

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Second Class Permit
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.
USPS 114-590

Volume 37 Number 3 April 2008

One Dollar

Horrific Crane Collapse Claims Life of Former Islander

By KAREN NANI



Photos by ETHAN KAVET and courtesy of BOB BLEIDNER

A tragic crane collapse in Manhattan on March 14, 2008, claimed the life of former Islander Wayne Bleidner. The crane boom is shown above where it fell on top of a brownstone between East 50th and 51st Streets. Wayne is shown with his wife, Denise, and son, Robert, at his 50th birthday celebration in 2006 (photo below).



Although off-Island events are usually not the purview of *The Current*, the tragic crane accident in Manhattan on March 15, 2008, has touched many City Islanders. The construction crane collapse on 51st Street claimed the life of Wayne Bleidner, who lived on Earley Street until he was 36 years old and whose father, Bob Bleidner, still lives in the house in which Wayne was born. The accident near Second Avenue left six others dead, several buildings in rubble on the East Side and the forced evacuation of 17 neighboring structures.

Wayne, 51, was in the operator's cab of the 205-foot tower crane, one of the largest currently being used in the city. He was a 25-year member of the International Union of Operating Engineers (Local #14) and "one of the top engineers in the city," his father and others familiar with Wayne's career told *The Current*. He had an "unlimited license," which is the highest level and which means that he was qualified to operate any crane.

This particular piece of machinery was

being used to construct a new high-rise condominium at 303 East 51st Street. About 2:30 p.m. that Saturday, the crane was being "jumped," a process by which extensions are added to the boom as the building grows taller, according to the Mayor's office. The crane was hooked to the side of the building with the cab sitting over 90 feet above street level. Another nine stories above where Wayne was sitting in the cab, a collar support was being installed by riggers.

At that moment, half of the 10-ton support broke and fell, landing on the supports below. This caused the entire crane to break free and topple onto 50th Street and the surrounding buildings, taking Wayne and three riggers with it, according to the Office of Emergency Management.

"There was no way for the riggers to escape because the support for the collar sticks out 15 feet from the building," Bob Bleidner told *The Current*.

Bob knows the intricate stages of crane operation because he too was an operating engineer for 50 years. However, he wanted his son to follow a different path and encouraged him to pursue accounting at Iona College after he graduated from Mount St. Michael Academy.

"But he didn't want to do accounting. He came home one day and told me, 'I want to do what you do,'" Bob recounted. He relented and got Wayne a job in the union where he trained under a good friend of his father's.

He worked his way up in the union slowly and carefully. "He never had any problems or accidents," Bob recalled. "In fact, they would call him when there were problems at other sites, like Shea Stadium."

Wayne specialized in tower cranes and skyscraper construction, whereas his father had worked mostly in excavation. "We both worked on the New York City water tunnel job, Wayne on top and me below."

He was especially fond of operating this particular long-boom crane, which was built in Australia, according to his father. "He said it was a good crane, easy to operate and fast."

Earley Street neighbors and relatives attested to Wayne and Bob's meticulous natures. "They were always working on their cars, the house and the lawn," one reminisced fondly. "You always wanted to buy their used cars because they were immaculate and had low mileage."

Wayne, who was born on April 1, 1956, grew up on City Island with his parents, Bob and Doris. He attended P.S. 17, where he was taught by Ena Ellwanger, a former teacher and principal at P. S. 175, who remembered him fondly. "I taught Wayne when he was in the third grade," she told *The Current*. "He was an only child and his mother doted on him. He was a bright, lovely child—just an all-around nice kid. It's not fair."

Mrs. Ellwanger also remembered Wayne's mother, Doris Robson Bleidner, who passed away a number of years ago. "She loved that boy. She walked him to school every day."

Wayne eventually moved off City Island, to neighboring Pelham, after marrying Denise Courtien in 1992. They had one child, who died tragically, shortly after birth. They then

adopted a son, Robert Joseph, who is now 10 years old.

The crane accident was described by city officials as "one of the worst crane accidents in memory." The outpouring of grief and sympathy was evident at the wake for Wayne in Pelham. According to John Hynes, a detective with the Pelham Police Department and a friend of the family, the line extended around the block and the wait to enter the funeral home was over an hour long.

In his new neighborhood, Wayne was well liked, according to another former Islander, Cathy Schaller Mazzaro, who also moved to Pelham. "Everyone here has only wonderful things to say about him. He took his son, Robert, to Pelham Pizza every Friday. The owner of Pelham Pizza said you would never meet a nicer guy. When we lived on City Island, my sister Irene said she and her friends used to drive out to the Hamptons with him in his Lincoln Continental every weekend."

His widow, Denise, is grateful for the strong support from both families and com-

Continued on page 3

City Island's Aspiring Hoopsters!



Photos by ROSE KOLB and ANNAMARIE WHELAN

As a special treat during the St. Mary, Star of the Sea 2007-2008 basketball season, members of the Boys Junior Varsity team and some of the girls in the league were invited to attend a special New Jersey Nets game against the Dallas Mavericks in February (top photo). The young aspiring players posed with Nets players during the singing of the national anthem before the game. The City Island season produced memorable championship moments. Congratulations to the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Gidgets, coached by Frank Strazzera and George Spencer, for bringing home the Division Championship Trophy. Shown with their coaches and the winning trophy are (bottom photo, middle row, l. to r.): Lily Kolb (Rookie of the Year), Katie Moore, Christine Rice, Jordan DeSantis (Best Defensive Player). Bottom row: Chloe Brelsford, Deirdre Spencer, Sydney Saulnier, Francesca Strazzera (Most Valuable Player), Shannon Faulkner, Ashlie Howell (Best Offensive Player), Alexis Candelaria (Most Improved), and Shannon Saulnier. Not shown, Christine Whelan.

BRIEFLY...

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER INTER-FAITH SERVICE.

For the second year, Grace Episcopal Church will host an evening prayer service on May 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. Clergy from all four houses of worship on City Island and from Christ the Redeemer in Pelham will offer prayers. The service will focus on the family, our community, our military and our government and national order. Since 1988 the first Thursday in May has been federally designated as the National Day of Prayer. Last year Grace's interfaith service was one of an estimated 40,000 National Day of Prayer events. Everyone is warmly invited to attend on Thursday, May 1.

INDOOR TAG SALE: The Springtime Indoor Tag Sale is back at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on April 6 and 20 and on May 4 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table.

CANCER BINGO: The Leonard Hawkins American Legion Ladies Auxiliary #156, 550 City Island Avenue, will hold its annual Cancer Bingo on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. with proceeds going to the Cancer Institute. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WEDDING: Come to "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Friday, April 11. Performed by the New York Dinner Theater, the doors to the gym open at 6:30 p.m. with dinner from 7 to 8 p.m. and show time at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a buffet dinner with beer, wine and soda on each table. This hilarious show is run with all the trimmings of a real wedding. The audience plays the role of wedding guests as the characters mingle throughout the tables and treat everyone as "part of the family." A special 50/50 drawing will be held. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each and the \$5,000 prize goes to one winner. For play tickets, 50/50 tickets or information, please call Tina Ruggiero at 718-885-2503 or Teri Kurtz at 718-885-3043.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM:

It is not too late to enroll in this wonderful program where members receive fresh certified organic produce from an upstate farm every week. Each week's share consists of 9 to 12 different vegetables weighing about 12 pounds in midsummer to fall. The 24-week season starts the second week in June and ends in late November. Members purchase shares (\$450, due June 1, 2008) and pick up their vegetables at a location on City Island to be determined. A fruit share is also available for \$210; this covers 20 weeks and consists of about 5 to 8 pounds of fruits. For more information contact: Christine Williams at williams10464@aol.com, 117 Horton St, cell 347-525-4727 or Marie Caesar at mariecaesar@hotmail.com.

NEW DAY CARE/ PRESCHOOL PROGRAM for ages 2 and up.

Parents and children are invited to an open house on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a fun-filled morning of activities. Organized by a teacher with 15 years of experience, the program will provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children while responding to the needs of the families. Activities provided are both directed and non-directed and designed to promote independence and self esteem. For more details, including location, call Maura at 718-885-9351.

FREE GARDENING CLASSES AT BOTANICAL GARDEN:

Senator Klein is once again offering free gardening classes to the residents of the 34th Senate District during the months of April and May on these subjects: A Tropical New York Paradise, Containerized Trees, Shady Gardens, and New and Interesting Annuals. Registration is required and space is limited, so apply today. Classes will be held on April 12 and 19 and on May 3 and 10 between 10 a.m. and noon. Call the senator's office at 800-718-2039 for a registration form and a detailed course description.

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City Island, N.Y. 10464



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: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268

STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt.

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

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464
Printed by Hi-Speed Printing Co., 1123 Worthen Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10474
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$10.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0984 or 885-0760. Copyright 2007 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

Spring Cleaning? Recycle!

On Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Department of Sanitation will accept discarded electronics for recycling, gently used clothing and linens, and will distribute high-quality compost and compost bins at the Soundview Composting Site on Randall Avenue in the Bronx. The site is near the intersection with Rosedale Avenue, close to the Bruckner Expressway.

Electronics may include cell phones, computers and laptops, monitors, printers and scanners, keyboards and mice, televisions, and VCR, DVD and DVR players.

The limit is five pieces per vehicle, and the disposal must be by New York City residents only (not businesses).

Place gently used clean clothing and linens in plastic bags and tie them securely to avoid moisture contamination. Tax-deduction receipts from Goodwill will be provided on request.

Residents of New York City may receive unlimited amounts of free, high-quality compost for their gardens; bring a shovel and sturdy containers. No commercial vehicles will be allowed. Discarded compost bins will be available for \$20 for gardeners who wish to make their own compost at home.



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Crane Collapse

Continued from page 1



Photos courtesy of BOB BLEIDNER

Islander Bob Bleidner is shown with his grandson, Robert, at an Operating Engineers Union picnic several years ago (bottom photo). His son Wayne, who perished in the crane collapse on March 15, 2008, is shown with his mother, Doris, in the early 1990s (top left photo). Wayne smiles down from his perch in a crane cab on a former jobsite (Top right photo). Three generations of Bleidners frolic in Grandpa Bob's pool (inset).

munities. (It was Denise's brother who went down to Manhattan to identify Wayne's body.) "Everyone in Pelham has been wonderful and is feeding us! We have so many fruit baskets that when Robert returns to school tomorrow [March 26], he will bring 25 apples for his class," she told *The Current*. She said that every one of the teachers in her son's school attended the memorial, along with the school's superintendent.

Father Bannon at St. Catharine's Church in Pelham, where the funeral was held on March 19, said what a great man Wayne was because he was so skilled and respected in his work.

This tragedy has been a terrible ordeal for Wayne's father in many ways. Reporters camped outside his Earley Street home on Tuesday, March 18. Luckily, he is surrounded by family members, including his sister, Helen Bates, and her husband, Sonny, who live about 10 doors down the block.

Bob takes special solace in the company of his beloved grandson, whom he says loves the water and boating as much as his father did growing up on City Island. As the interview concluded, he was looking forward to the arrival of his daughter-in-law and grandson for an early Easter dinner.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The new fencing at the former site of Royal Marina near Cross Street has served as an announcement to City Islanders that progress is being made with the development of that site, which has been vacant for several years. The first developer, Beechwood Homes, which bought the property from Richard Riordan, devised a plan for 22 two-family homes, plus one building combining commercial and residential space, and obtained permits from both City Planning and the Buildings Department. The property was sold, plans and all, to Haim Joseph, a resident of City Island and developer of Nautical Winds Condominiums at 190 Fordham Street.

According to Mr. Joseph, he will start now to construct the foundations and hopes to complete the project within two years. The site has a conditional negative declaration, which means that before development can take place, a hazardous materials sample must be tested by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and contamination, if any, must be remediated. Mr. Joseph has submitted an application to the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to repair the bulkhead, which is in need of repair.

The NYC Department of City Planning will be reviewing applications from City Island Estates for the development of the property formerly occupied by International Underwater Contractors (IUC) at Fordham Street and Fordham Place. The applications were originally filed by Pulte Homes, which has withdrawn from the project, but the plans being proposed by the current owner of the property are very similar, calling for the construction of 22 detached two-family homes. Because the developer wishes to build to the height of 41.6 feet, which calls for a special permit, as well as to change the zoning from manufacturing to residential, the approval process is complicated and is likely to take at least a year or more, if it is to be successful.

One project, Seabreeze Estates, which was approved over a decade ago but has still not been built, is to be located at the east end of Marine Street, which was demapped to give the developer enough land to construct a large building holding up to 72 condominium units. Since the original plan no longer meets current zoning restrictions, the developer is working with City Planning to improve the project with a reduced building footprint and fewer residential units and to incorporate public waterfront access.

Another, smaller development is planned for 81 Tier Street. Where there was once a single ranch house behind a handsome hedge, there is now a large vacant lot that will soon be the site of three two-family houses. Apparently, the developer feels he can sell these houses, in spite of the fact that there are at least five prop-

erties for sale on east Tier Street.

Many Island residents have noticed a large sign at the Laurels, a condominium complex on east Tier Street, indicating that the entire complex, which contains 24 units, is for sale. Originally built by the late Bob Borchers, the property was eventually purchased by the Wildlife Conservation Society (the Bronx Zoo), which rented units to zoo employees. The asking price is \$9.6 million, and the current tenants will likely be asked to move, but this will depend on the new owner of the property, should it sell.

The newly constructed two-family attached houses at the north end of the Island at 652-54 City Island Avenue have not yet received certificates of occupancy, but the building permit remains valid until June 2008. There are several outstanding violations against the developer, but most residents are relieved to see that the houses no longer have gaping windows and unfinished walls.

Residents attending the March meeting of the City Island Civic Association expressed concern with all the new construction in light of the poor housing market at the present time and for the foreseeable future. What will happen if these houses are all constructed and do not sell? Will they become rental properties or, worse, remain vacant and targets for vandalism? Will the already overcrowded school and the overloaded utilities be able to handle so many new residents? How will City Island cope with the additional cars? Why are developers so eager to build housing while the owners of commercial property on City Island allow nearly 30 storefronts on City Island to remain empty?

Developers respond by saying that sales of new houses in neighboring areas are brisk and they expect the same for City Island, which is a desirable residential community. The zoning requires that they allot off-road spaces for parking at least one or two cars per unit, although most households, of course, own more cars than that. As to overcrowding, this is not an issue that the city is obliged to confront, except in the case of the IUC development, which will involve a zoning change and will thus be subject to an environmental review and public hearings.

Islanders also question the wisdom of so much construction being planned for the period during which City Island will be enduring the construction of a new bridge. After living with the sewer project for the past three years, Island residents and businesses alike are reluctantly gearing up for another four years of disruption. And of course noise from the police firing range will continue unabated, as plans for the new police academy seem to be meeting community opposition in Queens as well as likely citywide budget cuts.

Sewer Project: End in Sight

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On April 18, Carp Construction will commence the final repaving of City Island Avenue from Schofield Street to Cross Street in preparation for the summer moratorium on the project, which begins on May 5. Although there was no construction between Ditmars and Cross Streets, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will repave the road anyway so that the surface will be consistent.

The construction at the southern end of the Island should be completed before the moratorium begins. The storm sewer outfall at Belden Point has already been installed, and the storm sewer pipes from Pilot to Horton Streets will soon be in place. Also scheduled for completion is the installation of both the deep (37 feet) and shallow (12 feet) sanitary sewers, as well as the correction of many illegal sewer connections in the area from Pilot to Horton Streets.

The installation of pipes in the 39-foot-deep sewer on Schofield Street will take place during the summer, and the Fire Department will keep its trucks on City Island Avenue during that time. This aspect of the project was delayed temporarily so that Con Edison could move its wires from one side of City Island Avenue to the other in order to allow the Carp equipment access to Schofield. This is the last major aspect of the project, which is scheduled for completion by November 2008.

Residents have inquired about flooding on Ditmars and Tier Streets, as well as other areas of the Island, but storm sewers for these areas are not part of the current project, which was originally designed in the 1970s and contracted for four years ago. The project did call for an outfall on the west side of Ditmars Street, but residents owning underwater rights in this area protested because of the fragility of the freshwater wetlands, and DDC changed the flow of the storm sewer.

All storm sewers north of Schofield Street will empty through the outfall on east Schofield Street, and all storm sewers south of Schofield will drain at the outfall on Belden Point.

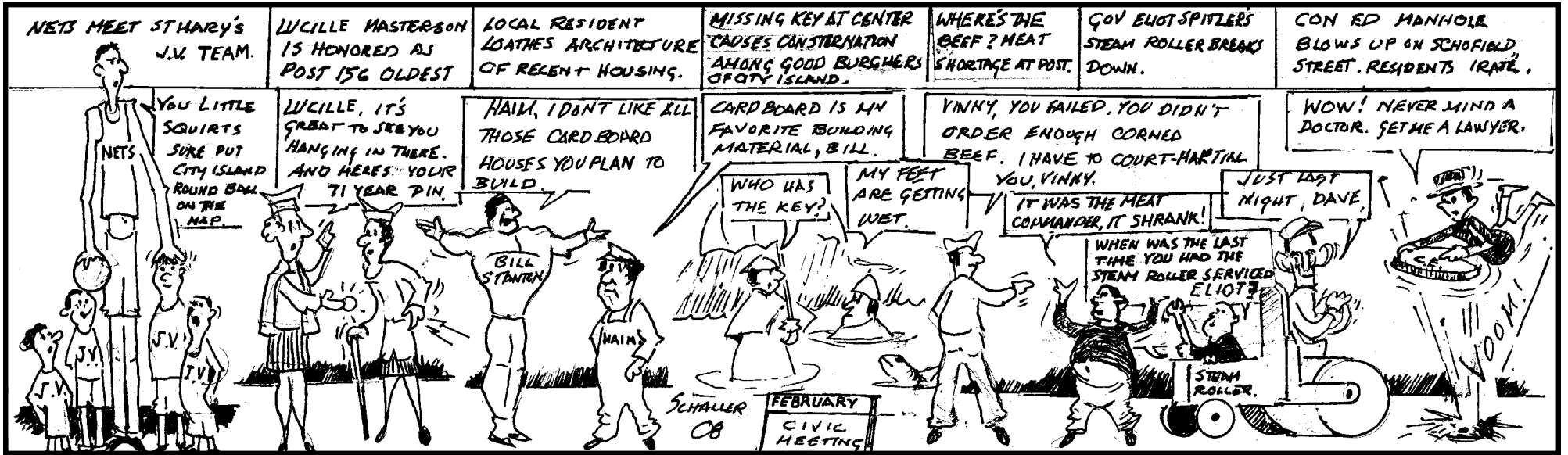
Andy Macagnone, community liaison for the project, advises residents concerned about flooding in existing catch basins, such as those on Tier Street, to ask the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to clean the catch basins on a regular basis. One may either call 311 to make the request or ask Community Board 10 (718-892-1161) to make the request of DEP on behalf of the community.

Mr. Macagnone also told *The Current* that the "No Parking" signs will be taken seriously during the repaving so that the work may continue uninterrupted. People may park in marked spots overnight, but the cars must be moved by 7 a.m. or they will be towed.



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

Grace Episcopal Church at Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, along with many residents along the Avenue and on nearby side streets, had the construction crew and their vehicles virtually in the front yard for the entire holiday season—from Christmas through Easter! This aspect of the project included the installation of both deep and shallow sanitary sewers, as well as a storm sewer that will empty at the outfall newly installed at Belden Point.



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.

City Island: Wake Up!

To the Editor:

It was with great unhappiness that I watched the fence going up in front of the old Royal Marina site, because I knew it meant that there would soon be 23 little houses built there. These 23 two-family houses will do nothing to enhance life on City Island. In fact, I believe that they will diminish the quality of life here.

Not only are they uninteresting looking, but they are very small and probably unmarketable in the current economic climate, meaning that they will attract transient renters rather than buyers or remain empty and uncared for.

Even if they do find buyers, the new residents will find out (too late) that they have added to the problems we are already facing here—not enough parking and too much traffic, an overcrowded school and a deteriorating infrastructure. We don't have sufficient police protection here and there is next to nothing for our young people to do once they graduate from Little League and St. Mary's basketball.

My real gripe, however, is not just with the developer, who naturally cares more about profits than about City Island. It is with the residents of this community who just sit back and let this happen without a peep of protest. A few citizens are trying to prevent the quality of life here from deteriorating, but most of us do nothing at all. We don't go to meetings and we don't let our voices be heard. No wonder developers feel that this island is a goldmine to be exploited.

I grew up here on City Island and returned here to live because I love the small town nautical atmosphere of the place. But I worry that life here will become less bearable as more houses go up on sites that originally housed boats and as more people move here who have no idea about and no interest in what makes City Island special.

Join the City Island Civic Association, go to meetings at Community Board 10, or call your local elected officials to let them know that you care about your community. The monthly meetings of the organizations are listed in the Current Calendar in this publication, and the elected officials you should know are Council Member Jimmy Vacca (718-931-1721), State Senator Jeff Klein (718-822-2049) and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto (718-320-2220).

Bill Stanton

Bridge Issues

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the letter from Jackie Kyle Kall regarding the City Island Bridge. I applaud her for taking the time to write, and I agree with what she is saying. To build a temporary bridge (and how strong is that going to be?), then tear down the old bridge, then build a new one with that mon-

strosity of a design (which does not belong in Pelham Bay Park) and then tear down the temporary bridge seems like an extravagant cost and a major inconvenience to all Islanders. Did we ever receive an honest explanation of what it would cost to repair the old bridge vs. following the plan that has now been written in stone?

The new design is another issue. What I have been able to learn at the various Civic Association meetings I have attended is that we were told by the city that this is what we are going to get and that's it. It sounds as if someone is doing someone a big favor within NYC politics. Don't get me wrong. The ultramodern design is beautiful, but it would look a lot better on a bridge over the East River than standing in a wildlife sanctuary in Pelham Bay Park. A causeway type of bridge would be a lot more attractive in this setting.

Another serious issue is the detour that will divert traffic to the north end of the Island onto Minneford Avenue via Cross Street while construction goes on at the monument site at the entrance to Bridge Street. Jackie mentioned the inconvenience to residents, but what about all the traffic going to JP's Restaurant, the Lobster House, the Rip Tide, the Island Current, and so on? And don't forget that St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, which brings in school buses twice a day, is located on Minneford Avenue, as are the church rectory and two convents.

For those who live on Minneford Avenue, traffic is already a nightmare. It is sometimes worth your life to access your own driveway (in or out), and God help you if you don't have good hearing so you can tell when the speeders are racing along, to what I am not sure. After all, one can only go so far on City Island! Often one cannot see oncoming cars because of the big SUVs and vans that park along Minneford Avenue. There have been at least five accidents at the intersection of Minneford and Cross over the past six years.

The latest games the speeders play is to start honking their car horns as they approach Cross Street to warn anyone coming down that street that they are not going to stop. Who is going to monitor the traffic for this detour? And what about all of the air and noise pollution caused by the extra traffic? We homeowners have a right to live in peace and quiet, but now DOT wants to heap more on us.

So I ask you, fellow City Islanders: "Are you going to sit by and let all of this happen without trying to do something about it?" I think we as a community need to stick together and fight for the common good. The contractor on the sewer project has left City Island Avenue poorly compromised for so many blocks that to access the southern end of the island is to risk the life of one's car. Do you think it will be any different when the work starts on the bridges?

Diane Duryea

To the Editor:

I read Jackie Kyle Kall's letter in the last issue of *The Island Current*: "Save the Bridge," and I concur with her objective points for not building a temporary bridge and a new bridge, not to mention the costs and the problems of storing building materials and more overloading of the bridge by overloaded trucks. Signs should have been posted to that effect 10 years ago.

James Malarkey
Commander, Rev. Dennis O'Donovan Post
Catholic World Veterans, USA

Name That Team!

To the Editor:

Regarding your picture of the "City Island Super Bowl Team" in the January/February 2008 issue of *The Current* (see page 16), I have a name to add to the roster. Bottom row, seated with a football at his feet is my uncle, George De Torres who with his wife, Marie, and children lived on the Island until his passing. My aunt Marie still lives there. My name is Bob De Torres, one of the original clam diggers now living in Florida with two other clam diggers, John Cochran and his wife, Arlene, and Tom Lassandro and his wife, Grace.

I would also like to add that my wife, Cindi, and I will be married 54 years come June 26. Great, huh??

Bob De Torres

To the Editor:

What a pleasant surprise to see a photograph of the 1936 City Island Minniefords football team members in the January/February 2008 issue of *The Island Current*. The correct spelling of my father's name is Joe Teti (top row, extreme right). He was born on Hawkins Street in April 1922 and labored for some years in the Minneford and Nevins shipyards on City Island. He was a veteran of WWII, married to Rita Hogan and had four sons, all the while living on the Island. He passed on in 1969 while working for the New York City Board of Education.

As one of the original writers of *The Current*, I am pleased to see how this newspaper has evolved and progressed over the years, no doubt through the hard work and long hours of its dedicated staff. Let the journey continue.

Joe Teti

Stacks of Thanks

To the Editor:

Girl Scout Troop 1175 would like to thank everyone who was involved in making our pancake breakfast a huge success. The girls met at Trinity Methodist Church early on the morning of March 8. They set up tables and helped mix over 20 pounds of pancake mix. The girls greeted, took orders and delivered hot yummy pancakes, waffles, bacon and juice to more than 80 customers.

The girls had a blast doing this. We would like to thank Reverend Sue for allowing us to use the space; John Williams who flipped all the pancakes; Natalie Lacina and Carmalina Fitzpatrick, who ran the kitchen and helped the girls make waffles. Thanks to all the parents who helped with cleaning up, including Karen Valentino, Christine Williams and Anna Whelan. My biggest thank you must go out to Joanne Rooney-Graves, who stood outside in the cold rain with signs to bring in the customers. Thanks, Joanne! And we appreciate all the parents who supported us by attending. We couldn't have done it without the support of our community.

Jami Reilly, Troop 1175

Chase to the Rescue

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to last month's letter about Chase Bank on City Island (see Box 6 in the March 2008 issue).

Last November, I purchased furniture at Levitt's in Bay Plaza. Unbeknownst to me, the company had gone bankrupt two weeks earlier. I made a selection, paid with my credit card and was promised delivery three weeks later. The delivery date came and went. I called Levitt's and was told I would not get my furniture or my money back. I was told that I would have to get a lawyer and file suit. I called the Bronx Borough President's office and was told "you should not slander Levitt's." I called Councilman Vacca's office; a young man recommended I notify the press and I did. It was the best advice as a reporter from the Bronx Press ran two stories on my problem.

With the exception of the Borough President's office, everyone I spoke with was sympathetic. Chase Bank, under the leadership of Ms. Rae Ann Petrone, was the only one who took action. Ms. Petrone filed a dispute with the main office, and my money was back in my account in 48 hours. Words do not express my gratitude.

I have found the City Island Chase Bank to be cooperative, professional and very eager to satisfy me in all financial transactions. We are fortunate as a community to have Ms. Petrone and the team of professional bankers under her direction on City Island.

Cynthia S. Conley

Little League Pizza

To the Editor:

My husband, Mark Hails, grew up on City Island and we spent a few weeks there over Christmas visiting his mother, Helen King Stolk. It's a very unique place, and I have often marveled at the warmth of Island residents. This time was no exception.

One evening, we called in a pizza order, and my children and I walked down from Pilot Street to pick it up. When we got there, I discovered they did not take credit cards and, having no cash on hand, I turned to walk back and get cash. Another customer standing at the counter said, "Don't worry about it. I've got it." Of course I protested, but he insisted. "Just make a donation to Little League when you get a chance. Where are you from? You visiting?" I told him we lived in Portland, Oregon, but that my husband had grown up here. "Mark Hails. Sure, I know Mark! Tell him Bobby Whelan says hello." Mark knew the Whelan family well and was even a roommate of Jimmy Whelan at Fort Schuyler.

As promised, although a bit tardy, I am sending a check in to the City Island Little League and thanks again to Bobby Whelan and the hospitality of all City Islanders!

Margaret King

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Gidgets Headline Successful St. Mary's Basketball Season

By KAREN NANI



Photos Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY and JEFFREY KLEIN

On Sunday, March 2, Senator Jeffrey Klein swung by St. Mary, Star of the Sea to present a check for \$7,000 to the City Island Basketball Program. The money will be used to provide a safe environment for the children. Shown above are (l. to r.): Senator Klein with Annamarie and Bob Whelan, directors of St. Mary's basketball program.



Not many teams can boast the Bronx Borough President as their coach, but the St. Mary's Boys Bantams can! The hard-working group is shown with their coaches Adolfo Carrión and Frank Cebek and scorekeeper John Lyons. Top row (l. to r.): Robert Weyhrauch, Jabari Weste, Jake Desgroseilliers, Kyle Caso, Michael Labriola, Nicholas Labriola, Michael Valentine and Emmett Foxe. Bottom row: Sean Lyons, James Abertelli, Joseph Mancuso, AJ Carrión, Adrian Borici, Emmett Shanley and Scott Cruz.

In the second year under the direction of Annamarie and Bob Whelan, about 100 children participated in the 2007-2008 St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program.

Mrs. Whelan told *The Current* that it was a long but enjoyable season. "We started in October with practices and ended with the well-attended breakfast and trophy day on March 2." She extended special congratulations to Frank Strazzera and George Spencer for leading the Girls Gidgets Team to the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) B Division Championship, earning SMSS another banner to hang on the wall of champions.

This season also included improvements to the program's home court, St. Mary's gym. First, new basketball backboards were installed, thanks to generous donations from Seafood City, JP's Restaurant, Sunoco, Tony's Restaurant and the Volpe, Orzo and Whelan families.

The program was also given \$7,000 by State Senator Jeffrey Klein (see photo), which will be used to install security cameras around the perimeter and inside St. Mary's school gym to insure the safety of the children in the school, as well as those participating in the basketball program.

The Whelans welcomed some new coaches this season, including George Spencer, Tom Orzo and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, who led the Boys Bantam with assistance from former program director Frank Cebek. Mr. Carrión, an Island resident,

"stepped up when no other parents volunteered, took time out of his busy schedule and led a great Boys Bantam season," according to Mrs. Whelan.

As a special treat, members of the Boys JV team and some of the girls in the program were invited to attend a special New Jersey Nets game against the Dallas Mavericks in February, organized by Tom Orzo. The aspiring young players posed with Nets players during the singing of the national anthem before the game. It was a very exciting day for the young players, topped off by a Nets victory.

Trophy Day was held in St. Mary's gym on Sunday, March 2, and more than 200 children, players, parents and grandparents attended. The Whelans recognized the helping hands of Cynde Candelaria and Elle McGuire in particular for making the season wrap-up so special.

A summary of each team's season follows.

Boys Bantams

Taking time out from his busy schedule, Island resident and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, with the help of former program director Frank Cebek, coached the Boys Bantam team. With a roster of 17 boys, Coach Carrión worked hard to make sure that all the boys had a fair amount of playing time every game, no easy task with this large a team. Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the season was Michael Labriola.



Enthusiastic first- and second-graders took part in the Intramural program this year. Shown with their assistant coaches Matt Butterworth, Walter Henning and Rick Cordaro, and head coaches Jack Grogan and Larry Saulnier are (top row): Alexa Murphy-Herrera, Justin Munafo, Nicholas Calbo, Tommy Mastracchio (junior coach), Dino Esposito, Joseph Cordaro, Carlo Fine and Drew Cottam. Bottom row: Aiden Saulnier, Matthew Cioffi, Alexandra Henning, Christine Whelan, Jimmy McLaughan, Matthew Valentine, Michael Mancuso and Joseph Leni.



The Girls Junior Varsity Debs finished the season with a record of 25 and 11 and made the CYO A Division playoffs for the second year in row. Top row: coach Bob Whelan, Brianna Saunders, Janie Hayes, Catherine Graves, Amanda Valentino, Annalise Viovo, Kaylin Fitzpatrick, Erin Schlottmann and assistant coach Annamarie Whelan. Bottom row: Alba Borici, Anastasia Lacina, Alana Pecorrelli, Briana Whelan and Brianna Reilly.



The St. Mary's Boys Junior Varsity persevered hard all season and never gave up, according to their coaches Tommy Orzo and Johnny Valenti. Shown are the dedicated boys (top row): Dylan Cullen, Michael Candelaria, Cian Byrne, Ryan Herrera-Murphy, Nathaniel Correa, Xhohaxhiu Alexej and John Branley. Bottom row: Connor Saulnier, Graham Herrera-Murphy, John Valenti and Anthony Orzo.

Intramurals

Enthusiastic first- and second-graders joined the Intramural program this year, led by veteran coach Jack Grogan and Larry Saulnier, assisted by Rick Cordaro, Walter Henning and Matt Butterworth. Practices started early in September every Saturday morning, and the children practiced the fundamentals to prepare them to play in games. Five months later, thanks to the hard work of the coaches, the kids were able to play actual games with scoring, time clock and all the rules enforced. The coaches shouted out a special thank you to all the parents and children who made the season so enjoyable and so much fun.

Girls Gidgets

The Gidgets were a team of novice players who were incredibly dedicated and competitive. It really paid off, and they became Bronx B Division champions, soundly defeat-

ing St. Benedict's by a score of 28 to 7 and making it to the championship game in Holy Name's tournament. These girls have bright futures in basketball, and their parents and coaches are very proud of them. They can't wait until next year! MVP Award was given to Francesca Strazzera, Best Offense to Ashley Howell, Best Defense to Jordan DeSantis, Rookie of the Year to Lily Kolb and Most Improved Award to Alexis Candelaria.

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

The season started in November with a group of young boys in St. Mary's gym who did not want the practice time to end. Three months later, the coaches still heard "Coach, can we play 10 more minutes?" even when Monday night practices were already 15 minutes past stopping time. The group of boys who tried so hard and never gave up made the

Continued on page 14



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

A new opera, **Criseyde**, will be presented on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 8 p.m. at Elebash Hall, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street. Islander **Nancy Dean** wrote the libretto for the opera based on Geoffrey Chaucer's medieval romance of "Troilus and Criseyde." The showcase performance is by the American Virtuosi Opera Theater. Admission is \$20 and students are free. For information and tickets, call 718-885-1119 or visit their Web site www.criseyde-opera.net.

Open House Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **New Day Care/Preschool Program** for 2 years and up. Parents and children are welcome to join us for a fun filled morning of activities. As a teacher with 15 years of experience, my program will provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children while responding to the needs of the families. Activities provided are both directed and non-directed and designed to promote independence and self esteem. For more details contact Maura 718 885 9351.

April at the **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) offers an array of singer-songwriters, including from those from across the ocean, plus jazz, punk, Spanish and Middle Eastern music, and a bit of the Beatles. The fun starts as two songwriters, Pleasant Bud and Patrick Matteson, team up to present their fare on Friday, April 4, at 8 p.m. The next day, Saturday, April 5, offers two shows of Rubber Soul, the Beatles tribute band, at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.; check for seat availability. On that Sun-

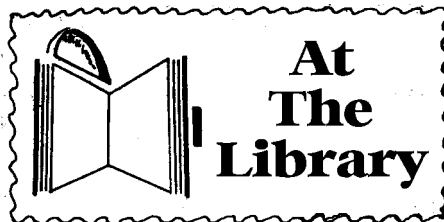
day, April 6, relax and enjoy with the City Island Jazz Quartet, featuring Lou Volpe on jazz guitar and led by City Island's Roger Scala, starting at 4 p.m. On Friday, April 11, songwriter Leo is with us, starting at 8 p.m. and offering pop punk/folk rock/alternative music. On Saturday, April 12, City Island's Chris Wertenbaker brings his Port o' Monkeys to Starving Artist for an 8 p.m. show. On Sunday, April 13, at 3 p.m., it's an afternoon with British singer-songwriter Peter Morton. Songwriter Julie Corbalis and her friend from Ireland, singer-songwriter Pat Kelly, are with us on Friday, April 18, at 8 p.m. Then on Saturday, April 19, get set to groove to Lou Volpe's Starving Artist Jazz-tet, starting at 8 p.m. On Sunday, April 20, at 3 p.m., it's the "charming" Peter C. North and his version of the Great American Songbook. As the month ends, we've got our last-Friday-of-the-month "Take the Stage" open mike night for songwriters, comics, actors and poets, on Friday, April 25, at 8 p.m. That Saturday, April 26, has a dose of music and art, as talented young photographer/artist Lindsey Morano unveils her photographs and drawings at an opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. That night, at 8 p.m., the talented Brian Conigliaro and Gus Wieland—Two Guitars—take the stage with their acoustic jazz. Then on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m., the "sweetheart" of the Starving Artist, Theresa Sareo, wraps up the month, ending as we started by showcasing talented singer-songwriters. For more information, visit our Web site at www.starvingartistonline.com.

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Photo courtesy of TOBY Z. LIEDERMAN

More than 50 girls and women, ages 9 to 95, shared life stories and photographs, along with international foods, at a multicultural celebration on City Island of National Women's History Month on March 16, 2008. The event was held at the art studio of Cheryl and Steve Brinker and featured a guest speaker, Coline Jenkins, who told stories of her early feminist ancestors, especially her famous great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Cady Stanton, founder of the women's rights movement and a champion of women's right to vote. Among the attendees were (l. to r.): Val Freeman, Pat Grondahl, Susan Crawford, Beryl Dorset (standing), Toby Liederman (who founded the celebration event 15 years ago), Cheryl Brinker and Paulette Collins. For more information about the group, call Toby Liederman at 718-885-3423.



Adult Programs

E-mail Workshop: Tuesday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m. Bring your laptop if you have one. Pre-registration required.

Teen Time

Play Station II Games: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Some action, fantasy and other games. Ages 11 to 17.

From the Children's Room

Drawing Your Favorite Manga Characters: Monday, April 7, at 4 p.m. with Mark Z-man. Ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration is required and limited to 15 participants.

Spring Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, April 15, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.

Picture Book Program: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 11.

The City Island Library has adult and

children's books in Spanish. For information about any of the above programs, call Evelyn Gerges at the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.



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
161 Rochelle St.	1/28/08	\$545,000	1 Family
23 Schofield St.	2/1/08	\$339,200	1 Family + Lot
610 Minneford Ave.	3/7/08	\$475,000	1 Family
119 Pilot St.	3/14/08	\$300,000	1 Family

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

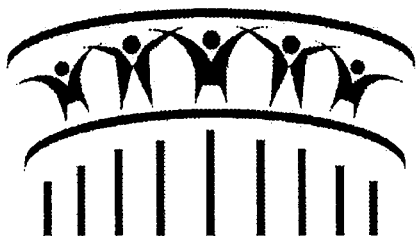
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A Current Review

**“Steel Magnolias”:
The Inside Scoop**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

The remarkable bond between the actresses in the City Island Theater Group production of “Steel Magnolias” is evident in this photograph of (l. to. r.) Annelle, Shelby, Truvy and M'Lynn (Elizabeth Paldino, Susan Rauh, Julie White, and Patricia Alexander).

Many of those who saw the City Island Theater Group's recent production of Robert Harling's play “Steel Magnolias” would be quick to agree that it was a terrific experience that set a new high level for the group. Although this reviewer is tempted to ascribe this success to the quality of the stage management, it was brilliantly clear that the real reason for the show's success was the quality of the acting and the remarkable teamwork of this talented group.

I happen to know that this cast of six women, who played their parts to perfection, shared the same kind of bond as that which held the characters together, a bond of friendship reinforced by powerful emotions ranging from grief to broad humor. The loss of a child, marital difficulties, a neighborhood feud, the search for one's identity—all of us have experienced these situations or known people who have, and this commonality ran like a strong thread through the entire run of the show, which—by the way—ended with sell-out crowds.

The play is set in a beauty parlor near Shreveport, Louisiana, where the “regulars” congregate every Saturday morning—ostensibly to have their hair done but actually for talk and support, which are provided in ample measure. Truvy, the proprietor (played wonderfully by Julie White, former Islander who actually grew up near Shreveport and served as accent advisor), holds the group together with her warmth, humor and ever-present words of wisdom on virtually any subject. Her assistant, Annelle, is in constant search for herself, and Elizabeth Paldino's performance makes her evolution from an insecure, abandoned wife to a confident mother-to-be both sympathetic and believable.

The central drama concerns the relationship between M'Lynn (played with amazing grace and strength by Grace Church's vicar, Patricia Alexander) and her daughter, Shelby (beautifully performed by clam digger Susan

Rauh), who is both a serious diabetic and a strong-minded young woman unafraid to express her need to be independent.

The serious dialogues between mother and daughter are lightened considerably by the town's grandes dames Ouiser and Clairee (played with great wit by Islander Eileen Fox and Carol Dooner), who manage to turn nearly every situation into an opportunity for the audience to relax and laugh out loud.

Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without men: the beautifully written play by Robert Harling, the insightful and elegant direction of Christopher McGowan, and the professional production (and lighting) provided by Nick Sala. Con Grondahl and John Byrne also produced a great set, and Tiernan Shanley as a member of the stage crew made a valuable contribution to the production as curtain chief.

Not to give too much to the men, however, please keep in mind that there were a number of important women behind the scenes lending their talents to the presentation: Carol McCabe (also co-producer) and Norma Kerner did the costumes; Dorothy Muccio helped the director dress the set; Abby Adams helped yours truly as an invaluable member of the stage crew; and Susan Velcheck managed a complicated set of lights and sound effects.

My responsibility as stage manager was to help hold things together, but aside from the problems of finding and carrying incredibly heavy beauty parlor furniture, the job was a breeze, largely because this remarkable team really held itself together. From the first audition to the cast party, there was a powerful sense of collaboration and of mutual admiration and affection. Happily, that sense seems to have been conveyed successfully to the audiences, who have a great deal to look forward to in future productions by this extraordinary example of community theater at its best.

Hawkins Park to Get Facelift

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Barbara Hoffman (center), vice president of the Garden Club of City Island, met with Hector Aponte (left), Bronx Parks Commissioner, on March 12, 2008, to discuss plans for the refurbishing of Hawkins Street Park.

As the sewer project makes its way along City Island Avenue and as New York City gets closer to a date for replacing the City Island Bridge, another important renovation is in the offing, although happily it will not involve the disruption of any traffic or business. Following up on the about-to-be-completed playground and Little League field at Ambrosini Park next to P.S. 175, the Department of Parks & Recreation is now preparing plans for Hawkins Street Park.

At a meeting at the park on Wednesday, March 12, Garden Club vice president Barbara Hoffman explained to Bronx Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte and six other representatives of the Parks Department what the Garden Club would like to see in the park. In order to accommodate residents and visitors who wish to sit in a beautiful and restful

atmosphere, the park needs to undergo a general reorganization with new fencing, seats and plantings.

Because there is funding in the Parks Department budget for Hawkins Park, Mr. Aponte was very optimistic about the potential of the renovation and will be directing his design staff to prepare plans, which will be presented to the community by summertime. When the final design has been approved, the project will be put out to bid, and it is hoped that construction might be carried out in the spring of 2009.

Representatives of Council Member Jimmy Vacca, Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, and the board's chair, Virginia Gallagher, were also present at the meeting and expressed their strong support for the project.

New Library Associate

By MARIA SWIECIKI



Photo by MARIA SWIECIKI

City Island's newest librarian, Vincent Corvino.

The patrons and staff of the City Island Branch Library are extending a warm welcome to Vincent Corvino, the branch's new Office Associate I. Vinny, as he prefers to be called, has been with the New York Public Library system for 24 years and is excited about joining the City Island branch “family.” He commented favorably on the small-town feeling here on the Island and said it reminds him of being upstate, where everyone knows each other.

A native of the Bronx, Vinny grew up around Arthur Avenue and is a graduate of Columbus High School. He began his library career in 1984 at what was then known as the Fordham Library Center.

He has been married for the past seven years to the former Christine Cochran, and they are the proud parents of Gabriella, age three, and Nicholas Ralph, age seven months. In his spare time Vinny, a Yankees fan, likes to watch television with his family, attend ball games and eat out at different restaurants.

If you haven't met Vinny yet, stop by the library to say “hi” and welcome him to our little corner of the Bronx.

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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. mornings, beginning April 3, **Kindergarten Registration for City Islanders only**, 9 to 2 p.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Sat. and Sun., April 5 and 6, **Recycling**, Soundview Composting site, Randall Avenue in the Bronx (see story this issue).

Thurs., April 17, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Preston High School, 2870 Schurz Avenue, Bronx.

Sat., April 26, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 11 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Sat., April 26, **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.

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

MAY

Thurs., May 1, **Cancer Bingo**, Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Thurs., May 1, **National Day of Prayer Interfaith Service**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 6 to 7 p.m.

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the City Island Garden Club will be on Monday, April 7, at the City Island Yacht Club at 10 a.m. The meeting will be followed at 11 a.m. with a presentation by Ed Vincent of the Peekskill Garden Club on propagating plants for spring, specifically for City Island. Members of the public are welcome to join us for this presentation.

As the weather permits, our landscaping company will do a spring clean-up of Hawkins Street Park, the Memorial Triangle and the Welcome to City Island sign.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

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

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew. Reb David Daniel will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on April 4 and May 16. Rabbi Shohama will lead the May 2 service, while Mort Ellis and Bob Berent, with his accordion, will lead on the other Friday nights.

Aliza Erber, our rabbinic intern, leads the Saturday Torah Study on April 26 at 10:30 a.m. Our short service and lively discussion this Passover should be delightful and insightful. We welcome you all to enjoy this sharing time.

Our Community Passover Seder will be conducted at the Temple on Sunday, April 20, the second night of Passover this year. 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. The seder will be led by Rabbi Shohama. Please call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 for information or to make reservations, preferably before Wednesday, April 9 (\$45 for adults; \$15 for children).

Tai chi/yoga classes on Thursdays at 6 p.m. continue, except for April 24. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

And finally, come celebrate our 74th anniversary with us as we honor Dr. Edmund Rothschild. Our gala dinner-dance will be at

the Harlem Yacht Club on Saturday, April 12, from 7 to 11 p.m. and features DJ and live entertainment by Freddie Lando. (Contributions are \$75 per person.) RSVP by calling Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820.

We wish all our friends and neighbors a happy Passover. Visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We are now in the midst of the Easter season after a joyful celebration of this glorious feast! Our monthly Holy Hour, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, will be held on Friday, April 4, from 4 to 5 p.m.

On Friday, April 11, the New York Dinner Theater will perform "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" in our school gymnasium. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a buffet dinner plus wine, beer and soda. For further information, please call Tina Ruggiero at 718-885-2503 or Teri Kurtz at 718-885-3043.

Our eighth-graders from school and parish are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. They will participate in a retreat day at the Passionist Retreat Center in Riverdale on Tuesday, April 15. His Excellency Bishop Lagonero will be here to administer the sacrament on Tuesday, April 22. We congratulate our young people on this special event.

The April meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

During the last week of the month, our second-graders will be preparing in a special way for the reception of their first Holy Communion. This will take place on Saturday morning, May 3, at an 11 a.m. Mass. The following day, the children will participate in a special Mass at 10 a.m. to honor Our Blessed Mother at the beginning of the month of May. We will crown her statue and honor her as the patroness of our parish. The First Communicants and their families will celebrate with a communion breakfast in our school gym.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

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Photo courtesy of ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 went on their annual family trip to Medieval Times. The Scouts and their leaders created their traditional garb and decorated their swords to the honor of defending the Royal King and Queen. All the scouts and their siblings had a jousting good time!

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion, the Eucharist, every Sunday at 10 a.m., and you are warmly welcomed to join us. Church School, which is open to all school-age children, is offered approximately three times a month, beginning at 10 a.m. Please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 for more information.

On May 1, our country celebrates the annual National Day of Prayer (NDP). Grace Church will host an interfaith all-community prayer service that evening from 6 to 7 p.m. We invite everyone to attend. Grace's vicar, the Reverend Patricia Alexander, will be joined by clergy from St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, the Reverend Susan Chadwick (pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church), Rabbi Shohama Wiener (Temple Beth-El), and the Reverend J. Randolph Alexander (Christ Episcopal Church, Pelham). The clergy will offer prayers for our families, our City Island community, our veterans and active service members and our country.

Since our early history, American presidents have set apart days for prayer, thanksgiving and fasting. The Continental Congress observed the first such day in 1775. In 1952 an annual day of prayer was instituted, and in 1988 the annual day was set for the first Thursday in May. The task force that assists NDP volunteers estimates that last year two million people attended more than "40,000 observances at state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, and in schools, businesses, churches and homes." Please join Grace and the other houses of worship on May 1.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

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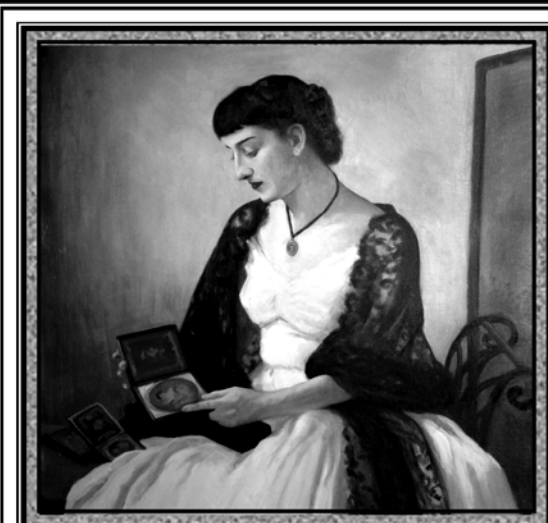
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For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wonderkind Preschool: The Community Center will no longer be the home of Wonderkind Preschool. Good luck in your new location!

Indoor Tag Sale: It's the return of the Springtime Indoor Tag Sale! April 6 and 20; May 4 and 18, June 8 and 22.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Art Classes by Laury Hopkins: Call 718-885-3202 for more information or to sign up. Please leave a message. After school: 3:30 to 5 p.m., eight students per class; 4th through 8th grade: Magic Box Workshop: Tuesdays; K through 3rd grade: Sculptimagination: Thursdays. \$50 for four classes. Preschool: Story-time art for ages 2½ through 5: Tuesdays 1 to 2:15 p.m. or Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes and related art projects. This is not daycare; caregivers must stay. (Same dates as after-school program; call for complete schedule). \$60 for eight classes, \$10 for individual classes.

Drama Club: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. starting Sept. 19, for ages 8 to 12. Activities will be planned for each evening. Participants must be prepared to do just that, Participate! We will do relaxation and voice exercises, recite limericks and tongue-twisters, improvise with props and costumes, and act out scenes from plays and stories. One parent will be expected to volunteer to stay each evening. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

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

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

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

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

ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

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

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

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy



Photo by ANN SULLIVAN

At the Post 156's St. Patrick's Day dinner on Sunday, March 9, 2008, Lucille Masterson made a special return visit to the Legion Hall on City Island. Lucille is the longest running member of the Ladies Auxiliary—71 years! She is the daughter of longtime Islanders Jesse and Annabelle Brennan (now deceased), and she joined as a junior member. Lucille is shown above with the current commander, Dave Carman.

Legion News

It seems as if every April, like spring flowers, the Island and its myriad organizations emerge from their winter lethargy, and so it is with Post 156. A prelude was the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. It was decided that there would be two sittings, the first at 1 p.m. and the second at 3:30 p.m. Along with about a dozen members, I attended the first sitting, where the fare was plentiful. At the second sitting, however, it soon became evident that there was not enough corned beef to satisfy the ravenous appetites of the multitudes.

The chief chef and procurer, Vinny Hecker, suggested several valid reasons for the ensuing dilemma. The corned beef shrank; 47 people signed up but 90 came; only big eaters showed up. Some attendees bit the bullet and substituted copious amounts of cabbage, carrots and potatoes for corned beef. But they let it be known that they were none too happy and demanded a court-martial of the chef. The commander, Dave Carman, however, felt that a reprimand by the judge advocate would suffice. Assistant chefs for the day were Ray Kelly and Pete Brewer.

The dynamic duo of William Clancy and Joe Goonan attended a mid-winter conference in Albany. They will no doubt give a spirited report at our next meeting. These conferences give our representatives an opportunity to hobnob with our esteemed legislators.

At our last executive board meeting, Comrade Mennona reported on the progress involving preparations for the annual Memorial Day parade. Few realize the time and effort expended on this event. Should you want to assist in the future, call Robert, aka the General. I understand that Comrade Clancy has already applied for the required permits. Perhaps by parade time our Avenue will be in better shape. We were going to ask former Governor Eliot Spitzer to use his steam roller to smooth out the bumps but found that it is no longer in service.

The commander has noticed that several officers have been tardy to or absent from meetings. There has been a paucity of enlisted men, too. On several meeting

nights we have not even had a quorum. Monday, May 5, will be Member Recognition Night. We will pay homage to those having service anniversaries of five years or more in increments of five years. In the past, refreshments have been served on this festive occasion.

We mourn the passing of James Carroll, a regular member, and the son of member Robert Bleidner, Wayne Bleidner, whose life was cut short by an unfortunate construction accident in Manhattan. Wayne worked for Dave Carman before becoming an operating engineer.

Lucille Masterson, a member of the Auxiliary, has been a member for more than 70 years. I performed a little fuzzy math and found that she was a member before our entry into WWII, the Big Deuce. Congratulations, Lucille.

Our Post Memorial Service will be held at the Temple Beth-El on Friday, May 16. All members, auxiliary and Sons of the Legion are urged to attend.

I have no reports of anyone on sick call but hope that those of you who know some of our homebound might take time to call, drop a card or stop by and say hello. I'm sure such a gesture would be appreciated.

Several family members of deceased veterans have asked if they could donate the 5 by 7-foot flag that accompanies the deceased to his or her final resting place. The flag would then be flown daily from the flagpole at the bridge memorial until it is necessary to retire and properly dispose of it. The veteran's name is affixed to the pole during that period to show appreciation and recognition.

Meetings for the month of April are as follows: regular meetings Monday, April 7 and 21; executive meeting Monday, April 14.

Did you know that German-born author and journalist Konrad Heiden coined the term "Nazi" from a Bavarian word for simpton. Konrad was forced to flee Germany in 1933.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

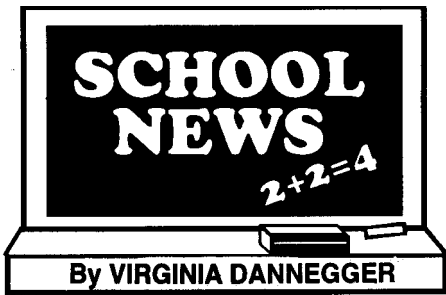
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Public School 175

There has been a lot going on at P. S. 175 in March! Our students in grades three through eight 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 March 13. Lower-grade students worked on group projects, and upper grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. The students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students went on several exciting trips this month. Second-graders visited the New York Botanical Garden, where they studied the history of chocolate and vanilla, the plants from which they come and the products they produce. Third-grade students attended a performance of "Freedom Train" at Lehman College, which tied into their studies of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, as well as with the Lincoln Center Urban Bush Women Retrospective in which students are participating this semester.

Seventh-graders went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historical sites; they visited the Franklin Institute Science Museum, where they explored the wonders of science through hands-on exhibits.

Seventh and eighth-grade students celebrated Black History Month by visiting the New-York Historical Society, where they participated in a one-man interactive performance of "Black Boy" by Richard Wright. This presentation tied in with what students have been working on in social studies, and it was a good starting point for many eighth-grade exit projects.

Our phenomenal Parent Teacher Association held its annual card party at the Lido. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the evening was a tremendous success! We are very pleased that funds raised from the event will enable the PTA to provide more exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks to the businesses in our community that supported the party!!

The eighth-grade graduation committee has been busy planning for all 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.

Upcoming April events include: first-grade trip to the Fire Department Fire Zone and Green Meadows Farm; third-grade trip to the Bronx Zoo to study animal adaptations; fourth-grade trip to Bartow Pell Mansion; fifth-grade trip to see "Hairspray"; sixth-grade trip to Greenkill.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Ongoing kindergarten registration for City Island residents ONLY will take place on Thursday mornings, beginning April 3, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Seventh-graders will be going to Boston on May 1. Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Seashore Restaurant. The eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., will take place May 28-29. The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Friday, June 20, at 10 a.m.; this will be followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.

The Citizens-of-the-Month for March were: Paul Mazzella and Grace Kretzmer (kindergarten), Grace Connolly and Carolina Clara (first grade), Christopher DeSantis and Joseph Gjonaj (second grade), Sean Ramos and Michael Valentine (third grade), Hannah Glick and Chloe Brelsford (fourth grade), Alba Borici and Jessica Tlaseca (fifth grade), Victoria Lombardo and Alyssa Albert (sixth

grade), Andrew Clarke and Jennifer Branley (seventh grade), Andrew Davis and Jonathan Caamano (eighth grade).

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

From April 2 to 9, students in Grades 1 through 8 will be taking the annual Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The results of these tests are used to assess the progress of our students, to determine groupings, and to identify the individual strengths and weaknesses of our students. The tests consist of mathematics, English and language arts components; some classes are also tested in social studies and science.

Later this month, our fourth- and eighth-graders will be taking the New York State Science Performance Test, followed on another day by the N.Y.S. Science Written Test. Students are queried on their understanding of scientific principles with the purpose of assessing science programs and student progress toward N.Y.S. standards in science.

Report cards for the third marking period will be distributed at parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, April 15. These conferences are very important for the children, as well as for the teachers and parents. They provide a forum to catch and remediate areas of concern in the child's academic performance, but they also provide a give-and-take session on the child's home and school interests and behavior. These conferences send a powerful message to the student about the involvement of their parents in their education.

On Monday, April, 21, St. Mary's faculty will attend an intensive skills-based workshop and conference on the writing process and how best to work with students to meet N.Y.S. standards in organizing thoughts and ideas, developing composition skills, and understanding one's audience, in an effort to improve creative writing, report writing and point-of-view writing.

On Tuesday, April 15, candidates for Confirmation will attend a retreat, a day of reflection and recollection, which will mark the culmination of their course of study in preparation for the sacrament they will receive at the ceremony the following week. Confirmation, the third and last in the sacraments of Christian initiation (baptism and the Eucharist being the first two), will be administered to our eighth-graders on Tuesday, April 22, at 4 p.m. by Bishop Dominick J. Lagonegro. Our young people, with their sponsors, will stand before the bishop to be anointed with perfumed oil and to reaffirm their acceptance of the Catholic Church as their faith. They will have chosen a confirmation name and, with maturity, will formally assume their Christian identity.

In mid-April, Pre-K through Grade 8 will spend a day at the American Museum of Natural History. Each class will focus on an age-appropriate curriculum-based area of anthropology, astronomy, biology, earth science or paleontology. The students will participate in hands-on workshops with museum educators utilizing the museum's myriad exhibits and resources.

The Lords and Ladies of St. Mary's Grades 5 through 7 will travel back in time to the Middle Ages when they visit Medieval Times, an 11th-century-style castle in New Jersey. They will experience medieval horsemanship, swordplay, a jousting tournament, games of skill, jesters and a feast at the king's court.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School is hosting "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" on Friday, April 11, with dinner at 7 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. There will be dancing, live music, sing-alongs, audience participation and the most hilarious bridal party you'll ever meet. Come along and be part of the audience. Tickets are \$50 per person and are available by calling Tina Ruggiero at 718-885-2503 or Teri Kurtz at 718-885-3043. All proceeds will support the school.

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Getting Away With Murder

Movies are filled with characters whose fate seems uncertain after they commit murder. In **Black Widow** (1987) Debra Winger stars as Alexandra, a federal agent who is tired of doing desk work. She becomes aware of several millionaires who have all died mysterious deaths, and she is the only person in her department who suspects that the widows are the same person. She finally gets permission from her boss, Bruce (Terry O'Quinn), to go into the field to track down Catherine (Theresa Russell), who has remained undetected because she has assumed a number of different identities. The film takes an odd turn when the two women become friends.

In Robert Altman's excellent **The Player** (1992), Griffin Mill (Tim Robbins) is a Hollywood studio executive. His job is in jeopardy with the arrival of the very ambitious Larry Levy (Peter Gallagher), who goes to AA meetings because "that's where all the deals are made." Griffin's life is complicated by threats from a writer whom he ignored, David Kahane (Vincent D'Onofrio), who winds up dead. When Griffin becomes involved with David's girlfriend, June (Greta Scacchi), he becomes the primary suspect of the police (including a hilarious Whoopi Goldberg). This Hollywood satire/suspense film boasts 65 cameo appearances by all of Altman's friends and an 8-minute opening scene shot in a single take.

In **Presumed Innocent** (1990), Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Rusty Sabich (Harrison Ford) is accused of murdering a fellow P.A., Carolyn Polhemus (Greta Scacchi), with whom he had been having an affair. His boss, Raymond Horgan (Brian Dennehy), thinks he did it, his lawyer Sandy Stern (Raul Julia) doesn't know, and his friend, Detective Dan Lipranzer (John Spencer) isn't sure either. Other fine performances include Bonnie Bedelia as Rusty's neglected wife, Barbara, and Paul Winfield as the formidable Judge Larren Lyttle.

Ambition is the major driving force of Graham Marshall (Michael Caine) in **A Shock to the System** (1990). He is a marketing executive, who is in danger of losing his promotion to the new kid on the block, Bob Benham (Peter Riegert). Graham has an extremely ambitious and irritating wife (Swoosie Kurtz). Graham believes himself to be an invincible magician, with the power to take the life of anyone who gets in his way. Will Graham get away with the actualization of his murderous

fantasies?

Woody Allen has two films that consider this topic, the first being **Crimes and Misdemeanors** (1989). Dr. Judah Rosenthal (Martin Landau), a very successful ophthalmologist, has been having an affair with Dolores (Anjelica Huston), who wants him to leave his wife (Claire Bloom). Judah asks his shady brother, Jack (Jerry Orbach), to "take care" of his problem, but afterwards Judah is full of remorse. The most interesting character in the film is Professor Louis Levy (Martin Bergmann), the subject of documentary filmmaker Cliff Stern (Woody Allen). There is irony in the juxtaposition of one of Judah's patients, a blind godly rabbi (Sam Waterston), who "sees" good in all; Judah, the corrupt ophthalmologist who is unable to "see" the consequences of his actions; and the ultimate choice of the professor, despite his philosophy of love and life. These all combine to make this film one of Allen's best.

Allen's **Match Point** (2005) is the story of tennis player Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers), a poor Irishman whose prospects rise when he takes a job at an exclusive London club. There he meets and marries Chloe Hewett (Emily Mortimer), the sister of his friend Tom (Matthew Goode), the heir to a business fortune. When Chris meets Tom's fiancée, an American actress named Nola Rice (Scarlett Johansson), they have an obsessive affair. Nola gets pregnant and presses him to leave his wife. In danger of losing the wealth and position he has come to enjoy, Chris considers an unthinkable solution.

A Perfect Murder (1998) is based on **Dial M for Murder**, which was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1954. Married to commodities trader Stephen Taylor (Michael Douglas), Emily Bradford (Gwyneth Paltrow) is romantically involved with artist David Shaw (Viggo Mortensen). Aware of this affair, Stephen researches David's past and discovers he has been imprisoned for various cons and scams directed at rich women. Stephen confronts David with the information and, surprisingly, offers him \$500,000 to murder Emily. The plan is calculated to make the murder look like an accident, but events soon go on an unscheduled course. Enter Detective Mohamed Karaman (David Sutchet).

Keeping Mum (2005) is a dark British comedy, which stars Maggie Smith as Grace Hawkins, a seemingly angelic old lady who is hired as a housekeeper for the local vicar's troubled family. The stuffy vicar, Walter Goodfellow (Rowan Atkinson), has grown extremely pious, and his marriage to his beautiful wife, Gloria (Kristin Scott Thomas), is withering from lack of attention. Gloria considers an invitation from her sleazy American golf teacher, Lance (Patrick Swayze), to run away with him, much to Grace's dismay. Grace embarks on several unusual solutions to solve the family's problems, with a wild twist at the end.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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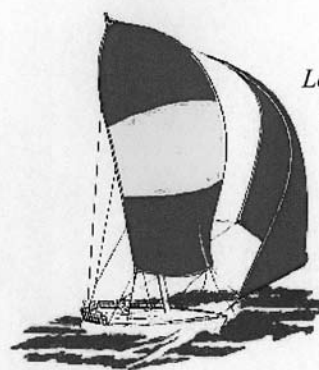
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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

And the Oscar goes to... The Academy Awards and the Bronx

The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) to recognize outstanding achievement by professionals in the film industry, including directors, actors and writers. The formal ceremony at which the awards are presented is among the most prominent and most watched awards ceremonies in the world.

The first Academy Awards ceremony was held on Thursday, May 16, 1929, at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, California, but the ceremony was not televised until 1953. The Academy Awards is the only awards ceremony televised live across the contiguous United States. The Emmys (excellence in Television), Golden Globes (excellence in film) and Grammys (excellence in music) are broadcast live on the East Coast, but they are on tape delay on the West Coast. The televised Academy Awards show holds the distinction of having won the most Emmys in history, with 38 wins and 167 nominations.

From the earliest days of the Oscars to the 2008 nominations, actors with tangible Bronx connections have been acknowledged by the Academy for their excellence in film industry. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are some hometown nominees and winners of the coveted Oscar.

Character actor **Danny Aiello** grew up in the South Bronx. He attended James Monroe High School for two weeks before joining the National Guard. At 16 he lied about his age and enlisted in the U.S. Army for three years and returned to the Bronx to marry his high school sweetheart, Sandy Cohen. After supporting his family with a variety of jobs, including a stint as the youngest president of Local 1202 of the

Amalgamated Transit Union, he turned to acting. He was nearly 40 when he debuted as a baseball teammate of Robert De Niro and Michael Moriarty in the film "Bang the Drum Slowly" (1973), and his Broadway debut in "Lamppost Reunion" (1975) was even more auspicious, earning him a Theatre World Award. Aiello has appeared in many successful films, but it was as a Brooklyn pizzeria owner in "Do the Right Thing" for which he received a 1990 Academy Award nomination as Best Supporting Actor.

Born Betty Joan Persky to Jewish immigrant parents on Sept. 16, 1924, in the Bronx, legendary actress **Lauren Bacall** gained nationwide attention by posing for a 1943 cover of Harper's Bazaar magazine. She was a nervous girl and often pressed her chin against her chest and tilted her eyes upward to face the camera. This effect became known as "The Look" and it became Bacall's nickname and trademark. In a career spanning over half a century, this American icon has starred in more than 60 films. It was her performance in "The Mirror has Two Faces" that earned her the 1996 Best Supporting Actress Oscar Nomination, the same role that won her the Golden Globe.

Anne Bancroft was born Anna Maria Italiano in 1931 in Throggs Neck. Even as a child, she wanted to be an actress. She achieved her wish both on the Broadway stage and in the movies. Her most memorable role was that of Annie Sullivan, the woman who taught Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker." The astounding performance brought her the Academy Award Oscar for Best Actress in 1962. After that Bancroft was nominated for an Oscar four more times, for "The Pumpkin Eater" (1965), "The Graduate" (1967), "The Turning Point" (1977) and "Agnes of God" (1985). She is also a multiple Emmy and Tony nominee and winner. Bancroft was married to comedian and filmmaker Mel Brooks from 1964 until her death from cancer in June 2005.

Red Buttons was born Aaron Chwatt on Feb. 5, 1919, and grew up on the streets of the Bronx to become a Catskill Borscht Belt comedian. At the age of 16, Buttons got a job as an entertaining bellhop at Ryan's Tavern on City Island. The combination of his red hair and the bellhop uniform with its shiny buttons inspired orchestra leader Charles "Dinty" Moore to call him Red Buttons. The nickname stuck and became the stage name by which Chwatt would later become known.

His wisecracks and animated comedy got him on early television variety shows and eventually his own show as well. He displayed unexpected dramatic acting talent in the film "Sayonara," which brought him the 1958 Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Additionally, Red Buttons was nominated several times for Golden Globe awards. Although he spent much of his professional career on the West Coast, Red Buttons never forgot his Bronx origins. He always spoke affectionately of his Bronx upbringing and often returned to his favorite kosher delicatessen on Bainbridge Avenue for a meal while in New York.

Novelist and screenwriter **Avery Corman** grew up in the Bronx around Kingsbridge Road near Jerome Avenue. He is probably best known for his screenplays, "Oh God" starring George Burns and "Kramer vs. Kramer" starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. "Kramer vs. Kramer" earned nine Academy Award nominations and five wins, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Best Writer. Soon afterward, however, Corman wrote a novel, "The Old Neighborhood," about the place where he grew up. The central character returns to Kingsbridge Road to find his roots and his bearings, getting to know the new people there who now participate in the same activities he did as a youngster.

Tony Curtis was born Bernie Schwartz on June 3, 1925, in Hunts Point. His athletic good looks landed him many romantic leads, as well as roles as tough guys and swashbucklers. Whether playing a medieval nobleman or a Roman slave of Greek origin, he never lost his Bronx accent. His comedic talents were showcased in such films as "Some Like It Hot," in which he played opposite Marilyn Monroe. He has also essayed a number of more serious dramatic roles over the years, such as an escaped



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Community Center Drama Club put on a puppet show, "The Name of the Tree," adapted from a Bantu folk tale for children, on March 6, 2008. Holding the puppets from left to right are Ken Ogura, Laury Hopkins (director), Andrew Simoncek, Ben Stinson-Hurwitz, Ruby McClellan, Sarah Stinson-Hurwitz and Gwyn Hopkins. After the show, the audience members had fun playing with the puppets!

convict in "The Defiant Ones," for which he received a 1959 Academy Award nomination as Best Actor. He has appeared in more than 100 films since 1949, and has also made frequent television appearances. Tony Curtis has multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations and two Golden Globe wins.

Stanley Kubrick was born in the Bronx and spent much of his free time watching films in movie houses such as Loew's Paradise on the Grand Concourse. He attended William Howard Taft High School and became the official photographer of the school newspaper. He sold his first picture to Look Magazine for \$25 and then joined the staff of the magazine after graduating from high school. His first film, "The Day of the Fight," a short documentary about a boxer, was screened at New York's Paramount Theatre, at which point Kubrick decided to become a film director for life. His film credits include "Spartacus" (1960), nominated for six Academy Awards and winning four (Best Supporting Actor, Art Direction, Cinematography and Costume Design); "Lolita" (1962), nominated for Best Screenplay; "Dr. Strangelove" (1964), nominated for four Academy Awards (Best Actor, Director, Picture and Screenplay); "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968), nominated for four Academy Awards and winning for Best Special Effects; "A Clockwork Orange" (1971), nominated for four Academy Awards (Best Picture, Director, Editing and Screenplay); "Barry Lyndon" (1975), nominated for seven Oscars and winning four (Best Art Direction, Cinematography, Costume Design and Original Score); and "Full Metal Jacket" (1987), which received the Oscar nomination for Best Screenplay. Stanley Kubrick died at his home in England on March 7, 1999.

Salvatore (Sal) Mineo, born in the Bronx on Jan. 10, 1939, attended a parochial school until the age of eight, when he was dismissed for being a troublemaker. He then took dancing lessons and was cast two years later in the Broadway production of "The Rose Tattoo." In 1952, he played the part of Yul Brynner's son in "The King and I" and made his first film in 1955. Typically playing troubled youths, he made many films and received two Oscar nominations for Best Supporting Actor roles in both "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955) and "Exodus" (1960). On Feb. 12, 1976, while returning to his home in Hollywood from a rehearsal, he was stabbed to death.

Film director **Alan Pakula** was born in the Bronx in 1928. A descendant of Polish Jews, he was a movie buff from an early age and loved to read Variety. He attended the Bronx High School of Science and graduated from Yale University. After Yale, he went to Hollywood to work as a cartoonist for Warner Brothers and in 1950 became an apprentice to writer-producer-director Don Hartman at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. In the early 1950s Pakula began directing. He received his first Academy Award nomination in 1963 for "To Kill a Mockingbird" in the Best Picture category. In 1977 his film "All the Presidents Men" was nominated for Best Director and in 1983 his film "Sophie's Choice" received an Oscar nomination for Best Screenplay. He died in an automobile accident on Long Island at the age of 70 in 1998.

Rita Moreno was born Rosita Dolores Alverio in Humacao, Puerto Rico, on Dec. 11, 1931. She moved to the Bronx with her family at the age of five. When she was 11 years old, she lent her voice to Spanish-language versions of American films. She had her first Broadway role by the time she was 13 as Angelina in "Skydrift," which caught the attention of Hollywood talent scouts. In 1961 Moreno landed the role of Anita in the film adaptation of "West Side Story," the

groundbreaking Broadway musical by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. Moreno gained fame and an Academy Award as the Best Supporting Actress for that role. She went on to be the second actor—and the first Hispanic—to win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony.

Cathy Moriarity was born on Nov. 29, 1960, in the Bedford Park neighborhood of the Bronx. Martin Scorsese counted on the fact that this striking young blonde had no acting training when he cast her as prizefighter Jake LaMotta's ravishing and much-abused wife. In 1980 Moriarity won an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Vikki in "Raging Bull." Cathy and her husband, Joseph Gentile, have relocated their production company, Utopia Studios, to the Bronx. It is now housed in the beautifully restored and famed Loews Paradise Theater on the Grand Concourse.

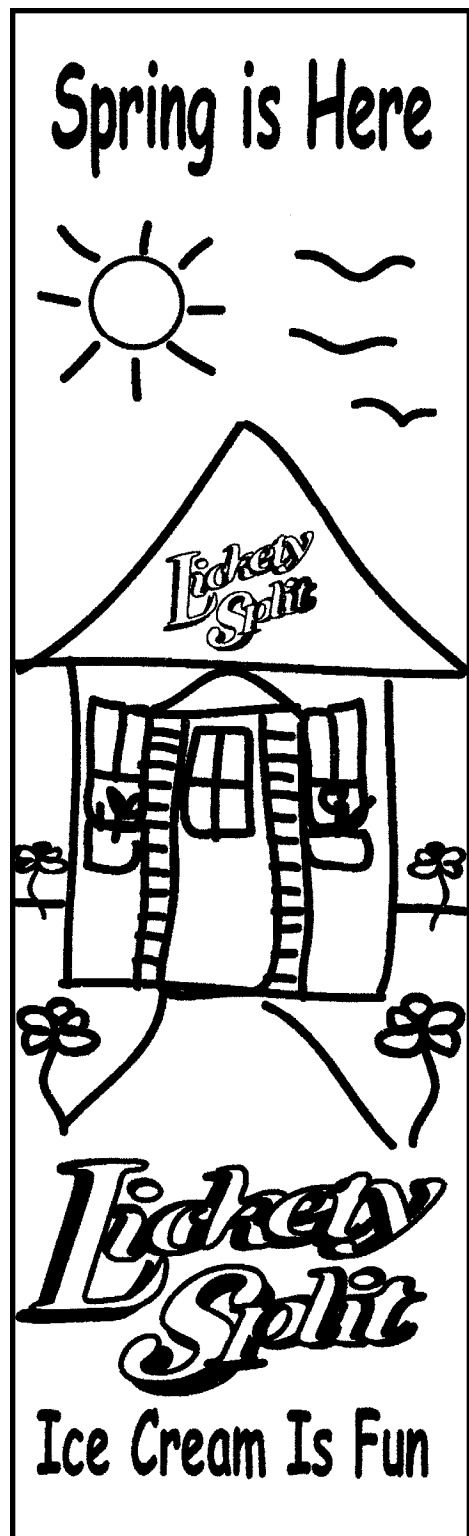
Al Pacino was born in New York on April 25, 1940, and moved to the Bronx at the age of two. At school, he enjoyed appearing in school plays but did not consider acting as a profession until, at age 14, he saw Chekhov's "The Seagull" performed at the Elmsmere Theatre in the South Bronx. This led to him enrolling at the prestigious High School of the Performing Arts but since he flunked everything except English, he eventually dropped out. Pacino went on to study at the celebrated Actors' Studio in 1966, and this launched a career that spans over five decades and more than 40 films.

In 1972 Pacino received his first Academy Award nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category for "The Godfather." The following year he was nominated again for Best Actor in the film "Serpico." The next year saw his nomination in the Best Actor category for "The Godfather II." For the fourth consecutive year, Pacino was nominated in 1975 for Best Actor in "Dog Day Afternoon." His next Academy Award nomination came in 1979 for Best Actor in "And Justice for All." In 1990 Pacino received the Best Supporting Actor nomination for "Dick Tracy." In 1992 he was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for "Glengarry Glen Ross" and won the Best Actor Oscar for "Scent of a Woman."

Saoirse Ronan (pronounced "seer-sha") was born on April 12, 1994, in the Kingsbridge Heights section of the west Bronx. She is the child of Dublin-born actor Paul Ronan and his wife, Monica. Ronan got her start on multiple episodes of two Irish television series, "The Clinic" and "Proof." Her first major motion picture appearance to be filmed was in the movie "Death-Defying Acts," although its release has been delayed until 2008. She appears in starring roles in the films "Atonement," for which she received both a Golden Globe and an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress, and "The Lovely Bones," which is due to be released in 2008.

The playwright **John Patrick Shanley** was born in 1950 in the Tremont section of the Bronx. He is famous for insisting in his contract that not a single word can be changed in the screenplays he writes. He is a graduate of New York University. Shanley won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for his script for the 1987 film "Moonstruck." In 2004 he was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame. In 2005 his play "Doubt" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a Drama Desk Award and a Tony Award for Best Play. And he granted permission for the first community theater production of "Doubt" to our very own City Island Theater Group.

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



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.

Dorothy M. (née Juner) Megill

Former City Island resident Dorothy M. Megill, died on March 6, 2008, in Hanford, California, at the age of 78. Born in Newark, New Jersey, Dorothy was the youngest child of Hedwig and Adolph Juner, who established the City Island Bakery Shop many years ago. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph F. Megill III, and her brothers Oscar, Adolph and Gus.

Dorothy is survived by her daughters Maureen (husband, Edwin) Larkin of Hanford, California; Jo Ann (husband, Ferris) Bromley of Higganum, Connecticut; sons Joseph (wife, Lori) Megill IV of Haddam, Connecticut; Michael (wife, Stephanie) Megill of Orlando, Florida; five grandchildren, Matthew Bromley, Christine (Bromley) Feeley, Edwin Larkin, Daniel Larkin and Joseph Megill V; her brother Robert (wife, Marilyn) Juner; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services are tentatively planned

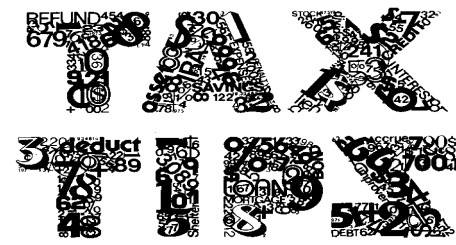
for May 10 at Pine Grove Cemetery in Middletown, Connecticut. Those who wish to honor Dorothy's memory are asked to make a donation to a favorite charity.

Wayne R. Bleidner

Former Island resident Wayne Bleidner of Pelham, New York, died on March 15, 2008, in a crane accident in New York City. He was 51 and worked as an operating engineer for Local #14.

He was born April 1, 1956, to Robert and Doris Robson Bleidner and lived on City Island for 36 years. He was educated at P.S. 17 on City Island and graduated from Mount St. Michael Academy in 1974. He attended Iona College and was a member for 25 years of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

On Nov. 14, 1992, Mr. Bleidner married Denise C. Courtien at St. Catharine's Church in Pelham. He will long be remembered for having been a loving husband, son and father, as well as a caring friend, neighbor and uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Doris, and his son Thomas Robert and is survived by his wife, Denise; his son Robert Joseph, age 10; and his father, Robert Bleidner of City Island. Donations may be made in his memory to St. Catharine's Church in Pelham.



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

2007 Tax Issues for 2008 and Beyond

AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax) modifications have been signed into law that will benefit your 2007 tax calculations. The stage has been set for progressive solutions to this burdensome and problematic tax issue, which affects millions of tax-paying Americans.

An exclusion form tax on up to \$2 million in forgiveness of debt on personal residence foreclosures has been passed, and the widow/widower sale of personal residence involves a \$500,000 exclusion set into motion for two years subsequent to death of spouse.

Effective for the 2008 tax year, the "kiddie tax" has been changed and now applies to children who are either 18 years old or who are full-time students between 19 and 23 as of the end of the tax year. This issue has a drastic negative effect on the 0 percent capital gains rate benefit for those who fall into the 15 percent income tax bracket. However, tax payers who are 24 or older at the end of the tax year, along with certain retirees and low income taxpayers, will still be able to take advantage of the new 0 percent capital gains tax rate.

The 2007 Small Business Tax Act expanded the Internal Revenue Code Section 179 first year expensing of tax deductions or fixed asset acquisitions from \$112,000 to \$125,000 and increased the investment limitation from \$450,000 to \$500,000 along with an annual inflation adjustment factor.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit has been expanded to include more veterans and other individuals hired after Dec. 31, 2007, who require vocational rehabilitation assistance.

Required identification and compliance issues surrounding certain employer deferred compensation arrangements have been deferred to 2008.

The closing of a \$350 billion tax gap, the estimated difference between what owed and what is reported and collected, is of major concern to the IRS, as well as to law makers.

Tax-exempt organizations should become familiar with the new Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. This form is used for information filings pertaining to charitable and not-for-profit organizations and has been revamped.

Tax shelters and tax strategies that lack "economic substance" are of keen interest to the IRS and will become targeted for continued inquiry.

Unless it is extended, the temporary repeal of the Estate Tax is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2010. If it is not extended or significantly revised soon, the Estate Tax will return at a full 55 percent tax rate in 2011. Uncertainty in this area is causing much angst among tax advisers and small-business owners alike. Congress needs to address this issue with zeal soon.

Even after several losses in Tax Court, the IRS continues to attempt to gain access to "tax accrual work papers" versus cash basis tax reporting differentials. This appears to be an attempt to close the cash basis tax reporting loophole, and taxpayers should be appalled. The IRS continues to expand its E-Filing requirements for individuals as well as businesses, and electronic tax filing is fast becoming the norm.

The IRS continues to expand its crackdown on payroll tax abuses and the misclassification of what it considers employees as independent contractors. In addition, the IRS continues its focus on international tax matters and offshore transactions.

Any major new or additional tax legislation will most likely be postponed until after the presidential election in November. As always, please be sure to check with your tax advisor as to whether any of the above tax issues pertain to your personal strategies or business-related tax matters.



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

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

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

April 2008

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0134	1.51	0746	6.91	1429	1.10	2037	6.96	Tue 01
02 Wed	0246	1.07	0849	7.17	1523	0.70	2123	7.41	Wed 02
03 Thu	0347	0.49	0942	7.45	1609	0.25	2205	7.88	Thu 03
04 Fri	0438	-0.10	1029	7.71	1651	-0.15	2247	8.30	Fri 04
05 Sat	0526	-0.61	1115	7.88	1734	-0.44	2330	8.62	Sat 05
06 Sun	0612	-0.95	1201	7.94	1817	-0.58			Sun 06
07 Mon	0014	8.80	0700	-1.08	1248	7.85	1901	-0.53	Mon 07
08 Tue	0101	8.78	0750	-0.97	1337	7.64	1949	-0.29	Tue 08
09 Wed	0150	8.57	0846	-0.66	1431	7.31	2042	0.12	Wed 09
10 Thu	0244	8.18	0952	-0.22	1533	6.95	2145	0.62	Thu 10
11 Fri	0346	7.70	1110	0.19	1658	6.69	2316	1.02	Fri 11
12 Sat	0514	7.26	1226	0.43	1828	6.70			Sat 12
13 Sun	0047	1.09	0655	7.14	1335	0.47	1939	6.95	Sun 12
14 Mon	0159	0.87	0807	7.26	1436	0.36	2030	7.31	Mon 14
15 Tue	0301	0.49	0907	7.45	1531	0.20	2132	7.66	Tue 15
16 Wed	0356	0.09	1000	7.61	1620	0.07	2220	7.93	Wed 16
17 Thu	0446	-0.23	1047	7.67	1705	0.01	2304	8.08	Thu 17
18 Fri	0531	-0.43	1131	7.64	1746	0.05	2345	8.11	Fri 18
19 Sat	0613	-0.46	1211	7.53	1823	0.19			Sat 19
20 Sun	0021	8.03	0652	-0.36	1248	7.35	1853	0.39	Sun 20
21 Mon	0052	7.89	0725	-0.14	1321	7.16	1911	0.61	Mon 21
22 Tue	0114	7.74	0752	0.13	1348	6.98	1922	0.78	Tue 22
23 Wed	0132	7.63	0808	0.39	1408	6.86	1950	0.92	Wed 23
24 Thu	0159	7.55	0829	0.60	1435	6.79	2027	1.09	Thu 24
25 Fri	0234	7.47	0904	0.80	1512	6.76	2110	1.29	Fri 25
26 Sat	0316	7.36	0947	0.98	1555	6.75	2159	1.45	Sat 26
27 Sun	0403	7.23	1035	1.13	1645	6.78	2253	1.54	Sun 27
28 Mon	0457	7.10	1128	1.18	1740	6.89	2352	1.48	Mon 28
29 Tue	0555	7.03	1225	1.11	1838	7.11			Tue 29
30 Wed	0056	1.25	0658	7.04	1324	0.92	1936	7.43	Wed 30
May 2008									
01 Thu	0204	0.84	0801	7.16	1423	0.62	2031	7.82	Thu 01
02 Fri	0310	0.32	0901	7.33	1519	0.27	2124	8.22	Fri 02
03 Sat	0410	-0.22	0957	7.51	1612	-0.04	2214	8.58	Sat 03



The Bronx: Borough of Parks

We recently attended a presentation by Dr. Peter Derrick at the Huntington Free Library and Reading Room at Westchester Square. The topic was the creation of the Bronx County park system. Dr. Derrick is the archivist for the Bronx County Historical Society, so we figured he would know his stuff. We were not disappointed.

According to Dr. Derrick, the Borough of Parks owes its moniker in large part to one John Mullaly. Mullaly was a founding member of the New York Park Association in 1881, a role in which he took an aggressively active interest following his two-year tenure as New York City's Commissioner of Health. The two positions are not unrelated, for it was Mullaly's intimate knowledge of living conditions in New York's tenements that convinced him of the need for open green spaces in urban communities.

By 1889 Mullaly and his associates had secured the necessary funding for the acquisition of more than 4,000 acres of new park land for New York City, all of it in what was to become the Bronx. No doubt, one of his more persuasive arguments to legislators was the relatively low cost for developing of the new park land. This acreage was naturally beautiful, he would have argued, as opposed to, say, Central Park, which was an entirely man-

made (and thus much more expensive) operation.

Interestingly, Pelham Bay Park was New York City property before the land that surrounded it became a part of the City (including City Island!). As it was, City Island and various other Westchester County towns east of the Bronx River, including the town of Westchester, were not annexed by the city until 1895.

Another interesting fact that Dr. Derrick revealed to us was that the Bronx Zoo was originally planned to be incorporated into Pelham Bay Park, not Bronx Park, as it was ultimately decided. Apparently, the Zoo's first director—Dr. William Temple Hornaday—was not satisfied with Pelham Bay Park's topography. We, for two, are eternally grateful.

What we like most about the lectures at the Huntington is the laid-back, informal atmosphere in which they are delivered. These are quality talks given in many cases by professionals without pretensions. They are also free of charge, although donations are happily accepted. If you would like more information about the library and its future presentations, call the librarian, Mrs. McChesney, at 718-829-7770.

If you would like to contact "Sights and Sounds," you can do so at jdsstrat@msn.com or by mail, care of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, Bronx, New York 10464.

DANCING DADS!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Girl Scouts danced the night away with their dads and moms at the annual Father Daughter Dance on March 9, 2008, at the Harlem Yacht Club. DJ Ray provided the entertainment.



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Basketball

Continued from page 5

season a true success. Every single child improved their game from the beginning of the season to the end. Coaches John Valenti and Tommy Orzo extend thanks to all members of this wonderful team for a great season.

Girls Debs/Junior Varsity

The girls had another fabulous season making the CYO A Division playoffs for the second year in row. Their record for the season was 25 and 11. They played in three tournaments, winning first place in the Villa Maria Thanksgiving Tournament. Congratulations to all the players for their hard work. Special congratulations go to the season's award winners: Most Valuable Player Briana Saunders and Most Improved Player Erin Schlottmann. Players and parents thanked coach Bob Whelan for his endless patience and dedication teaching the girls to love the game of basketball. Everyone is looking forward to next season!

Girls Varsity

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea seventh- and eighth-grade Girls Varsity did yet another out-

standing job this year. Although the team consists of mostly seventh-graders, they were able to finish with a 10-6 record. These talented and hard-working young ladies are a force to be reckoned with and their coaches couldn't be more proud of them. Paige O'Donnell, Victoria Strazzera and Vittoria Volpe were presented with Coaches' Awards at the awards breakfast for their outstanding leadership on the team. All of the players did a fantastic job on the court, and coaches Volpe and Strazzera would like to thank the girls and their parents for another successful season.

Boys Varsity

The St. Mary's seventh- and eighth-grade boy's basketball team had a slow start, but coach Mark Amos reported that the boys never gave up and worked extremely hard to get better. Their efforts showed when they got into the B Division playoffs, in which they lost a heartbreaker in the semifinals. The coach would like to express thanks to all his basketball players, including Most Valuable Player Oshea Bell, Most Improved Player Gus Berger, Coaches' Award winner Amir Smith, and the rest of the team who gave their all when they stepped on the basketball court.



The St. Mary's Star of the Sea Gidgets, coached by Frank Strazzera and George Spencer, captured the Division Championship Trophy. Top row: Ashlie Howell, Shannon Faulkner, Deirdre Spencer, Chloe Brelsford, Alexis Candelaria, Francesca Strazzera and Jordan DeSantis. Bottom row: Lily Kolb, Christine Rice, Shannon Saulnier and Katie Moore.



Under the leadership of coaches Carlo Volpe and Frank Strazzera, the St. Mary's Girls Varsity team did another outstanding job this year. They finished with a 10-6 record. Top row: Larissa Pirraglia, Vittoria Volpe, Jennifer Branley, Nicole Dammaco, Victoria Strazzera and Paige O'Donnell. Bottom row: Amber Tudor, Gabby Vitiello and Jeanne Leonard.



The St. Mary's Boys Varsity team was coached by Mark Amos. Top row: Brenton Howell, Oshea Bell, Gus Berger, Jonathan Marrero, Kevin Whelan, Amir Smith and Ian Campbell. Bottom row: Ryan Fitzpatrick, Steven Bert, Devon Navarro, Makai Hawkins and Malik Barnes.



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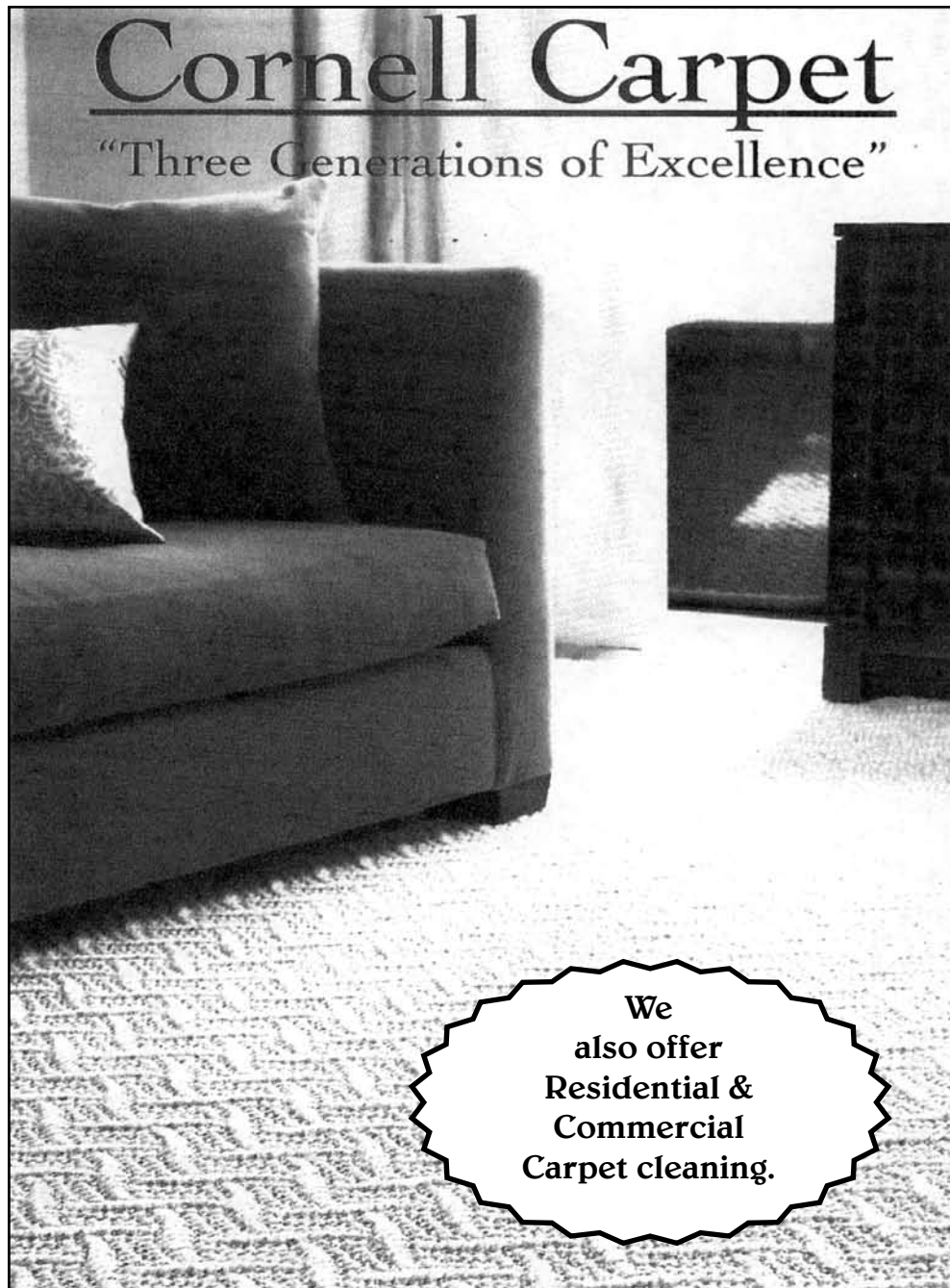
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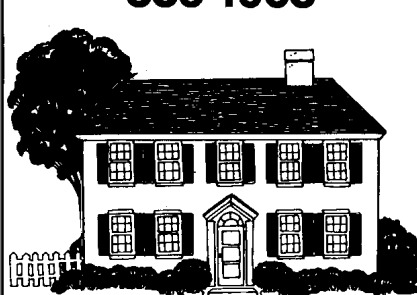
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

We extend our prayers and wishes for a speedy and full recovery for Michael Kelly from your Island friends and best wishes to his parents, Genie and Mike, who support him every day as he recuperates.

Happy birthday on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno with love from your family.

God bless Minneford Avenue's Nicholas Ruggiero, who will be confirmed at St. Mary's on April 22.

Belated happy birthday wishes go out to Hailey Nelson, who turned 7 on Feb. 23 and to her brother, Joseph, who turned 10 on March 10. Their dad, Joe Nelson, celebrated his big day on March 28. Congratulations to all!

The Chase Bank City Island branch wishes co-worker Brenda Winston birthday greetings on her big day, April 25.

Great-grandma Terry Carmody sends birthday hugs and kisses to Devon, who turned 4 on March 28, Emily, who turns 7 on April 30 and Madison, who turns 3 on April 29 and to their very busy mom, Kim Zapata, who celebrates on April 27.

Happy birthday to Joey, who turns 9 on April 19. We love you, Mom, Dad, Alaura and Michael.

Happy birthday to Mari Doyle on April 14.

Belated happy 18th birthday on March 3 to Marine Street's Christopher Butterworth and also to his brother, David, who turns 15 on April 30.

Birthday greetings go out to Jack Strnad, who turns 13 on April 28.

Happy birthday wishes to Anne McIntyre on April 22 and also to her mother, Peggy



Stacie and Stefano Ciccone.

Eberhart, on April 26.

Happy birthday greetings are sent to Minneford Avenue's Diane Duryea, who celebrates on May 1.

Congratulations to former Islander Pamela Wall and her fiancé, Eric Schwartz, who will be married Oct. 25, 2008. Pamela is the daughter of Stephen and Patricia Wall, who used to live on Hawkins Street and now reside in Sarasota, Florida. She is the granddaughter of Dick Wall, who still lives on the Island. Pamela graduated from Riverview High School and the University of Central Florida and is employed by the Bridge of Orlando. Eric is the son of Tom and Sandi Schwartz of Deland. He graduated from Deland High School and the University of Central Florida and works for Siemens.

Congratulations to Stefano and Stacie Ciccone who were recently married at The Riverside Church. Stefano is the son of Francesco and Annarita Ciccone of San Demetri, Italy. Stacie is the daughter of Dawn Moen of Centre Street. After a beautiful honeymoon in Spain and Portugal, the newlyweds have made their home on City Island.

Maria Swieciki

MARCH MAGIC!



Photos by RICK DeWITT and JOHN GIRIAT

Despite the earliest Easter date in more than 90 years (March 23), weekend temperatures were relatively mild, and the Easter Bunny visited under sunny skies on Saturday. Island children and guests hunted for eggs in Hawkins Park, thanks to the City Island Chamber of Commerce. Easter Sunday sunrise service was organized and delivered by George Cavalieri, lay leader of Trinity United Methodist Church. Many members and friends of Trinity attended the beautiful 6:30 a.m. prayers. These were unique events—the next time Easter falls this early is 220 years from now. See you there!

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