

City Island's Youngest Pillar: Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

The tender age of 23 is pretty young for someone to be considered a pillar of the community, but Frederick Ramftl Jr. fits the category in spite of his years.

Even if you don't know Fred personally, chances are that you know him by sight. He was the younger of that dynamic duo who plied City Island Avenue for the Garden Club for several years until last fall, picking up cigarette butts, trays, paper cups and sundry refuse discarded by careless patrons of our many food emporiums. Employed in this capacity since 1996, and only recently retired, Fred and his partner, Phil Ficarelli, would sweep the avenue every day from Schofield Street to Bay Street.

Fred was born on Father's Day, June 20, 1982, to City Islanders Fred and Joan Ramftl, eight weeks premature and weighing only 2 pounds, 3 ounces. A precocious child, Fred developed an early interest in bridges around the world. At the age of 4, he would corral his neighbors, the Speros, and lecture them about bridges.

Fred's formal education began at the age of 4 at the Crayon Box nursery school, where his instructors were Ms. Wallace and Ms. Olsen. The following year found him enrolled in St. Mary's nursery school, where he was taught by Mrs. Mary Lou Lachman and Mrs. Patty Conte. His religious needs were nurtured at St. Mary's Sunday school, where his instructors were Mrs. Lachman again and Mrs. Anne Riordan.

Like many Islanders, Fred attended and graduated from that citadel of learning, P.S. 175, in the class of 1996. He then attended and graduated from Salesian High School, class of 2000, and went on to Iona College, where he earned his B.A. in history in 2004. A perennial student, Fred is now working toward his master's degree, which he hopes to complete this year. Because his goal is to become a teacher, he will continue his education by taking teaching courses. He hopes to emulate teachers like Miss Carollo and Mrs. Ellwanger, whom he feels had a great influence on him.

At the age of 10, Fred became enthralled with politics and began collecting political memorabilia, and this is what prompted him to become a boy activist. He was only 12 when, after damaging his bicycle in a pothole, he wrote to the proper authorities to have the streets repaved. When the work commenced, Fred discovered that his block, Carroll Street, had not been included. He enlisted the help of his neighbors and made sure that Carroll Street was added to the program.

When he was 13, Fred again took pen in hand and complained that the dead-end pole at the foot of west Carroll Street was in dire need of repair. An engineer from the Department of Transportation, a Mr. Campbell, was surprised to find that the complainant was just a boy. The pole was repaired with alacrity.

In March 1998, City Island had a town meeting with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at Public School 175, which was crowded to overflowing. Islanders trumpeted the usual complaints, including traffic, people driving in the fire lane, double parking and so on. It



Fred Ramftl, Jr.

was refreshing to hear a 16-year-old ask for a bus shelter at Pelham Bay station. The traffic is as bad as ever, more and more cars use the fire lane and double parking abounds, but we have our bus shelter. Thanks, Rudy and Fred.

Along the way, Fred has been the recipient of many awards. The following are the ones he seems to cherish the most: P.S. 175 Effort and Achievement Award, P.S. 175, Service Award, Christine Jorgensen Hansen Award for Community Service, Community Board 10 and New York Yankees Community Service Award, Thomas Pell Achievement Award, and the City Island Community Center Award for Outstanding Community Service.

When the Garden Club phased out the street-sweeping program last year, Fred accepted a position as waiter at the Black Whale, where you can find him every Sunday morning servicing customers with a smile. His prowess as a waiter was honed serving as a volunteer waiter for many American Legion functions over the years.

Fred is a very active member of the City Island Historical Society. He began by doing community service at the Nautical Museum but kept up the volunteer work long after graduating from high school. As a reward for his eight-year tenure, he was recently made a trustee. The museum is open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., and although Fred works at the Black Whale until 2 p.m. every Sunday, he volunteers at the museum for the remainder of the afternoon. Stop by and you will find him in the Walsh Room perusing the Palmer Grant.

Fred is also the youngest member of the City Island Civic Association's executive board, and he is a regular attendee at the monthly Civic meetings.

Somehow Fred has found time to indulge his other passion, travel. He has been to Brazil, Greece, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon, and twice he has attended the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington D.C.

While attending college, Fred was active in the Iona Republicans organization, which he served as president. His most recent endeavor is the organization of a Republican Club on City Island. His feeling is that a little bipartisanship is essential to good government. Regular monthly meetings are announced in *The Current*, and even Democrats are welcome, Fred says.

Regardless of your political affiliation, get to know Fred Ramftl when you have a chance. You will be impressed and maybe even inspired to make a phone call to correct a problem affecting Islanders.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

APRIL

Thurs., April 6, **Ongoing Kindergarten Registration**, every Thursday, 9 to 12 noon, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue (see School News).

Thurs., April 13, to Sat., April 15: **Boy Scouts Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Thurs., April 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Greek-American Church, 3573 Bruckner Blvd., Bronx.

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

Sat., April 29, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 11 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

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

MAY

Sat., May 13, **Girl Scouts Flower Sale**, 10 a.m. until sold out! Front of Trinity Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Garden Club News

Our Spring Garden Tour this year will be on Saturday, May 13, starting at 21 Tier Street at 1 p.m. You will receive a map with the locations of participating gardens. There will be refreshments at the final stop. Suggested donation: \$5.

HOLD THE DATE: The Garden Club will have its annual spring luncheon on Thursday, June 8. The price will be \$30. Prizes will include many wonderful gift baskets and gift certificates.

Gardening hints: Since we will have the Garden Tour in May, it would be nice if all residents and businesses would spruce up their properties with attractive annuals so that City Island looks its best.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, "Your Shul by the Sea" at 480 City Island Avenue (between Beach and Bowne Streets) is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multi-ethnic Jewish congregation with Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, April 7.

Children accompanied by adults may join Karyn Berger for her creative Family Program for one hour of crafts, song and Jewish history at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8.

For adults, our spirituality service and Torah study workshop will be led by Dan Klipper at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 8. Come, learn and share your understanding in a comfortable, accepting group.

Our Community Passover seder will be conducted on April 12, the first night of Passover, at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club (on Centre Street). As in the past, glatt kosher food for Pesach will be served during this warm and congenial seder, which will be conducted primarily in English. Please call Bob Berent by April 5 at 718-885-3098 for information or to make reservations (\$40 for adults; \$15 for children).

Learn-to-read-Hebrew classes will be conducted on Wednesdays (from 7:30 to 9 p.m.). Materials and classes are free to everyone, thanks to the National Jewish Outreach Program. Mort Ellis will lead the classes in April (no class on April 12).

Yoga/ Tai-Chi Classes led by Marc Kaplan continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. during April (no classes on April 13 or 20). Marc's exercises will leave you more flexible, more energetic and refreshed. For more information, call him at 718-885-2445.

And finally, come celebrate our 72nd anniversary on Saturday, April 29. Our gala dinner-dance at the City Island Yacht Club will begin at 7 p.m. and feature entertainment by D.J. Ray, Sharon's fine wine and food, and the warmth and fellowship of friends and members of the temple. (Contributions are \$65 per person.) RSVP by April 10 by calling Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Republicans

Despite the cold weather, we had a few new members attend our last meeting and Republican district leader Anthony Ribustello addressed the crowd. He discussed the latest events involving the county party. He also told us that there was going to be a fundraiser on Thursday, March 23, for Republican State Senate candidate Jay Savino. Mr. Savino is also the current Bronx County party chairman, and he is trying to rebuild the party in every neighborhood of the Bronx.

The district leader also stated that there was a need for more Republican poll workers. The major requirement is that a Republican poll worker must be registered as a Republican. Anyone who is interested may contact Bronx County Republican Headquarters, 2113 Williamsbridge Road, at 718-792-5800. In addition, Mr. Ribustello also reported that the Bronx Republican Party is also looking for candidates to run for state assembly and for Congress, among other positions on the ballot, since they want to run a full slate of candidates in this year's election.

During last month's meeting, attendees discussed ideas regarding a possible Crabfest, which we hope to hold around early June. Several locations are currently under consideration. Stay tuned!

A big thank you must go out to member Margie McNulty for designing our temporary letterhead. She did a great job. In the near future, we will be designing and putting several other letterheads along with Margies to a vote so that the membership can choose a permanent one.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue. Those who attended the last meeting unanimously voted to move the monthly meetings to the second Wednesday of the month and to start the meetings at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to bring friends. We especially welcome younger people regardless of age to attend our meetings and to consider joining the club.

Anyone interested in joining may call Fred Ramftl at 718-885-0984 or Pat Rocchio at 718-885-1850. The club's address is P.O. Box 19, Bronx, NY 10464 and our e-mail address is cirepublicans@aol.com.

The City Island Republicans would like everyone, regardless of their political affiliation, to remember all of the troops in their prayers and thoughts.

Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.

Trinity United Methodist Church

We at Trinity would like to wish everyone a happy spring! Winter is over, and it is time for nature to resurrect her.

Easter is also a time of resurrection for the church, and at Trinity we will celebrate Easter starting with Passion Sunday on April 9 with our service at 10 a.m. On Holy Thursday, April 13, and Good Friday, April 14, we will hold services at 8 p.m.

Our annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue on Sunday, April 16, at 6 a.m. The outdoor ecumenical gathering to celebrate the risen Christ is open to all. A meditation entitled "Awaiting God's Trumpet Sound" will be



Photo by BOB BERENT

Children and adults of Temple Beth-El of City Island retold the biblical story of Queen Esther on Sunday, March 12. A full house participated in the hilarious satire with laughter and sound effects. The show was followed by activities for the children, music and hamantashen.

given by George Cavaleri, lay leader of Trinity Church. The program will include various scripture readings and testimonies from those present.

Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have previously attended. Be sure to set your alarm clock the night before, and remember to dress warmly. If the weather is inclement, the celebration will be held in Fellowship Hall at the church at 113 Bay Street, also at 6 a.m. We will continue our celebration of Easter at our regular service at 10 a.m.

Our regular services are held each Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school is held at the same time.

On another note, our Budget Shop is always in need of volunteers. If you have some free time on a Tuesday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., please consider helping us with this worthy cause. If you are interested, please call Ellen Hebbard at 718-518-7241 or Pastor Sue Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

Anne Sill

City Island Seniors

Our first meeting of the year was on Tuesday, March 7, at the Methodist Church Hall, with 18 members present. Bobo Yorburg, a magician of renown, entertained with his repertoire of slight of hand tricks.

Since we are a small group, we are looking for new members. Unlike the two AARP chapters on the Island, there is no requirement that one belongs to a national group. Just walk in and sign up.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at 1 p.m. If you could come a little early, about 12:30 p.m. to help set up tables and chairs, let Charlie Rosa know. He can be reached at 718-829-0245. We could also use kitchen help. We will discuss this at the meeting. Coffee, tea and cake are served following the meeting.

At the March meeting, we paid homage to our past president Andy Sbare. Although not a clam digger, Andy was a longtime resident and worked during World War II as a boss electrician in one of the Island shipyards. Following the war, he worked as an electrician and taught in the city school system until his retirement.

Happy April birthdays to the following members: Marge DeCandido (4/1), Minna Flour (4/6), Dorothy Donnelly (4/13), Stu Hawkins (4/18), and Alice Stuttig (4/18).

If I don't see you on the avenue or at the diner, I'll see you on May 2.

Russell Schaller

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion, the Eucharist, every Sunday at 10 a.m., and everyone is welcome to join us. Child care is available every Sunday in the Parish Hall beginning at 9:45 a.m. for those young children who have trouble sitting with their parents through a whole service. For older children, church school is offered approximately three times a month, beginning at 10 a.m. Please call the Parish Office at 718/885-1080 for dates and more information.

Also, reiki sessions are offered regularly at Grace Church and may be scheduled by calling Evyonne Baker at 347-427-4265; please consult our Web site (www.gracecityisland.org) for specific schedule information.

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

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10 a.m.: The Liturgy of the Palms and The Holy Eucharist.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.: The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday, April 14, 8 p.m.: Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church.

Holy Saturday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.: The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism. The Easter Vigil traces its roots to the early church and is one of the most beautiful and deeply symbolic services in all of Christian tradition. If you have never participated in this moving liturgy before, please consider joining us this year—and bring a bell, if you have one!

Easter Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m.: Festival Holy Eucharist.

Sunday, April 30, 12 noon, Parish Hall: Monthly Health Talk. This month's important topic will be Health Care and End-of-Life Planning, presented by the Reverend John G.W. Zacker, Esq., who is both an Episcopal priest and a trusts and estates lawyer. Monthly Health Talks are sponsored by the Grace Church Health and Healing Ministry and are free and open to the public.

Sunday, May 7, 12 noon, Parish Hall: Monthly Health Talk: Women and Heart Disease.

Mother Patty Alexander



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

SPECIAL EVENT

Community Tag Sale: Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in reserving a table (for a \$10 donation), call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Jazz/Tap for Grades 2 through 6: Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

Girl Scouts: Fourth Grade. For information, call Grace Nagy at 718-757-1338.

Daisies: Kindergarten. For information call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Small Potatoes-Creative Cooking for Kids: Thursdays. Give Gina a call for more information at 845-531-5011.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings 7:30 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAM

Belly Dancing With Nadia: Fridays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call Nadia at 718-885-9660 for more information.

Belly Dancing With Myriam: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays. Call Myriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

Aerobics Classes: Sundays, from 9 to 10 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m.; and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Babysitting available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Millennium Babies Playgroup: A free playgroup open to all with babies and/or pre-school children. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040 for more information.

Vilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and the adults who love them! Fridays, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays from 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223 or visit the Web site www.vilmasmusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Knitting Club: Beginner knitting classes for all ages! Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

City Island Theater Group

You won't want to miss CITG's production of Clare Booth Luce's play "The Women." After the success of "Bus Stop" in February, we are pleased to bring you the glitz and glamour of the 1930s with this fabulous production, featuring 20 stunning actresses strutting their stuff. Luce's comedy caused a sensation in its 1936 Broadway premiere, shattering the cozy myths of matrimony and serving up some of American theater's juiciest roles for women. Goldiggers, schemers, gossips and social climbers—these are the females who populate "The Women."

The story begins when socialite Mary Haines, portrayed by City Island's own Susan Rauh, finds out from her backstabbing friends that her husband has been unfaithful. Mary's personal life is ripped apart and scrutinized by her catty friends, but she won't be counted out. She quickly learns that Jungle Red isn't only the color of nail polish.

Also featured in this production are Antonette Boiano, Tara Brant, Justine Costanza, Tee Cotter, Barbara Dolensek, Gwynellen Hopkins, Laurie Hopkins, Eileen Fox, Norma Kerner, Liz McIntyre, Miriam Benitez-Nixon, Liza Reid, Cathy Roskam, Cori-Ann Roublick, Maria Swieciki, Lindy Tabano, Susan Velcheck, Julie White and Angela Yang. "The Women" is being directed by CITG's president, Nick Sala, who directed last season's acclaimed production of "Cabaret."

"The Women" is being presented for nine performances only! The performance dates are April 21, 23, 28, 29, and May 4, 5, and 6 at 8 p.m. and April 22 and 30 at 3 p.m. in Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. To reserve tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail citgthewomen@yahoo.com.

Nick Sala

Legion News

Spring has finally sprung. The crocuses are in full bloom, and the daffodils are not far behind.

Virginia Gallagher has mentioned to me that she might be able to get the evergreen at the World War II monument replaced. Like many of our veterans of the Big Deuce, the evergreen had passed on. I thought this was a good suggestion but at a subsequent executive board meeting, some of those present thought that we should not act in haste. Something is causing these evergreens to die. We will look into the matter, perhaps create an investigative committee and report to the membership. I'll inform Virginia to hold her offer in abeyance.

I am sure by this time that you have received the March Post Dispatch. Much of what I have to report has already been covered by our commander and his able staff.

I too have been queried about the blue tarp that graces the southeast corner of the Post building. It seems that over a period of a decade, possibly longer, the infrastructure has been subjected to water damage. Major repairs by Ray Kelly are in progress now, and as Ed Shipp states, "by Memorial Day the building will be shipshape."

Some members and visitors have asked if plans are still going forward to refurbish our first floor unisex latrine. I reported on this subject in my last newsletter, but our editor deemed some of the details not to be in good taste. Rumor has it that when completed, next to the bar, the facility will be the most popular attraction on the first floor.

As reported in the Post Dispatch, our ambassadors are back. The VFW Department of New York held the annual mid-winter conference. Richard O'Keefe, Bill Clancy, Joe Goonan, Dave Carman and Doug Malin represented the Post.

Richard and Bill traveled to Washington D.C. to discuss items of import with our elected officials; Richard met with Senator Hillary Clinton. Richard and Bill also went to Albany for "Hill Day" to discuss legislative priorities with state politicians.

Elections are coming up and we could use new blood. Elections for officers will be Monday, May 15. First nominations will be Monday May 1.

The following are dates for the April meetings: April 3, regular meeting and membership recognition; April 10, executive meeting; April 17, regular meeting.

Some dates to keep in mind: April 7, Department Commanders Dinner at the City Island Yacht Club. Cocktail hour begins at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. Contact Richard O'Keefe. For those of you in the chips, the National Commanders Dinner will be held at Anton's in Queens Village. The tab for this festive occasion is \$50.

Remember our recently departed comrades in your prayers: Tullio Risolo and Carmello (Ken) Rotello.

The Battle of Berlin began on April 16, 1945, the beginning of the end for Germany in

WWII as the Soviets took control of the city. By April 24, the Americans arrived at what would be our last base in Germany—R-37. Near our base was a British POW compound. The British soldiers had to wait 10 more days until C-47 transports arrived to take them home. Some of the soldiers had been captured in North Africa and weighed as little as 90 pounds. All were frail and exhausted, having been forced by the Germans to march from a camp in Prussia to Braunschweig.

At ease until next month.

Russell Schaller

Holiday Services

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
April 9, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

April 13, Maundy (Holy) Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

April 14, Good Friday: Ecumenical Service at Trinity United Methodist Church, 8 p.m.

April 15, Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism, 7:30 p.m.

April 16, Easter Sunday: The Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge
April 8, Confessions: 4:30 to 5 p.m.

April 8, Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.

April 9, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

April 13, 14, 15, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 8 a.m. Tenebrae, psalms and readings. No morning mass.

April 13, Holy Thursday: Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Procession to the Repository; adoration to 10 p.m.

April 14, Good Friday: Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

April 15, Holy Saturday: Confessions, 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 16, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street
April 9, Palm/Passion Sunday: 10 a.m.

April 13, Holy Thursday: 8 p.m.

April 14, Good Friday: Service at Calvary United Methodist Church, 1885 University Avenue, Bronx, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Ecumenical service with Grace Episcopal Church at Trinity United Methodist Church, 8 p.m.

April 15, Tenebrae: Service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, 9 a.m.

April 16, Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship, 10 a.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue
April 12, Passover seder at Stuyvesant Yacht Club, 7 p.m.

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Teaching Today's Youth

Teaching today's youth can be quite a challenge and the stuff of what movies are made, as well. Edward James Olmos delivers an outstanding performance as math teacher Jaime Escalante in **Stand and Deliver** (1988). Trying to teach calculus to Latino students at an East Los Angeles high school requires considerable ingenuity, and Mr. Escalante certainly has that. He dares his students to do well, assuring them that if they're not willing to try, they should "go to wood shop, make yourself a shoeshine box, you're gonna need it." Lou Diamond Phillips is excellent as the most difficult student, who is won over when the teacher sneaks him an extra set of textbooks to keep at home so he won't have to be seen carrying them in school.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays an ex-marine turned teacher named LouAnne Johnson in **Dangerous Minds** (1995), which is based on the real-life experiences of the author of "My Posse Don't Do Homework." She uses Bob Dylan lyrics and karate to engage the interest of her students, and she bribes them with candy and trips to an amusement park. The students' stories are heart-rending, with fine performances by Bruklin Harris as a brilliant pregnant girl, Renoly Santiago as a shy boy who would be the first in his family to go to college, and Wade Dominguez as the too-cool-for-school dude.

Surprisingly entertaining is the absurd action-adventure film **The Substitute** (1996). It stars Tom Berenger as Mr. Shale, who substitutes for his teacher friend Jane (Diane Venora) when her legs are broken by a local Miami gang member. Shale happens to be a mercenary soldier, and naturally he whips the kids into line while battling local drug smugglers and the corrupt principal (Ernie Hudson).

Turning to comedy is the mostly delightful film **Kindergarten Cop** (1990), with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the title role, as Kimble. He and his partner, Phoebe (Pamela Reed), are assigned to identify and protect a child in jeopardy. Phoebe is supposed to be the teacher, but she gets food poisoning, so Kimble steps in, with hilarious results. Penelope Ann Miller is on hand as Kimble's love interest, who is a teacher in the school. Unfortunately at the end, the story veers off into a violent situation which makes this film unsuitable for young children.

Music teachers make for enjoyable viewing, especially in the case of Richard Dreyfuss's character in the title role of **Mr. Holland's Opus** (1996). A creative man, he wants to write music but has to teach in order to support his wife, Iris (Glenne Headly), and his (ironically) deaf son (Nicholas John Renner at 6, Joseph Anderson at 15 and Anthony Natale at 28). The high school principal (Olympia Dukakis) is very supportive of the music program. Jean Louisa Kelly is perfectly lovely as Rowena Morgan, an aspiring Broadway star who captures Mr. Holland's heart. This is a film with many poignant moments.

Music of the Heart (1999) stars Meryl Streep as a single parent, Roberta Guaspari, who teaches violin to elementary school students. When her husband leaves her and the boys, her soon-to-be boyfriend Brian Sinclair (Aidan Quinn) introduces her to the school principal, Janet Williams (Angela Bassett). Ms. Guaspari's life takes a turn upward, and she brings along dozens of children whose lives are deeply affected by her dedication. Interestingly, this movie was directed by Wes Craven of "Nightmare of Elm Street" fame; it is difficult to believe that he could have created this touching film.

A film that has a superb premise and wonderful acting, but is marred by an unnecessarily sad ending, is **Pay It Forward** (2000). Set in Las Vegas, the film tells the story of a junior high school social studies teacher, Eugene Simonet (Kevin Spacey), who has a badly scarred face. When he gives his class the assignment to think of something that will change the world and to put it into action, Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osmont) comes up with a simple and beautiful plan. He wants to do a good turn for three people, who will then do a good turn for three people, and so on, "paying it forward" exponentially. Helen Hunt plays Trevor's alcoholic mother, Arlene, and Jon Bon Jovi is Arlene's estranged, abusive husband. This is a wonderful film which should be turned off about 15 minutes before its exasperatingly awful ending.

My favorite in this category is **Finding Forrester** (2000), which stars Sean Connery as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who befriends a black teenager named Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown). Forrester watches Jamal and his friends play basketball from his window overlooking the court below in the projects, and eventually the two meet because of a dare by Jamal's friends. Although Jamal is brilliant and a fine writer, he has been an underachiever in high school. His athletic prowess and high SAT scores, however, cause him to be offered a scholarship to a private academy, where he challenges his snobbish English professor (F. Murray Abraham). How the elderly Forrester and the teen-aged Jamal learn from each other is inspiring, especially when it comes to the concepts of integrity and loyalty, commodities not often found in the

cinema these days.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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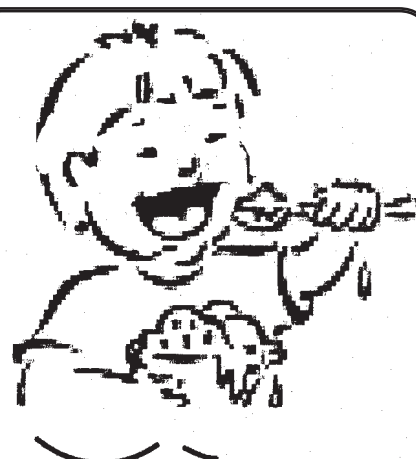
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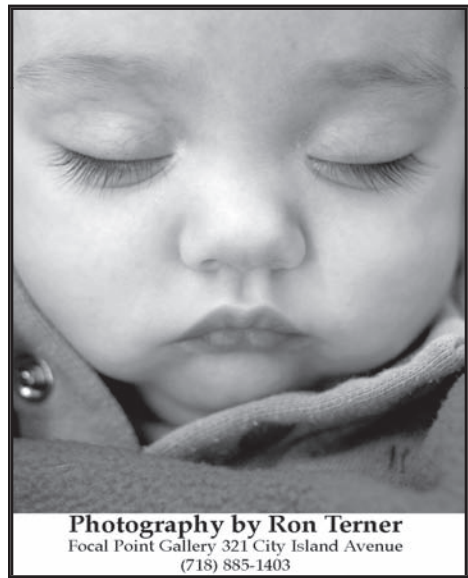
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Photos by RICK DeWITT
 After a last-minute change of venue caused by the fire at the Morris Yacht Club, the Parent-Teacher Association of P.S. 175 held their second annual art auction on March 11, 2006, at the school. Ron Turner of the Focal Point Gallery received an award from auction chairperson Eva Randazzo (top photo). Nobuo Kitagawa, a parent of a P.S. 175 student, played piano (bottom photo) during the auction preview.



Photography by Ron Turner
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SCHOOL NEWS
 2+2=4
 By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

There was a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March! Students in grades 3 through 8 finished taking their New York State mathematics assessments and are continuing their academic studies.

Students in all grades worked diligently on their science fair projects, which were displayed during parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 21. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. The children did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work had gone into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

The school is pleased to welcome back 144 Music and Arts who will be working with third- and fourth-graders beginning in April. During these sessions students will be learning how to play the recorder and will be participating in a chorus. This wonderful opportunity has been made possible due to the generosity of our PTA.

The PTA held its second annual art auction on March 11. Because of the tragic fire at the Morris Yacht Club, the event was held at the school, and once again it was a tremendous success. Funds raised from the event will enable the PTA to provide more exciting and enriching events and opportunities for the students.

April will begin the final session of both the Sports & Arts and CHAMPS after-school programs. In Sports & Arts, kindergarten and first-grade students will begin learning Tae Kwon Do and will participate in creative after-school art activities. Sixth- and seventh- graders who attend the spring session of CHAMPS will participate in a tennis program. If you are interested in having your child take part in either of these activities but have not yet registered, please speak with Tina Gisante, the parent coordinator.

The eighth-grade graduation committee has been busy planning for all of the end-of-year events that will be taking place. Parent meetings are being held in preparation for graduation and senior activities. We look forward to seeing all of the eighth-grade parents at these meetings.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Ongoing kindergarten registration for City Island residents will take place on Thursday mornings, beginning April 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Grade 7 will be going to Boston on May 4.
- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will be that evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The class trip to Washington D.C. will take place from May 31 to June 1.
- The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will be on Thursday, June 22, at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

This last month flew by. The students were extremely busy with testing, and at times, one could have heard a pin drop. We

would like to congratulate the students on their fine effort and take this opportunity to thank their teachers for the diligent preparation and support of their students.

We welcome spring with open arms. It is wonderful when the days are longer and the prospect of summer is just ahead. Where has the year gone? One faculty member noted that time flies when you are happy. So far we have had a happy and successful year.

Congratulations to our CYO teams for their outstanding records and hard work this past year. Special congratulations go out to the Girls Varsity, Girls Gidgets and Boys Junior Varsity for taking first place in their respective Bronx divisions. We would like to personally thank their coaches and all the parents from our parish for leading these teams in a very successful season. We also extend our deepest appreciation to Cathy and Frank Cepek for the time and sacrifices they have dedicated to this fine program. St. Mary, Star of the Sea is truly grateful for all they have done.

Several wonderful things have been planned for the spring, including various class trips and service-oriented activities. Currently the school is involved in the second year of participation in the "Pennies for Patients" for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last year St. Mary's was able to raise several hundred dollars to benefit this worthy cause. The second annual drive for St. Luke's Children's Hospital is just beginning. This math-based fund raiser topped \$300 last year, and the students are enthusiastic about participating in the cause again this year. These events are an excellent way to incorporate our Catholic Values Integration program into math and other subjects as well.

SMSS students recently participated in a Bronx penmanship contest. One paper from each class was selected to represent the school, and it was very difficult to choose the best in each grade. The new handwriting program is really paying off. We have been trying to rejuvenate the idea that handwriting is an art as well as a true form of self-expression in the spell-check world of today. The Bronx winners will be announced on April 6 at the Catholic School Science Fair.

The Home School Association has been busy sponsoring several fun-filled events. Popcorn movie nights, game nights and even roller skating nights have all provided a new connection to the school for the families that participate. We are very grateful to all these parents for their efforts and dedication.

The Aftercare Program has been a great success this year. Under the capable direction of Miss Beth Nesheiwat, our students enjoy recreation time, as well as supervised homework assistance and enrichment time, at the end of a long day. Parents are pleased and grateful to have a structured, safe environment to meet their children's after-school needs.

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Alumni Association has been working very hard in organizing the Alumni Weekend to celebrate the schools 75th anniversary. The members have been calling people and organizing events for June 1 through 4: Thursday, June 1, first annual golf outing; Friday, June 2, boat ride to Manhattan; Saturday, June 3, formal reunion followed by "Afters" in the school gym; Sunday, June 4, family mass and communion breakfast.

For more information, please visit our new Web site at www.stmarystarofthese-cityisland.com, and click on "Alumni." You can also e-mail stmarystarofthesealummi@yahoo.com.

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Continued from page 4

and skilled. There is only one class per grade and the class sizes are very manageable.

The principal, Mrs. Jane Dennehy, has had an extremely positive influence on the school. She treats every child in the school like one of her own. Our Home/School Association has also helped to insert some new energy into the school.

I always have said there has to be more to education than filling in the right circle on a test page. At St. Mary's my children are not only learning to be good test takers but they are being taught how to learn as well.

I have had many conversations with parents from our community who feel their children have to leave City Island to receive a good education. We have two excellent schools here on the island. If you are looking for an alternative to public education and believe, as I do, that faith is important to the growth of our children, look no further. You have a gem of a Catholic school right here in your own community.

Father Michael and the leadership of the church and school have dedicated themselves to building a faith community on City Island, and St. Mary, Star of the Sea School is an important part of that community. Whether you have a child just entering school or a child who is already enrolled in another school and you are looking for a change, call Mrs. Dennehy and ask her to show you what a great school we have right here!

Larry Saulnier

Card Ladies Relocate

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Virginia Gallagher for allowing us to use the meeting room at Pilot Cove, so that we might perpetuate our daily card games. We regularly held these at the Morris Yacht Club until the tragic fire. Several of the tenants of Pilot Cove have extended us a warm welcome. Thanks to all.

Card Ladies of the Morris

Calling All Artists

To the Editor:

For over 30 years, the City Island Chamber of Commerce has sponsored outdoor arts and craft shows to promote City Island and its businesses and artists. We are looking for more participation from the many artists living on City Island. We will prioritize the area in front of Hawkins Park for resident artists to showcase the talents of our unique island community.

The key ingredient to a successful show is a varied selection of vendors. We have opened up the application process to members of the Bronx Council on the Arts in order to promote other Bronx artists, but we would still like to have a strong representation of the talents of City Island.

To encourage participation by individuals, organizations and classes of artists, booth spaces can be shared to reduce costs, and the need for one person to be there at all times. As our gallery spaces decline, this is an opportunity for everyone to show and sell work here at home on City Island. Chamber members get a reduced rate for the

booth spaces at all shows.

Local businesses are encouraged to participate; they are of course permitted to sell whatever they wish. Other participants are juried for content, to assure an arts and crafts theme and to exclude flea market merchandise. We are reaching out to City Island residents to help make these shows even more exciting and successful.

The New York Times, *Time Out* magazine and many other publications have picked up our press releases. Our ads are displayed in the *Bronx Times* and *The Journal News*. This year shows are scheduled for June 3 and 4 and Sept. 9 and 10. Please call Paul Klein at Exotiq International Arts 718-885-3090 for an application or more information.

Paul Klein

Paying Respect

To the Editor:

On March 20, 2006, my wife, Kelly, and I attended a funeral for an old, dear friend of ours named Debra Reeve. Debbie was an FDNY paramedic who lost her battle with cancer after being exposed to toxic dust while working at the temporary morgue at Ground Zero after 9/11.

Both Kelly and I worked for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at one time and developed life-long friendships with many of the people we met there. Those who know us are aware that we cut our teeth with CIVAC and caught the bug for medicine. I have since become a member of the NYPD, and Kelly is now a registered nurse, but our hearts are still on the ambulance.

I would like everyone to take a moment and say a prayer for Debbie Reeve and her family. She was a lifetime Bronxite who left behind two lovely children. Her husband is also a paramedic with EMS. I am often disappointed at how little press the dedicated EMTs and paramedics in this city receive. They enter the same situations as police officers and firefighters but they usually make a lot less money and are often forgotten.

Ignoring the risks, Debbie left her family for many days to work at the World Trade Center site. She suffered terribly through her illness, and I am sure it was hard on her family as well. She was not the first rescue worker to contract an illness related to exposure at Ground Zero, and I fear she will not be the last.

Although Debbie was awarded a three-quarters disability pension, she was refused medical benefits through Workers' Compensation. The Fire Department ruled her death as "administrative." I am not quite sure what that means, but it certainly does not honor her dedication to New York City and to the victims of 9/11.

So please take a moment to pray for Debbie and all those unsung heroes who served the city with honor before, during and after 9/11. The next time you see an ambulance or a fire truck or a police car,

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thank the men and women in them for the sacrifices they make every day.

Larry Saulnier

Praise for Coaches

To the Editor:

In this highly competitive world where winning is the ultimate goal, every now and then you come across special people who believe in fairness, teamwork and good old-fashioned fun. Not to say that winning doesn't matter, but there are different kinds of winning.

As luck would have it, my son joined St. Mary's basketball third- and fourth-grade team this year with two of the finest coaches a kid could have (Jack Grogan and Cindy Candelaria). In addition to their time and patience with all the kids, they made magic happen for my son. When basketball started, my son could barely throw the ball near the basket. With hard work and encouragement from his coaches and cheering from his wonderful teammates, he made a few baskets during practice. Both


coaches made it clear that they would love for him to make a basket during a game.

On March 6, St. Mary's played a game at St. Theresa's. It became apparent that the coaches were setting up plays so he could shoot, which he did, although the balls didn't go in. Somehow it caught on, and even the other team and spectators were cheering him on.

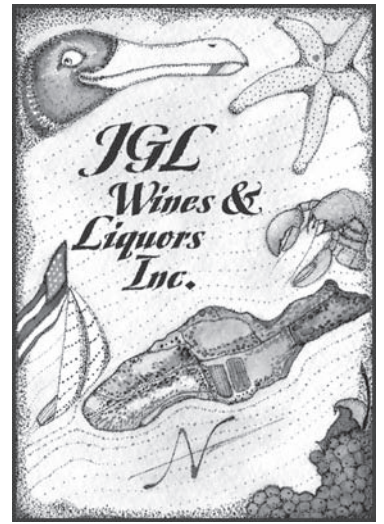
In the last four minutes of the game, a foul was called, and he was sent to the foul line with both teams lined up around the key. I knew his little arms couldn't throw a foul shot—it's too far for him—and somehow so did the ref. Right before the shot, the ref took him by the hand and moved him up under the basket. He made the shot and everyone in the gym cheered. I cried. Now that's winning.

Sue Mastracchio

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HH = hours; MM = minutes.
Tide chart by Tom Smith

APRIL 2006

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0104	8.5	0754	-1.0	1342	7.4	1953	-0.2	Sat 01
ALL TIMES ARE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, APRIL 2									
02 Sun	0252	8.1	0948	-0.4	1537	7.0	2142	0.4	Sun 02
03 Mon	0347	7.6	1048	0.2	1641	6.6	2244	1.0	Mon 03
04 Tue	0457	7.2	1153	0.7	1752	6.4			Tue 04
05 Wed	0000	1.4	0616	6.9	1258	1.0	1900	6.4	Wed 05
06 Thu	0113	1.6	0726	6.8	1358	1.1	2001	6.6	Thu 06
07 Fri	0217	1.5	0827	6.9	1453	1.1	2055	6.9	Fri 07
08 Sat	0313	1.3	0921	7.1	1542	1.0	2144	7.2	Sat 08
09 Sun	0402	1.0	1008	7.2	1626	0.9	2228	7.4	Sun 09
10 Mon	0445	0.8	1051	7.3	1703	0.8	2306	7.5	Mon 10
11 Tue	0523	0.5	1129	7.3	1735	0.7	2338	7.6	Tue 11
12 Wed	0556	0.3	1200	7.2	1757	0.7	2357	7.6	Wed 12
13 Thu	0622	0.2	1221	7.1	1810	0.6			Thu 13
14 Fri	0009	7.7	0643	0.1	1236	7.1	1833	0.5	Fri 14
15 Sat	0033	7.9	0708	0.0	1303	7.1	1906	0.5	Sat 15
16 Sun	0107	8.0	0743	0.0	1339	7.1	1945	0.6	Sun 16
17 Mon	0147	8.0	0823	0.1	1421	7.0	2028	0.8	Mon 17
18 Tue	0231	8.0	0909	0.4	1509	6.9	2118	1.0	Tue 18
19 Wed	0322	7.8	1002	0.6	1604	6.8	2214	1.2	Wed 19
20 Thu	0419	7.6	1103	0.8	1707	6.8	2319	1.4	Thu 20
21 Fri	0524	7.3	1220	0.9	1820	6.9			Fri 21
22 Sat	0042	1.3	0640	7.2	1349	0.7	1944	7.2	Sat 22
23 Sun	0220	0.8	0809	7.3	1458	0.4	2054	7.7	Sun 23
24 Mon	0331	0.2	0922	7.6	1555	0.0	2150	8.1	Mon 24
25 Tue	0429	-0.4	1021	7.8	1646	-0.4	2240	8.5	Tue 25
26 Wed	0522	-0.9	1113	7.9	1733	-0.5	2327	8.7	Wed 26
27 Thu	0612	-1.2	1202	7.9	1819	-0.6			Thu 27
28 Fri	0012	8.7	0700	-1.2	1249	7.7	1903	-0.4	Fri 28
29 Sat	0057	8.6	0749	-1.0	1336	7.5	1946	-0.1	Sat 29
30 Sun	0142	8.3	0837	-0.6	1425	7.2	2030	0.3	Sun 30

MAY 2006

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0229	8.0	0928	-0.1	1518	7.0	2117	0.8	Mon 01
02 Tue	0321	7.6	1021	0.4	1617	6.7	2213	1.3	Tue 02
03 Wed	0425	7.2	1118	0.9	1720	6.6	2323	1.6	Wed 03
04 Thu	0538	6.9	1216	1.3	1823	6.7			Thu 04
05 Fri	0033	1.8	0647	6.7	1313	1.4	1922	6.8	Fri 05
06 Sat	0136	1.7	0747	6.7	1406	1.5	2015	7.0	Sat 06



Harsh But True

We received a wonderful e-mail from Dan last month about a coyote he has seen. It was crossing the road by Glover's Rock and carrying what appeared to be a plastic supermarket bag in its mouth. Caught in Dan's headlights, the coyote dropped "the bag" and ran off into the woods. Upon closer inspection, the bag turned out to be a dead egret. Dan got back in his car and drove down and around the Bartow traffic circle and back again. The coyote was back again, too. It picked up its kill, held onto it this time and disappeared into the woods. Egrets usually fly up into the trees for the night, so it is possible that this particular egret


was sick or confused. Either that or this particular coyote was especially hungry!

An e-mail from John also concerned a sick bird. This one was a swan, a poor bird with deformed wings that had exposed bone at both tips and sores around its bill (see photo above). We don't know what caused his unfortunate condition, nor what ultimately became of him, although a kindly neighbor was feeding the bird last we heard. We called a local ornithologist, who assured us that there was nothing we could do and that the swan would soon be out of its misery. He reassured us that we need not worry about bird flu in any case.

One last birding note we would like to share—more uplifting than the rest—concerns a bird walk we took with a second-grade class in Hunt's Point. The children were prepared to see the usual suspects—pigeons, sparrows, starlings and herring gulls. None of us, however, was prepared for the sharp-shinned hawk in the oak tree right next door to the school building. It was a beautiful experience, and we know of at least one second-grader who will never forget it.

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TILLY THE DUCK GRADUATES FROM ST. MARY'S

By YOLANDA CIRULLI



The children of St. Mary's CCD class befriended and named Tilly the duck, who lived in St. Mary's schoolyard until a home was found for her on a farm in upstate New York.

In February I received a phone call from Doreen Zapata telling me that her daughter, Lindsey, and the children of the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) class at St. Mary's were upset over a woe-ful duck that suddenly appeared behind the school playground. The duck was there every day and never seemed to leave. The children named her Tilly and determined that she was a Muscovy duck, a domestic species that originated from freshwater areas in South and Central America.

The children started to feed Tilly bread, but then Michael Zapata bought her duck pellets and eventually St. Mary's became her home. I went each day to reassure Tilly that all was well, in spite of the cats lurking in the background ready to pounce.

Because I belong to Animal Nation, an organization located in Rye, New York, dedicated to promoting respect and kindness for all living beings, I immediately went into action to find a suitable place for Tilly to live.

Holly and John Williams of Boulder Ridge Farm in Lake Carmel assured me and the children that the duck could live with their Muscovy ducks on the farm. After the vet gave Tilly a clean bill of health, she was allowed to mingle with the other ducks. Holly couldn't believe that Tilly had managed to survive living near salt water.

The children of St. Mary's miss their duck friend but they are happy to know that she is safe and content in her new home in upstate New York.

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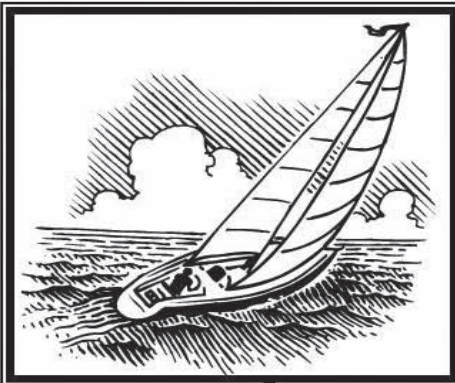
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St. Mary's Basketball

Continued from page 5

Kevin Whelan, Avery Haley, Kevin Saulnier, Brandyn Reilly and Devin Navarro.

Once again, congratulations on a championship season.

Boys Junior Varsity Tyros B

The Boys Tyros B team 2006 season is easy to sum up: lots of spirit and a willingness to work hard. About half the team had moved up from playing last year in the Bantam division, while others started playing basketball for the first time. Although they did not win a lot of games, all the players made substantial personal gains in both strength and stamina, as well as developing their basic basketball skills and knowledge of the game. Coaches look forward to the returning players for the next Tyros season; a few players will move up to Varsity.

The coaches again thanked Frank for all the tireless work and effort he did this year and all the years past. Frank and Cathy have made a real contribution to our City Island community. Everyone really appreciates you!

Girls Gidgets

The Girl's Gidgets played their hearts out in a come-from-behind victory to win the CYO Bronx B Championship. Under the direction of Anna and Bob Whelan, the girls won three consecutive games to capture the title. The first two games of the playoffs were an easy task for the Gidgets, who defeated St. Margaret's 24 to 7 and St. Theresa's 24 to 6. Outstanding performances were given by Brianna Saunders, Brianna Reilly, Brianna Whelan, Anna Vivolo and Arianna Rodriguez.

On Sunday, Feb. 26, the girls faced a perennial powerhouse, St. Barnabas, at the Villa School in Country Club for the rights of the 2006 Championship Trophy. The game began with a strong offensive performance by Brianna Reilly, hitting three out of four foul shots and two lay-ups, tallying seven points.

Strong defensive performances by Brianna Saunders, Brianna Whelan, Arianna Rodriguez, and Andrea Amorosa gave the St. Mary's Gidgets a four-point lead at the half. St. Barnabas took control of the game in the third

quarter leading St. Mary's by six until Brianna Saunders took over. She scored 8 of her 14 points in the fourth quarter, and Anna Vivolo hit a clutch basket to give the St. Mary squad a 23-to-8 victory. The girls worked extremely hard and should be commended. Congratulations!

Boys Bantam

If you were to judge their season by the record, you might say "ouch." But coaches Jack Grogan and Cynde Candelaria felt that this season was a winner for the Boys Bantam team because the boys had fun and gained a great learning experience. They described the boys as shining stars and great basketball players.

Special thanks went to Michael "Mickey" Pirraglia and Robert Weyrach for their great play at the St. Theresa's tournament.

Coach Candelaria recognized coach Jack, who devoted his time and basketball skills to make this season so much fun. Who said that retirement was going to be relaxing?

Last but not least, thanks to all the parents who stuck by this team all season and helped in many ways.

Boys and Girls Intramurals

The 2005-2006 Intramural Program was a great success. George Spencer, Frank Strazzera and Carlo Volpe led the boys and girls through a rigorous training regimen and skills-building program. The first half of the season was dedicated to strength and conditioning through various exercises and a focus on drills. This talented team of first- and second-grade boys and girls became accomplished at dribbling with both left and right hands, the bounce pass and chest pass, the give-and-go, and the 2-1-2 zone defense. In addition, the children did as many as 80 jumping jacks as part of their warm up routine.

The second half of the season was dedicated to games, where the teams would play full five-on-five. The hard work and the dedication that the children put in during the season paid off in the annual parent-child game. The parents were totally outmanned and left huffing and puffing as the children won easily. The coaches wish to thank all the players and their families for making this a fantastic season.



The St. Mary's Girls Gidgets, under the direction of Anna and Bob Whelan, won three consecutive games in the playoffs to capture the Bronx CYO Championship title. The amazing players are (kneeling): Francesca Strazzera, Grace Ramos, Brianna Whelan, team mascot Christine Whelan, Arianna Rodriguez and Stacie Lacina. Standing are Brianna Reilly, Catherine Graves, Anna Vivolo, Brianna Saunders and Andrea Amorosa.



The Boys Bantam was one of the best-liked teams in competition. The players' improvement and team spirit are a tribute to their coaches, Jack Grogan and Cindy Candelaria. Shown above are (kneeling) Gerard Pirraglia, Thomas Mastracchio, Eric Valenti, Isaiah Washington-Parnell and Ian Kelly. Standing are Daniel Clancy, Michael Candelaria, Dylan Cullen, Ryan Herrera-Murphy, Robert Carmody and Danny Pirraglia. Not pictured: Brandon Rosenblatt and Cian Byrne.



The hard-working Boys JV Tyros B team are shown above with their coaches David Sexton and Paul Mankiewicz: (kneeling) Ryan Fitzpatrick, Ryan Henning and Kyle Kreig. Standing are Gregory Sexton, Jashi Weste, Eddie Carey, Joey Amorosa and Tiernan Shanley. Not shown: Dylan Cruz, Tyge Mankiewicz, Rashad Bryant, Joey Moore and Gus Berger.



The Intramural program was directed by George Spencer. The hard work and the dedication that the children put in during the season paid off in the annual parent-child game. The parents were totally outmanned and left huffing and puffing as the children won easily. Members of the intramural team are (kneeling) Nicholas LaBriola, Sean Lyons, Stephanie Yarusso, A. J. Carrión, Michael Pirraglia, Emmett Shanley, Anthony Ramos, Joseph Mancuso, Nora Murphy and Michael LaBriola. Standing in the second row are David Verghese, Alexis Candelaria, Patrick Kenney, Gianna Volpe, Deirdre Spencer, Francesca Strazzera, Emmett Foxe, Michael Valentine, Jonathan Nagy and Jean Louis Gonzalez. Back row: coaches Carlos Volpe, George Spencer and Frank Strazzera. Not pictured: Robert Weyrauch.

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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.

Warren G. Phillips

A longtime resident of City Island, Warren G. Phillips died on Feb. 22, 2006, in Palm Harbor, Florida, at the age of 80.

Warren was born in the Bronx on July 8, 1925. He attended New York City schools and studied music at Metropolitan High School in Manhattan. An avid roller skater, he met his bride-to-be, Rosalie Lippe, at the Fordham Skating Rink. They were married at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church in 1946 and lived for many years on Reynolds Street. Warren loved to be on or in the water and was a member of the Throggs Neck Life Saving Association, Eastchester Bay.

On July 9, 1943, Warren volunteered in the United States Navy and trained at the Norfolk, Virginia, and the Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut. He served aboard the *USS Green* in the Atlantic and the *USS Ocelot* in the Pacific until it was destroyed in a typhoon.

Warren was awarded the Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Medal. After he received an honorable discharge on March 21, 1946, he joined the International Photo-Engravers Union #1 in New York City, completing a six-year apprenticeship and studies in the graphic arts. He was employed in this field for 35 years. The Phillipses retired to Florida in 1985.

Warren Phillips is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rosalie Lippe Phillips; his son, Warren G. Phillips, and his wife, Carole Cucci Phillips, of City Island; his daughter, Amy Phillips, and her husband, Leonard Simoncek, of City Island; his sister, Bernice Phillips Carter, and her husband, Allan L. Carter, of Bradenton, Florida. He also leaves five wonderful grandchildren, Michael, Julia, Laura, Leah and Andrew, as well as two nieces, Georgia and Olivia, and a nephew, Phillip, and many dear friends in both City Island and Florida.

Warren will be interred in Pelham Cemetery on City Island.

Helen Reel

A resident of City Island from 1982 until she moved to New Jersey to live with her daughter in 2003, Helen C. Reel died on March 9, 2006, at the age of 87.

She was born Helen Cunningham on Jan. 28, 1919, in New York and spent most of her formative years in the Bronx. She graduated from Walton High School, and married in 1938. Her husband died in 1970, leaving her with four children, three of them grown, and she went to work as a county clerk at the courthouse on the Grand Concourse.

She then went to the College of New Rochelle to obtain her B.A. and to Long Island University for her masters in public administration. At the same time, she worked as a staff analyst for the internal affairs unit of the Police Department and became involved in local politics as well.

She became an active volunteer for the Girls Scouts and helped them set up environmental programs for young people all over the city. On the local level, she became involved in fighting the Pelham Bay landfill and joined with many others in closing it down in 1979. Through the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, for which she served as president, she was involved in nearly every environmental issue to affect the Bronx since the late 1960s.

After Helen retired from the Police Depart-

ment in 1981, she moved to City Island, where she was one of the early residents of Pilot Cove Manor. She didn't slow down her environmental activities, however, and continued to monitor the landfill clean-up and the restoration of the area wetlands. She also served as president of the Garden Club of City Island and was an active trustee of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum.

Helen Reel is survived by her daughter, Irene Reel Rodriguez, and her son, Dennis C. Reel. She had two other children, Susan Toledo and Paul W. Reel, both deceased. She is also survived by her 10 grandchildren: Michael Reel, Andrea Moore, Laura Douglas, Joanne Francis, Erica Malson, James King, Kaylene Pearce, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Jason Rodriguez and 21 great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held for her on April 1 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on City Island. Donations may be sent in her name to the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 265, City Island, NY 10464.

William M. Rosenfeld

William Rosenfeld, known as Bill, passed away March 4, 2006, after a short illness. Born on May 12, 1921, in the Bronx, he grew up on City Island and lived in Port Chester for 56 years.

He graduated from P. S. 17 and Evander Childs High School. His family lived at the east end of Horton Street for many years.

A World War II veteran in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, he served on the *USS Callaway* and was chosen to be a division beach master. He was awarded the U.S. Navy Letter of Commendation (Combat) as well as a Navy Unit Citation (Combat). He remained in the U.S. Coast Guard Ready Reserve after the war and retired honorably with rank of lieutenant commander after 38 years.

He was the youngest of three brothers and a sister who worked with their father in the family business, which was internationally recognized as the standard for marine photography. The Rosenfelds were the official photographers of America's Cup yacht racing and for the New York Boat Show for decades.

Their boat, the *Foto*, was a familiar sight in the waters around City Island for many years. The fruits of their labor resulted in more than a million images of sailboats, yachts and powerboats. Their work can be viewed in the Rosenfeld Collection, which is displayed at Mystic Seaport in Mystic, Connecticut.

Bill Rosenfeld served his community in many ways: as past captain of Port Chester's volunteer Fire Department's Harry Howard Hook and Ladder, as past master of the Port Chester's Masonic Mamaro Lodge, as member of the Fire Chiefs Emergency Plan of Westchester County and as a member of the Corinthians.

He continued his boating career by serving as director of the National Association of Engine & Boat Manufacturers. He also was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard National Boating Safety Advisory Committee and Administrator of Westlawn School of Yacht Design. He retired in 1987 after serving as assistant secretary of the American Boat & Yacht Council, which wrote Federal safety laws for boats on our nation's waterways.

He married Dorothy G. Rosenfeld in 1949, she predeceased him in 1991. He is survived by his first wife and lifelong friend, Joan Hurdis; two sons, William D. Rosenfeld and Darwin R. Day; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four nieces and five nephews.

Bill was buried in Greenwood Union cemetery in Rye, New York. The procession to the cemetery was led by the Port Chester Fire Chief's car, followed by a Hook and Ladder in honor of his service to the department.



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

Guidance for Energy Credits for Homeowners

During 2006, individuals can make energy-conscious purchases that will provide tax benefits when they fill out their tax returns next year. The credit will also be available for purchases in 2007. Manufacturers who offer energy-efficient items, such as insulation or storm windows, can assure their customers that these items will qualify for the tax credit if certain requirements are met.

A recent tax law change provides a tax credit to improve the efficient use of energy in existing homes. The law provides a 10 percent credit for buying qualified energy-efficiency improvements. To qualify, a component must meet or exceed

the criteria established by the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code (including supplements) and must be installed in the taxpayer's primary residence in the United States.

The following items are eligible: Insulation systems that reduce heat loss/gain; exterior windows (including skylights); exterior doors; metal roofs (meeting applicable Energy Star requirements).

In addition, the law provides a credit for costs relating to residential energy property expenses. To qualify as residential energy property, the property must meet certification requirements prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and must be installed in the taxpayer's main home in the United States.

The following items are eligible: \$50 for each advanced main air circulating fan; \$150 for each qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water heater; \$300 for each item of qualified energy-efficient property.

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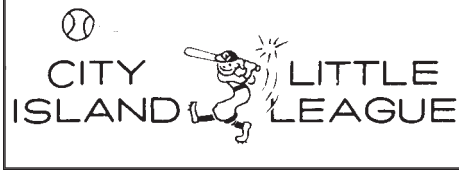
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Spring is here and it's time for baseball! We began our spring training program on March 11, and we will continue our indoor training until the weather allows us to utilize the ball field. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Michael and Mrs. Dennehy for allowing us to use the gym at St. Mary's.

Our opening day ceremony will be held on April 29 at Ambrosini Field at 11 a.m. A major league game will follow the ceremony. Unfortunately, because of the uncertainty of the sewer project and the loss of COLONY funding, we will be unable to have a parade

this year. However, everyone is welcome to join us at the field that day to celebrate the start of another fine season of baseball here on City Island.

We offer a well-rounded program that teaches children the fundamentals of baseball. We also foster the values of teamwork, respect and sportsmanship in our players. Our instructional league will begin on Saturday April 22, at 9 a.m. If you would like to enroll your child and haven't done so already call Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313 or e-mail us at cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com.

All are welcome to join us at any time to watch a game or just enjoy the atmosphere at Ambrosini Field. If you are interested in volunteering, please give us a call or send an e-mail.

Larry Saulnier

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- + Palm Sunday April 9th - The Liturgy of the Palms and The Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM
- + Maundy (Holy) Thursday April 13th - The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 7:30 PM
- + Holy Saturday April 15th - The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism 7:30 PM
- + Good Friday April 14th - Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church 8:00 PM
- + Easter Sunday April 16th - The Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM

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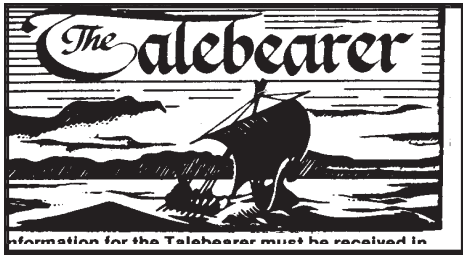
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

The Island Current's cartoonist, Russell Schaller, wishes a happy 50th birthday to his daughter Irene Callahan. (We hope he had her permission to announce her age!)

Happy birthday to Breana and Kevin Whelan from Grandma Whelan.

Islanders Roger and Mark Nani send April birthday greetings over the bridge to Granny Rose and Uncle Anthony.

Happy birthday(s) on April 27 to Kim Zapata and her daughters: Emily, who turns five on April 30, and Madison, who celebrates her first birthday on April 29. Love from the Carmody and Cebek families.

Happy 50th birthday on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Happy third wedding anniversary on April 26 to Marcy and Chris McGuire.

Happy birthday on April 22 to Christopher Parker, with love from Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to City Island's Kevin Whelan and his Mount Vernon Pee-Wee hockey team for winning the Mid-Hudson Valley Ice Championship. Mom and Dad are very proud.

From the Doyle-Butterworth clan: Happy birthday to Mari Doyle on April 14, to Cathie Doyle on April 24, to Jack Strnad on his 11th

birthday on April 28, and to David Butterworth, who turns 13 on April 30. Also, birthday wishes to Anne McIntyre on April 22 and her mom, Peggy Eberhart, on April 26.

Birthday greetings to Pell Place's Guy Dietz Sr., who turns 68 on April 22, and also to his son Guy Dietz Jr., who will turn 18 on April 17.

Happy birthday to Joey Mancuso, who will turn seven years old on April 19 and also to his mom, Candy, who celebrates on April 25. We love you both! Dad, Alaura and Michael.

Happy birthday to the "Talebearer," Maria Swieciki, who celebrates her day on April 25.

Congratulations to Nora and Maeve Murphy of Minnieford Avenue who welcomed their little sister, Oona Clare, on Jan. 3, 2006. Proud parents are Matt and Kerry Murphy. Proud grandmothers are Peggy Murphy of Carroll Street and Patricia McGowan of Mineola, N.Y.

See you next month!

Maria Swieciki



Kevin Whelan.

Morris History

Continued from page 3



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM The Monte Carlo Hotel at Belden Point.

articles describing his misadventures over the years, including an attempt to get his mistress put in jail and his own arrest for assault and battery when he beat up a man who was working on his steamboat, Yosemite.

After years of prosecution for his financial shenanigans, Belden was eventually forced into bankruptcy by the late 1880s, and in 1891 he turned his home on City Island into a summer resort, presumably to get himself on firm financial footing.

On June 13 of that year, the Times reported that Belden had turned the house into a French restaurant and constructed several buildings containing bowling alleys and billiard tables. There were swings and merry-go-rounds for the children, and Leiboldt's Band provided music. The resort, called Belden Point, was open to the public every day and could be reached by steamboats coming from Brooklyn via Manhattan on a regular schedule.

After years of covering every detail of Belden's infamous career, the New York Times is remarkably silent on the subject of his death. There is no obituary and no details about his will, although there is a curious story in 1910 about how the courts had overturned his efforts to bilk his brother's children out of their rightful inheritance.

All of this history so far is well documented, but what happened to the property after about 1900 is not known. It is clear, however, that Collis P. Huntington, the millionaire railroad magnate, never owned the property (he had a much grander place in Throggs Neck), nor is there any evidence that it was owned by William Randolph Hearst as a hiding place for

his mistress, Marian Davies during the time the two were carrying on their affair in New York City from 1916 to the 1920s, when they moved to California.

We do know that Belden Point remained a resort, first as the Monte Carlo Hotel and later as the Chateau Laurier, which was in existence at least as early as 1913. A postcard of about 1900 entitled "Belden Point" shows the property to be in poor repair, perhaps indicating a time when William Belden was in financial distress or had abandoned the place. A later card shows the house in much better condition, this time as the Monte Carlo Hotel.

In 1914, the New York Herald reported on a plan to destroy the Chateau Laurier and to develop an "exclusive watering place," but clearly this did not occur. Real estate speculation on City Island was in high gear at this time, thanks to the interests of August Belmont and others, including City Island Homes, Inc., which had bought up much of the island in order to lure developers.

It has been reported that the Belden property was transferred to the Society of Arts and Letters of Columbia University, presumably by one of its benefactors Archer Milton Huntington (Collis's stepson), but this has not been confirmed. It is clear, however, that the Chateau Laurier restaurant continued in business until at least 1930, when, according to the New York Times, a syndicate of amusement park developers bought the property for \$500,000, or the phenomenal sum of \$65,000 an acre. The intention was to open "City Island Point Park, with a casino, bathing beach, boardwalk and a 300-foot swimming pool."

The park never happened, and in the early 1930s the City Island Athletic Club leased the property (from whom it is not clear), where it set up an arena for boxing matches and tennis games. In 1936 the club subleased the land and the buildings to the Morris Yacht Club, which had been removed from its clubhouse on Rodman's Neck by Robert Moses, and the Morris bought the property in 1937.

Although, sadly, little remains of the Horton house and the Belden amusement park, of Chateau Laurier and the boxing bouts presented by the Athletic Club, this special part of City Island has played an important role in the history of City Island and will remain alive in the memories of residents and longtime club members.



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