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One Dollar

NEW PRIEST SETTLES IN AT ST. MARY'S

By KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

Father Michael Challinor is the new pastor at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on City Island. He is shown above speaking with Current School News columnist, Virginia Dannegger in St. Mary's rectory.

It is official! St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church has a new pastor. After the customary one month as administrator, Father Michael Challinor is now the pastor in charge of St. Mary's church. He also oversees St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and two convents on City Island housing Ursuline and Dominican Sisters.

His journey to City Island started in Brooklyn, where he was born in 1955. Father Challinor is one of ten children, eight girls and two boys. He attended St. James Catholic Grammar School and George Westinghouse Technical and Vocational High School, where he learned cabinet- and furniture-making.

Father Challinor's parents, Joseph and Helen, passed away by the time he was 16, so "I have been on my own since then," he told *The Current*. After high school, he attended Nassau Community College and eventually earned a business degree from Hofstra University in Long Island.

He put his business degree to work for the next nine years as the manager of the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in midtown Manhattan. It was then that his life took a dramatic turn. "I accepted the call from God," he said and entered into training for the priesthood.

This is not the first time Father Challinor has lived in the Bronx. He stayed in the Neumann Residence in the Bronx while he attended St. John's University for his required credits in theology and Latin. For his seminary training, he attended St. Joseph's in Dunwoodie, Yonkers.

He was ordained in 1991 at St. Patrick's Cathedral by Cardinal O'Connor and began a series of placements as parochial vicar in the archdiocese of New York. His four previous positions, at St. John the Evangelist in Mahopac, Immaculate Conception in Stony Point, St. Dennis in Yonkers, and Sacred Heart in Hartsdale, were to "address the different needs of the congregations in these parishes." He sadly noted that one of the parishes where he worked is on the list of Catholic school closings announced in February by the

archdiocese.

Father Challinor received the call to come to City Island from the personnel director in the archdiocese following the departure of Father Robert Moore on medical leave. Cardinal Egan made the appointment official for two six-year terms. "After the first term, I will be evaluated by clergy and parishioners," he explained.

Ironically, he is no stranger to City Island. "I used to go fishing on the charter boats from City Island, and I have eaten at several restaurants over the years." When asked what he thinks of the neighborhood, he responded, "I find the people very nice and welcoming, and the area seems very safe. I also love the water." He looks forward to more fishing in addition to his other hobbies, golf and hunting.

When asked what his plans are for St. Mary's, he spoke in general terms, citing his brief tenure here so far. "I will work with the parish council to improve St. Mary's physically and spiritually, namely, to improve attendance at the church, the maintenance of the physical plant and enrollment at the school."

When asked about rumors circulating that Father Moore might return, Father Challinor told *The Current* that the former pastor will not be returning to St. Mary's.

Father Challinor looks forward to working with the priests currently assisting at St. Mary's, Father Alex and Father Augustus, who are both from the same town in Nigeria, Africa. He was pleased to learn of the work being done by another former St. Mary's priest, Father Eugene, on behalf of tsunami victims in Sri Lanka (see article this issue).

Father Challinor anticipates one potential conflict with some of his City Island parishioners. "I am a Mets and Jets fan and I know there are a lot of Yankees fans in the Bronx," he reportedly told the congregation on his first Sunday. Hopefully, Islanders will not hold this against him as he settles into his new neighborhood.

Signs of Trouble?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island residents have been puzzled in recent weeks by the sudden appearance of signs describing Coastal Evacuation Routes to be used in the event of a serious coastal storm or hurricane. Is this an over-reaction by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which installed the signs, to the threat of a tsunami-like disaster in our area?

Apparently not. OEM has been working for several years on contingency plans to protect the public if a storm poses significant threat of coastal flooding, as it did during the last local "storm of the century" in December of 1992.

Under New York State law, the mayor has the power to declare a local state of emergency, and this might include issuing evacuation instructions. The decision to issue evacuation instructions is coordinated by the mayor, OEM, state and federal agencies, the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center.

There are two different kinds of evacuation instructions: an evacuation order, which instructs residents of specified zones or communities to leave their homes for the protection of their health and welfare; and evacuation recommendation, which suggests that certain residents take steps to evacuate voluntarily.

Because flooding and high winds can occur many hours before the full extent of a hurricane's fury arrives, it is critical that evacuees leave their specified evacuation zones as soon as possible after instructions are issued.

Evacuees are encouraged to seek shelter with friends or family outside evacuation zones when possible. The official evacuation destination for City Island and other areas in Community Board 10, however, is a reception center at Lehman College in the Bronx, which is on high ground but is



Photo by PAUL NANI

The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) installed signs describing Coastal Evacuation Routes near the City Island Bridge and the traffic circle during February 2005.

not a particularly convenient spot for City Islanders.

If it is necessary to go to a reception center, OEM advises that you carefully select what you take with you. Do not take more than you can carry, but be sure to have a "go bag" prepared in the event of an evacuation. This should include a small supply of food, water and blankets.

For more information, visit the Web site www.nyc.gov/html/oem. In the meantime, residents are advised not to panic at the thought of imminent danger, since there is none, but to rest assured that the city is prepared for future problems should they arise.

WINTER HANGS ON



Photos by RICK DeWITT

A snowstorm on Jan. 22, 2005, covered City Island with almost a foot of snow, but plowing by the Department of Sanitation and residents the next day cleared the way for services at all the Island churches, including Trinity Methodist Church shown above. Two more snowstorms followed in February.

BRIEFLY...

EASTER PAGEANT: On Saturday, March 26, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor City Island's first Easter pageant in Hawkins Street Park on City Island Avenue. All City Island families are invited to enter the bonnet contest in which a prize will be given to the most beautifully decorated hat, whether it is a period piece or covered with flowers, feathers, fruit, vegetables, original art work or whatever you like. For the children there will be an Easter egg hunt, the Easter Bunny and lots of fun. There will also be a raffle for a big Easter basket and a 50/50 raffle. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Call the Chamber office at 718-885-9100 or Bob Carmody at Atlantic Emeritus Realty at 718-885-0088 to offer your services or for more information.

BARTOW-PELL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, at 10 a.m. sharp (rain date: Sunday, March 20). Bring along a basket. There will be prizes and goodies for everyone. Have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Arts and crafts activities, museum tours and refreshments will be offered. \$10 per child, or \$8 if payment received by March 11. Reservations preferred; call 718-885-1461.

AUTHOR KATHERINE KIRKPATRICK will present her new children's novel "Escape Across the Wide Sea," which is set in colonial New Rochelle in the late 1600s, at the New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza at North Avenue, on April 7 at 1 p.m. Librarian Barbara Davis will also give a presentation of historic materials available at the library about the Huguenots and colonial New Rochelle. Refreshments will be served, and the author, a former City Island resident, will be available to sell and sign copies of her book. For more information, visit www.katherinekirpatrick.com or call Barbara Davis at the library at 914-632-7878, ext. 34.

SATURDAY HISTORY ACADEMY: Salesian High School will host a tuition-free History Academy for students in grades 7 through 12 who enjoy history, are interested in preparing for the SAT, or who want to use the Internet for research. The academy will be held at Salesian High School, 148 Main Street in New Rochelle, on six Saturday mornings beginning April 16 and ending May 21. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, each student will be awarded a certificate of achievement. Additional information, a complete list of course offerings, and admission applications may be obtained by contacting Salesian at 914-632-0248 or on the Web at www.salesianhigh.org. Applications are due by April 4, 2005.

PASTA DINNER BENEFIT: The P.S. 175 Graduation Committee will sponsor a pasta dinner on Friday, March 25, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All profits will support the eighth grade's graduation and prom. The cost is \$22 for adults and \$13 for children (if pre-paid, \$25 and \$15 at the door) and includes a buffet menu (pasta, seafood and chicken), unlimited soda, coffee and dessert. There will also be music, a cash bar, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. For information and reservations, call Angela at 718-885-1403, Sofia at 347-427-2306 or Kathy at 718-885-1011.

A SAFETY IN BOATING COURSE will be offered by the Bronx Power Squadron, a member of the United States Power Squadron. Registration. The first class for the nine-week course will be held on Tuesday, March , at 7:30 p.m. at the New York State Maritime College in Fort Schuyler, Bronx. Topics include navigation, charting, compass, marine radio and more. A completion certificate is provided. The cost is \$30 for room fee and book. Please contact Nick Cavaluzzi at 914-693-7692 or e-mail him at vettenik84@aol.com.

SEWERS IN SPRING

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The replacement of water mains and storm and sanitary sewers will begin in April 2005, according to the latest bulletin from the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

Delays caused by the precautions that Con Ed had to take regarding the overhead wires along City Island Avenue moved the start date from February to April, but this work will soon be completed.

The contract for the reconstruction job was awarded to Carp Construction, with a budget of over \$21 million.

Work along City Island Avenue will not be carried out during the summer; however, the plans call for work on east

Schofield Street to be done in the summer months in order to accommodate the Fire Department's need to park their vehicles on City Island Avenue, which cannot be done in winter months.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, said that representatives of the Civic would meet with residents of Schofield Street to work out any issues that may be caused by the summer construction.

For more information about the project, call Andrew Macagnone, the community construction liaison with DDC, at 718-391-2281.

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WOW CELEBRATES WOMEN'S "HERSTORY": On Sunday, April 17, at 11 a.m., City Island women and girls are invited to attend the annual celebration of women's history month with WOW (Women On the Way), to be held at B&B's restaurant at 316 City Island Avenue. This year we will be awarding clam digger Alice Payne the first Anne M. Hutchinson award for her contributions to the City Island community. We will also celebrate the 85th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States, granting women the right to vote as well as the 25th anniversary of the proclamation by Congress of Women's History Month. Islander Eleanor Rae will give a presentation on Anne M. Hutchinson. Yolanda Bako from Co-op City will speak on her participation in the history of the establishment of Women's History Month, and Islander Helen Friedman will speak about some of the current feminist issues. Members of ¡Retumba! (Resound!), an Afro-Caribbean dance and percussion ensemble based here on City Island will be performing. Bring something about yourself—a story, poem or photograph—to share with the group, as well as business cards and networking information. Off-Island women and girls are welcome. We will enjoy a buffet of our choice at the cost of \$15 per person. Boys and men of good will are welcome. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information and reservations, call Lily at 718-885-3299 or Yvette at 718 885-2574.

MAKE A PLATE FUND-RAISER: On Friday, April 1, from 3 to 5 p.m., the "Make a Plate" fund raiser will be held at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, along with a bake sale and raffle drawing. The purpose is to raise money for a new Community Center floor (see article in this issue). Your child will create a work of art, which will be preserved forever on a functional plate. Very young children can do a hand outline with their name and age while older children may create drawings or write poems. The plates will make beautiful Mother's or Father's Day presents and will be ready for pick-up at the Community Center on May 1, the week before Mother's Day. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Focal Point gallery for \$10 for the first child and \$8 for each additional child. The plate fee will increase to \$12 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child on the day of the event. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message for tickets or more information.

CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON will conduct an eight-week Public Safe Boating Course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning Monday, March 7, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; registration is March 7 at 7 p.m. The course is open to individuals 12 and over and will provide Personal Water Craft (PWC) certification upon completion. Topics include boat types, boat terminology, seamanship, navigation aids, marlinspike, boat handling, rules of the road, elementary piloting, plotting, regional boating, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio telephone usage and more. Instruction is free; materials cost \$65. Call Jim at 718-863-3855 or email pegfmorton@aol.com for information and registration.

CALLING YOUNG ISLAND ARTISTS: If you are an artist 17 years or younger, you can be part of the Annual City Island Young Artists Exhibition at Focal Point Gallery to be held during the month of April. The deadline to bring in one piece of artwork to the gallery at 321 City Island Avenue is March 15. There will be an opening reception for the artists on Saturday, April 2, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Ron Terner at 718-885-1403.

BOOK SALE: The Westchester Square Branch Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, March 19, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The library is located at 2521 Glebe Avenue in the Bronx. For information, call 718-863-0436.

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Private Lives' Delights Public

By MONICA GLICK



Photo s by RICK DeWITT

On Feb. 4, 2005, the City Island Theater Group presented "Private Lives." Shown above during the performance are: Keith Trauceniek as Victor Prynne and Jean McCabe as Amanda Pryne, and William Kozy as Elyot Chase and Susan Rauh as Sybil Chase (bottom photo).

"I do not think anyone normal deep down in their private lives."

So says Amanda Pryne, ex-wife of Elyot Chase and newly married to Victor Prynne, in Noel Coward's "Private Lives." And true enough, none of the characters in this City Island Theater Group's (CITG) masterful presentation in February 2005 of Coward's comedic masterpiece is normal—not by a long shot. But as individuals and as an ensemble, they are witty and poignant, offering each member of the audience food for thought on the irony of relationships and the difference between the public and private lives of us all.

The play centers on a divorced couple, Amanda and Elyot, who meet quite by coincidence on their respective honeymoons with second spouses. After the initial shock at seeing each other five years after calling it quits, the two get caught up in what they remember best in each other, the qualities that are sadly lacking (and brilliantly acted out to that effect) in their new spouses.

After the two ditch the new husband and wife and run away together, they soon rediscover, during their private time away from the outside world, all of the old reasons for their coming apart in the first place. Although they devise a way to stop their bickering as soon as it starts, their confrontations become more frequent, more physical and more farcical—amusing the audience through all three acts.

"What an escape you've had" is a phrase oft-repeated by various characters—and the



laughter and thoughtful moments about the beautiful complexities of love and human relationships.

CITG president Nicholas Sala provides flawless direction, allowing the audience to feel as though they're peeking into someone's private life, not just watching a play about the subject. William Kozy is brilliant as Elyot Chase, and Jean McCabe is the perfect blend of catty and irresistible as ex-wife Amanda. In her eighth performance with the CITG, City Islander Susan Rauh turns in another stellar performance, this time as Elyot's new wife; with Rauh it's not only the words that dazzle, it's every facial expression and movement. City Islander Keith Trauceniek wins the audience with his portrayal of Amanda's unfortunate second spouse. And City Islander Julie White, even in her brief stage presence as the French maid, makes you appreciate her frustration with the spoiled stars in this human relationship drama (and her command of the French language!).

A "look of class," ideally suited to Noel Coward, is replicated in the set designs by Dorothy Muccio and Christopher McGowan, and the costumes by Carol McCabe and Carole Sullivan.

The CITG continues its parade of hits this spring, offering audiences a production of "Cabaret" on the weekends of April 22 to 24 and April 29 to May 1. For more information about the CITG performances at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue, call 728-885-3066.



Photo by MARIA SWIECIKI

Peter McConnell (center), beloved teacher at P.S. 175, is welcomed back by Mrs. Moscone (left) and Mrs. Cambria (right) after an eight month illness.

Former Island Priest Survives Tsunami

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

After spending three years assigned to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Father Eugene Sudath Gunetileke returned to his native Sri Lanka at the end of 2003. Although he misses City Island, he was happy to be home, at least until the day after Christmas 2004, when his island was overwhelmed by the massive tsunami that devastated the south Pacific.

Father Eugene described for *The Current* his experiences following the tsunami: "The gigantic waves swept in nearly 300 meters to the land all along the coastal area starting from Western Province and Colombo southward, covering all the coastal cities in the Southern Province and going up to the Eastern and Northern Provinces. You can imagine the extent of destruction.

"People were flabbergasted to see how the whole congregation of Matara Catholic Church, including a charity nun who was distributing the communion, was simply sucked in by the waves during the Sunday holy mass. Only the priest and 10 people were spared. In Mullaitivu, everyone in the village, except the people and the priest celebrating the holy Mass, were swallowed up by a column of water that went into the land at the speed of 500 miles an hour. My village, too, was affected badly, but thank God there was no loss of life."

Father Eugene reports that "out of 38,000 people who died in my area, 12,000 were children. As many as 137 schools were destroyed without any trace. It is so heart-rending to hear the tales of the victims who were either orphaned or widowed, who lost everyone in their family. I cannot describe everything I saw and heard. It is simply too painful."

Many Americans have contributed to the Red Cross and other organizations to help the tsunami victims, and City Islanders are no exception. In addition to a collection taken up by the archdiocese for all the tsunami victims, there was a special collection in mid-January specifically designated for the victims in Sri Lanka. Many parishioners of St. Mary's gave very generously and over \$9,000 was wired to Father Eugene. According to Father Eugene, the country has received enough food, clothing and medical assistance, but there is more that can be done.

As he puts it, "At this juncture your assistance and aid can be used to make



Photo Courtesy of SISTER KRISTIN

Father Eugene Sudath Gunetileke, who spent three years assigned to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, returned to his native Sri Lanka at the end of 2003. The day after Christmas 2004, his island was overwhelmed by the massive tsunami that devastated the south Pacific.

some of these people's lives a little brighter and bearable. Even though many promises have been made by the world to provide funds to rebuild houses, they are now reluctant to help the government, because these funds are not being utilized to help victims directly. I am so sorry to say that the funds are been used for their ulterior motives.

"Hence, at this moment we need funds to rebuild houses, to start foster-parent programs for orphan children and to assist the fishermen by buying fishing gear so they can do their job. If you could find anybody to assist me in these projects, you can be sure that whatever the assistance you give would be accounted for in detail. I will take on the responsibility for getting the money to those causes."

Thomas Costello of City Island is one of many generous souls on City Island who sent money directly to Father Eugene, feeling confident that it will be used wisely and well. He encourages others to do likewise. "It is very unusual that we happen to have our own City Islander in Sri Lanka whom we can trust to do the right thing with the money," he told *The Current*.

Anyone who is interested in contributing to this worthy cause may write a check payable to Father Eugene Sudath Gunetileke and send it to his attention at St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Father Eugene is very grateful indeed for all the assistance he has received and will report on how the funds were used in a later edition of the paper. "The people of City Island have helped me a lot, as their means provided. To have such humane and caring people in one's life makes me a very fortunate person indeed."

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School for Parking

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my frustration and disgust at the parking situation in front of P.S. 175 in the morning and afternoon on any given school day. It is only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured darting out from between these illegally parked cars.

Do these parents feel some type of special entitlement? On many occasions, I have watched parents pull up into the crosswalks and bus stops or double-park and walk their children into the school without a care in the world, forcing other kids and parents, some with baby strollers, to walk into the street to get around the car in question. This is not right, and we should not be teaching our children that personal comfort comes at the expense of others.

Every morning or afternoon, my wife or I drive down to school, find a legal spot and walk to school. Dismissal time is especially bad (see photos). Cars are double-parked on both sides of the street and double-parked outside the school buses, which means that traffic in both directions on the Island is reduced to one lane. I have personally observed kids having to go between double-parked cars to get on the city bus. Dismissal is a very hectic time. Our school crossing guard has her hands full but in spite of the lazy parents she does a great job.

I believe that with every complaint a

solution should be offered. First, the police should summons, not chase away, all illegally parked cars in front of the school. Secondly, cars should be allowed to double-park behind the school buses on the school side of the street. This would allow traffic to flow and the kids can get to and from school safely.

To you special parents, please take a minute to look past the tip of your nose and realize that you are not the only ones trying to get your kids to and from school. The parents who do park legally and walk down to school are good neighbors, and they set a good example for their kids.

I am sure that my comments will offend some, but I cannot concern myself with the feelings of those that put our children's safety at risk.

Matthew Murphy

Remembering the Good Old Days, Please!

To the Editor:

Winter is the time of year when some of us wanderers get a bit nostalgic. We start thinking about City Island, boats on cradles under green tarps, smelling of canvas, pine tar caulking, damp manilla and bottom paint. We replay the "good old days." All communities have stories—they are the glue that bind us—and City Island has the best.

I love to sit around any crackling fire with family sharing tales about growing up in a kid paradise, a place where the snow was always four feet deep, where winter sports included "hitching" the rear fender of a bus or fuel truck or swiping pushed-up frozen cream from milk bottles and stomping the plate ice in all the puddles. On more than one occasion, we imaginary Arctic explorers walked and skated over to Hart Island on the frozen Sound or across the bay to Rodman's Neck (over the "clay" fields, now the firing range) and on to Turtle Cove to skate some more.

Like all clam diggers, we spin on about stiff winds, following seas, or swimming out to Rat Island and bringing home a bathing

suit filled with chowder clams. One never forgets the lonely sight and sounds of Execution Rocks light on a foggy night or the becalmed, half-hearted gong of a bell buoy. We kids who grew up near Bowne Street long for those endless days spearing for eels and flounders off King Rock, tossing each other off the TKC barge or just dreaming about girls while waiting for Bill the Good Humor Man or John the Pied Piper.

Although few knew, the 1950s were a special time for City Island. It was a time of transition for the Island. I think my brothers and friends were the last kids still going door to door celebrating Thanksgiving as ragamuffins, begging for pennies or an apple. Are the side streets still full of kids playing Stick and Stoop Ball (baby baseball), Salugi, Ringalivio or Hide and Seek?

In those days, there were still many undeveloped lots (where we spent afternoons being cowboys or Tarzans, and building forts of every type of material. At night we would have to dose ourselves with calamine lotion. Like Brigadoon, this maritime life would soon fade away. Fiberglass was coming, and most of our shipyards and marine craftsmen would also slip away under the mist of time.

In *The Island Current* we have read some great stories about Nevins and Minneford—builders of the war ships, luxury yachts and "Cup" defenders. But I would love to read more about the other boat works and the skilled shipwrights, yardmen and characters who toiled in those yards, creating our nautical history, one boat at a time.

So, dear Island writers, here is a challenge: Show us the marine glue. I loved reading about Skippy Lane. Now how about a story on Captain Henry Petersen, Captain Harry Naverson, Captain Bud Hall or Captain

Ted Charles (also a big-time jazz musician)? Tell us about Bill Wolfe or "Smiley," who with lots of sweat, greased skids, dead men, cables, pulleys and creative ingenuity, did the impossible; they crammed 100 dry-docked yachts into those tiny yards. Let's read more about Frank Bruno, John Vivolo and all those men and women designing and sewing sails at Ulmer's, Ratseys and Valentine's. Tell me about Adrien Smith, Baxter's and Geils & Forest.

There are a lot of stories out there, so let's cast out our nets, before they get away. I'd love to hear stories about the Starace brothers, Ray Vidal, Bill Fetzer, John Barron, Leo Kean, Burt Johnson, Bryce Kirk or the Kretzer family. Wouldn't that make great reading? How about starting with the La Blanc brothers—spar makers who could take a freshly cut Sitka spruce and, throughout a cold winter, adze, hollow, plane and join, crafting a 90-foot mast ready to be rigged and stepped.

There is a colorful untapped source of nautical history on this tiny island. I hope you can pull off the tarps and show us the bright work. Sail on.

Gerald Clancy

Sympathetic Former Islander

To the Editor:

I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to the Rodstrom family on the passing of Robert Rodstrom (see January/February *Current*). I have fond memories of their home on Horton Street near the water.

I also want to say that I enjoy *The Island Current* even more now that I live in Delaware.

Dorothy Bartels Urban



Photos by MATTHEW MURPHY
Islanders are frustrated by the snarled traffic, double-parked cars and blocked intersections created by parents during drop-off and dismissal from P.S. 175.

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ART FOR THE HEART



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The PTA of P.S. 175 held their first art auction fundraiser "Art for the Heart" on Feb. 5, 2005, at the Morris Yacht Club on City Island. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for an arts program at P.S.175. There was a silent auction of goods and services, originals and prints of fine artworks presented by Ross Galleries and original works by students of P.S. 175 (top left photo). Honoree, Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner (bottom photo), accepted an award as an outstanding local artist and for "making our Island more beautiful from end to end" from Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrión, Jr., and auction organizer Lisa Rodrigues. The beautiful brass, Island-shaped award was designed and created by John Williams. Bidding was lively (top right photo), under the expert direction of the professional auctioneer. The auction committee (middle photo, l. to r.) Nancy Fontana, John Williams, Christine Williams, Eva Randazzo, Lisa Rodrigues and Liza DiMartini (not pictured) organized a successful event which started with hor d'oeuvres and a light buffet meal and ended with dancing and goody bags for all. No one went home disappointed.

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A Warm Tribute To Sister James Patrick

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Family, friends and former students of Sister James Patrick gathered on Jan. 30, 2005, at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle to honor her 19 years of dedicated service to St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. Shown above at the "Sunday Dinner with Sister James Patrick" are (top photo, l. to r.) Father Gus Badgley, Sister James, Liz Montalbano, Kate Green and Maureen Lizarazo. Margie McNulty (bottom photo), on behalf of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, presented Sister with a plaque acknowledging her achievements.



Nearly 150 family members, friends and former students of Sister James Patrick came together at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle on Jan. 30, 2005, to thank her for 19 years of dedicated service to St. Mary's of the Sea School.

The "Sunday Dinner with Sister James Patrick," as the occasion was called, was hosted by Maureen Lizarazo, Liz Montalbano and Kate Green, whose children have attended or are still at St. Mary's.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Lizarazo spoke of Sister's personal integrity, her strong character and her kindness and called her a "guiding force, not just for the children, but for all of us on City Island." She said that Sister was always available to those who needed her and helped fulfill the dreams that parents had for their children.

Father Gus Badgley also spoke of Sister James Patrick's beautiful attributes and the depth of love and concern she had for her students and their families. He described her as "a woman with a heart of gold, a beautiful gift God gave to us and to City Island—a wonderful Sister of St. Dominic."

Sister James Patrick Kavanagh was raised in the Bronx and worked for Mutual of New York before entering the Sisters of St. Dominic (Blauvelt Dominicans). She was a missionary in Jamaica, West Indies, and also taught at several schools statewide before becoming principal of St. Mary's in 1985. She recently took the position of Assistant Superintendent for Staff Development and Federally Funded Programs at the archdiocesan offices on First Avenue in Manhattan. She had previously served on the Principals Review Board for Prospective New Principals and the Teachers Institute Committee, and she was the Bronx representative for CSAANY (Catholic School Administrators Association of New York).

Margie McNulty, on behalf of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, presented Sister with a plaque acknowledging her achievements and for the outstanding contributions she has made in educating the children of St. Mary's. "The City Island businesses, resi-

dents, parents and students thank you for your resolve and persistence to establish a quality education for every one of your students," Ms. McNulty said.

Liz Montalbano then gave Sister a memory book, which contains anecdotes, stories, well wishes and photographs of her life on City Island. Mrs. Montalbano commented that she had shared many good times and the milestones of her children with Sister James, "but it is the day you go into her office, close the door and say 'I have a problem' that you know you have a friend. When you leave, the problem isn't quite so big because she is right there with you. That is why I am here today and I suspect some other people are too."

Jacqueline Kyle Kall, in the name of the Garden Club, Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce, presented Sister with a dozen American Beauty roses and said, "A rose is a rose, is a rose, is a rose . . . and may you keep blooming forever."

An emotional Sister James Patrick thanked everyone for attending and said that all she did was to simply use the talents that God had given her and did what He wanted her to do for the students and their parents.

Many of the guests expressed the same sentiments about her. She was more than a principal; she was a very good friend. She was always there for you in good times, but also to see you through any problems that came up. Her door was always open.

Rosetta Woods, who was a member of the Parents Association at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School for many years, said that she felt as if she was at a grand family reunion. So many people from the past were all together again.

"Whether you were part of the old regime or one of Sister's new colleagues, you are part of her family, and it was great to see so many people share Sister's happiness as she moves on to a new plateau in her life," Mrs. Woods told *The Current*.

The energetic crowd danced non-stop to Irish music and old-fashioned rock and roll provided by the band Company "G." The joyful event was certainly a fitting tribute to Sister's long career on City Island.

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CITY ISLAND TROLLEY

Riders may catch a free trolley ride on Friday, March 4, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Pelham Bay Station, and continuing throughout the evening, with stops all along the way, until the last stop at Pelham Bay at 10:20 p.m.

The trolley's first stop will be at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, where riders may get off to take the museum tour, which lasts about 45 minutes, with an admission charge of \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students (children under 12 are free). The trolley will then go on to City Island, where it will stop at various locations where visitors will have an opportunity to shop or dine.

Pelham Bay Station #6 Trains Ba5 Ba 12 Ba14 Ba 29 QBa1	Bartow Pell + Mansion Museum	City Island Ave Seashore Restaurant	City Island Ave Kathlyn Moses & Focal Point Galleries (Bay St to Fordham St)	City Island Ave Starving Artist Café & Gallery (Carroll St to Schofield St)	City Island Ave Sammy's Fish Box (Rochelle St)	City Island Ave Grace Church (Pilot St)	City Island Ave Quality Antique Furniture & Main Street Antiques (Carroll St to Hawkins St)	City Island Ave Midtown Antiques (Fordham to Bay St)	City Island Ave Le Refuge at Samuel Pell House
5:30 pm	5:40 pm	5:50 pm	5:55 pm	5:57 pm	6:00 pm	6:05 pm	6:07pm	6:10 pm	6:15 pm
6:25 pm	6:35 pm	6:45 pm	6:50 pm	6:52 pm	6:55 pm	7:00 pm	7:02 pm	7:05 pm	7:10 pm
7:20 pm*	7:45 pm	7:55 pm	8:00 pm	8:02 pm	8:05 pm	8:10 pm	8:12 pm	8:15pm	8:20 pm
8:30 pm	8:40 pm	8:50 pm	8:55 pm	8:57 pm	9:00 pm	9:05 pm	9:07 pm	9:10 pm	9:15 pm
9:25 pm	9:35 pm**	9:45 pm	9:50 pm	9:52 pm	9:55 pm	10:00 pm	10:02 pm	10:05pm	10:10 pm
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The trolley is provided through the generous support of Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr and the Bronx Tourism Council. For more information, call the City Island Chamber of Commerce at 718-885-9100 or visits the Web site www.cityislandchamber.com.



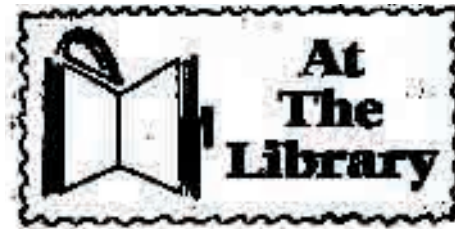
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** at 327 City Island Avenue will celebrate its third anniversary throughout the month of March with an exhibition of paintings by Tim and Kathy Moses. An opening reception will take place on Friday, March 11, from 7 to 10 p.m.

As we get ready for spring, **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) packs March with a menu full of music and art guaranteed to make everyone forget the winter blues. The month opens with the sold-out two shows of the Beatles' tribute band, Rubber Soul, on Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. All who have reservations are encouraged to confirm them and to arrive on time for the show; seats can be held only 15 minutes past the start of the performance. The following Saturday, March 12, there will be both music and art on the menu. A mother and daughter—Amy Silberkleit and Isis Shiffer—bring their art to the café/gallery with a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Later

that Saturday, at 8 p.m., jazz guitarist Lou Volpe takes the stage. Sunday, March 20, the City Island Jazz Trio brings its music to the stage from 3 to 5 p.m. Returning on Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m. is Works in Progress, a rock-folk trio featuring City Islander Lucille Rivin. Always on the menu at Starving Artist are the handmade jewelry creations by Elliott Glick, fine art and craft by various artists, and coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso and treats, including "Jen's Sweets," the pastries that are works of art.

The **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, has gone back to its roots. In 1974, Focal Point opened as a gallery, and photographer Ron Turner did portraits for the residents, as well as restorations from their old pictures. Over the years, the gallery expanded into a gift shop selling jewelry and crafts. Ron has donated all the showcases to the City Island Historical Society and has gone back to being a gallery exhibiting fine art with a new exhibition each month. He is available to photograph weddings, confirmations, baptisms, baby showers, banquets, modeling portfolios, portraits, bar mitzvahs and so on. Framing and restoration work from old pictures are also being done. Stop by the gallery to see the new look and pick up a brochure of the photographic work that is available. Call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403 for information.



Genealogy Program: On Monday, March 14, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., this new program will be given by City Island resident Joanne E. Brogan. Want to know how to start looking for your family history? Come join Ms. Brogan, who will teach you how to find your family roots. Children who are currently working on their family history project are welcome. For all ages.

Arts and Crafts

St. Patrick Arts and Crafts: Wednesday, March 9, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 12.

Millennium Babies will meet on Thursday, March 10, at 1 p.m. at the library for stories and songs.

Bilingual Picture Book Program: Thursday, March 10, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 8.

Picture Book Program: Thursdays, March 3, 17, 24 and 30. Ages 4 to 11.

The City Island Library now has Spanish books for adults and children. For information about any of these programs, call 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
110 Ditmars Street	10/29/04	\$306,000	1 Family
100 Bay Street	12/7/04	\$499,900	1 Family
30 Earley Street	12/7/04	\$625,000	1 Family
169 Tier Street	12/23/04	\$343,790	1 Family

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City Islander Lucille Rivin and her trio, Works in Progress, will be playing at Starving Artist Café and Gallery on March 26.

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BUSY CUB SCOUTS!



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

In January 2005, the City Island Cub Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby competition, where scouts create their own race cars starting from the same chassis. It was an exciting competition open to all the different Cub Scout levels. The winners among the Tiger Cubs were (above, l. to r.) Jack Green, Jonathan Nagy and Kresnick Lajqi.



Proudly displaying their Pinewood Derby trophies are the Bear Cub winners Cian Byrnes, Ian Kelly and Nicholas Bellocchio.



The happy Wolf Cub winners were John Branley and Michael O'Connor.



There were two competitions among the Webelos scouts. In the first group the winners were (top photo) Kevin Decuffa, Kyle Kreig, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Hajqi Lajqi. In the second group, Kevin Whalen, Nicholas Ruggiero, Daniel Masterson and Mitchell Santiago show off their cars and trophies.

COMMUNITY CENTER FLOOR FUND-RAISER

By CELESTE ZAYAS

Various fund-raising efforts will be conducted over the next several months for the purpose of installing a new floor in the main room of the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street. In recent years the floor has deteriorated to the extent that it has become hazardous and must therefore be replaced.

Because the Community Center has limited financial resources, it was decided to launch a major campaign to solicit donations from the community. Spearheaded by Jeri Stark and Brenda Prohaska, the effort until



recently relied solely on word of mouth, but the Center is now turning directly to the community it serves for help.

Individuals and groups can donate money for this worthy cause in a variety of ways. Direct donations, such as a check payable to City Island Community Center/Floor Fund, which is tax deductible, can be mailed to the Community Center, P.O. Box 135, or it can be picked up if you call Jeri at 914-760-3934 or Brenda at 718-885-9040. Donation cans will also be placed in various business locations to collect loose change.

On April 1 the "Make a Plate" fundraiser will be held at the Community Center, along with a bake sale and raffle drawing. For a nominal fee per plate, children of all ages can create a drawing that will be converted into a functional plate to be picked up on May 1 just in time for Mother's Day. The plate pick-up will coincide with another source of funds for the Center floor—a com-

Continued on page 9



In December 2004 the City Island Cub Scouts participated in their annual sing-along for the residents of Pilot Cove Manor.

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

MARCH

Fri., March 4, **Free Trolley** beginning at 5:30 p.m., from Pelham Bay Park to Bartow-Pell Mansion and along City Island Avenue and back (see schedule this issue).

Tues., March 15, Wed., March 16, and Fri., March 18, **Pre-Registration for Grades Pre-K through 7**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street (see *School News*).

Thurs., March 17, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Preston High School, 2780 Schurz Avenue, Bronx.

Sat., March 19, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Sat., March 26, **Easter Pageant**, 1 to 3 p.m., Hawkins Park on City Island Avenue, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Tues., March 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., March 31, and Fri., April 1, **Kinder-garten Registration**, 9 to 11 a.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue (see *School News*).

Chapter 318 AARP

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, March 8. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

We all had a great time on our overnight trip to the Hilton in Atlantic City. Our next trip is to Ace in the Hole in Patterson, New Jersey, on Thursday, April 14. Cocktail hour is included and luncheon is served family style. We will see the "Red Hot Mommies."

In May we are going to Mount Haven, Pennsylvania, for Polkafest. For information, please attend one of our meetings or call Florence Bonicoro at 718-885-1844 or Marie Tirelli at 914-576-6223.

Remember, we have blood pressure readings taken the first Wednesday of each month by Beslyn Bentham. We have a notary public available before and after each meeting for all members in good standing. Please see Margaret Iacone.

Have a Happy Easter!

Marie Tirelli

Chapter 3303 AARP

The New York State director has informed the members of the Minneford Chapter 3303 that AARP endorses key drug importation legislation to help seniors receive safe prescription drugs that cost less. AARP has been leading the fight to legalize the safe importation of prescription drugs from around the world, starting with Canada. Senators Byron Dorgan and Olympia Snowe are expected to reintroduce their bipartisan bill to do just that.

AARP will work aggressively for that bill's passage, in an effort to secure fair drug prices for seniors and all Americans. Although this is not a complete solution to the problem of high drug costs, it will put downward pressure on prices and enable consumers to secure additional savings. Without this bill, pharmaceutical companies will continue to inflate the cost of their products and force consumers to pay crippling prices for the medication they need. The members were asked to please help AARP in this historic effort.

On Thursday, March 10, the chapter will sponsor a St. Joseph and St. Patrick Festival at the Westbury Music Fair for a spectacular show starring the famous Andy Cooney Show and the equally famous Ray

Monte, son of the legendary Lou Monte, plus the comedy team of Mac & O. After the show, we will have a complete sit-down dinner at the beautiful Koenig's Restaurant in Floral Park, Long Island. It promises to be a lovely and enjoyable day. Departure time is 12 noon.

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

Lucy Puglia

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, "your shul by the sea" a welcoming Jewish renewal congregation, conducts sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue, (between Beach and Bowne Streets).

The ninth annual Shabbat Across America: Friday, March 4. Rabbi Shohama will lead the special Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 p.m. for this event. A teaching sabbath dinner following services will cost \$18 for adults and \$6 for each child. R.S.V.P. (for dinner) by Wednesday, March 2. Please call Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820 or Bob Berent at 718-885-3098.

The free City Island "seaside" trolley can bring you to the temple in time for services if you catch it at Pelham Bay Station at 5:30 or 6:25 p.m. or northbound at 7 p.m. from Grace Church (at Pilot Street).

Our Torah study group continues each Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Rabbinical students Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper will alternate leading the group on March 5 and 19. (Daniel will start his group with a short spirituality service.)

The TBE Film Festival, scheduled for Sunday, March 6, will continue with the intriguing movie called "A Price Above Rubies" starring Renée Zellweger. Call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 for more information.

Purim will be celebrated on Sunday, March 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. with a costume party and children's play. Also expect face painting, refreshments, singing and dancing.

Yoga-Tai Chi classes, led by Marc Kaplan, continue on Tuesdays in March (from 6 to 7 p.m.) His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

A SHOHAM (Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind) class led by Rabbi Wiener will begin on Monday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m.. These classes offer a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the priests of biblical Israel. (Free for members; \$15 per class for non-members.)

Save the date and come celebrate our 71st anniversary at our anniversary dinner-dance at The City Island Yacht Club on Saturday, April 16. We will be honoring our new State Senator, Jeffrey D. Klein that evening. Call Mort Ellis at 718-885-2820 for more information.

"Learn to Read Hebrew by Passover" classes will be conducted by Mort Ellis on Wednesdays in March (March 2 through April 6) at 7:30 p.m. Admission and materials are free (thanks to NJOP). Call 718-885-2820.

On the second night of Passover, Sunday April 24, we will conducting our annual seder at 6:30 p.m. with a fully

kosher, congenial and traditional Passover dinner. The seder will be conducted primarily in English. (Adults, \$36; Children \$12.) Please RSVP at 718-885-3098.

Bob Berent

City Island Nautical Museum

Our evening devoted to stories about Skippy Lane last year was such a success that we have decided to set up more evenings in which Island residents may come and hear stories about City Island's past, told by City Island residents who remember the good old days. We are planning a series of these "oral histories," and anyone with suggestions for people to speak are encouraged to give them to us; please call 718-885-0507.

We will be having our School and Community Rooms painted; people who would like to volunteer to help uninstall and reinstall exhibits are invited to call Tom Nye at 718-885-1700. Many hands make light work!

Our membership drive has resulted in many renewals. If you've forgotten, or if you would like to join for the first time, please send a check for \$20 (individual), \$25 (family), or \$10 (senior or junior) to City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, City Island, NY 10464.

Don't forget to visit our Web site (www.cityislandmuseum.org) or come visit us on a Sunday afternoon between 1 and 5 p.m.

Barbara Dolensek

Trinity United Methodist Church

Winter is almost over and spring is on the horizon. With spring we have the celebration of Christ's life and his enduring love for us.

This year our Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, March 24, at 8 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with a sunrise service for all Christians at the Pelham Cemetery at 6 a.m. The cemetery is located on King Avenue on City Island. Our lay leader, George Cavalieri will lead us in this celebration.

Trinity will also hold its regular service at 10 a.m. on Easter. All are welcome to join.

Our Sunday school is also still in session and all children are welcome.

George Cavalieri will continue to hold his Bible Study course throughout the period of Lent. All are welcome to participate.

Anne Sill

City Island Theater Group

Fresh off the heels of CITG's successful first show of our 2005 season, we head full swing into our next exciting production: Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret." Set in 1930s Berlin, the American Clifford Bradshaw find himself entranced by the seedy world of the Kit Kat Club. It is there he encounters the mesmerizing Sally Bowles and the eccentric Emcee, among many others at the nightclub.

This cutting-edge, toe-tapping musical will highlight the talents of both local and off-Island actors. They will be under the keen direction of Nicholas Sala and the musical director will be the accomplished Dr. Elizabeth Rauh. The incomparable Cori-Ann Roublick will handle choreography.

Show dates are: Friday, April 22, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 23, at 8 p.m., Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m.; Friday, April 29, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 30, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and Bronx Cultural Card Members. Call 718-884-3066 to reserve tickets now! Don't miss your chance to see what promises to be a brilliant, intoxicating theatrical experience!

Susan Rauh

Holiday Services

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church
City Island Avenue near the Bridge
March 19, Confessions: 4:30 to 5 p.m.
March 19, Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.
March 20, Palm Sunday Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

March 24, 25, 26, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 8 a.m. Tenebrae, psalms and readings. No morning mass.

March 24, Holy Thursday: Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Procession to the Repository; adoration to 10 p.m.

March 25, Good Friday: Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 7:30 p.m.

March 26, Holy Saturday: 8 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil.

March 27, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
March 20, Palm Sunday: 10 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist.

March 24, Maundy (Holy) Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

March 25, Good Friday: Ecumenical Service (with Trinity Methodist) at Grace. Preacher will be Reverend Susan Chadwick. 7:30 p.m.

March 26, Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism, 7:30 p.m.

March 27, Easter Sunday: 10 a.m. The Holy Eucharist.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street
March 24, Maundy Thursday: 8 p.m. Service.

March 25, Good Friday: 7:30 p.m. Joint community service with Grace Episcopal Church at Grace Church.

March 27, Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6 a.m. Traditional Easter Service, 10 a.m.

Note: Passover services at Temple Beth-El will be listed in the April issue.

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

Announcements

“MAKE A PLATE” FUNDRAISER:

On Friday, April 1, from 3 to 5 p.m., children can create a decorated plate at the Community Center. There will also be a bake sale and raffle drawing. Help us raise money for a new Community Center floor! Tickets for plates can be purchased in advance at the Focal Point Gallery. Call 718-885-1145 and leave message for tickets or more information.

Beginner Knitting Classes for ages 8 and up! Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information

Ongoing Events

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202.

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

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

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

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

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

Irish Dance: Call Deirdre OMara at (201) 947-8535

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Gron-dahl at 718-309-8041.

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

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

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

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

Floor Fundraiser

Continued from page 7

munity tag sale to be held at the Community Center. Tables to sell your wares, knick knacks and bric-a-brac can be reserved for \$10 per table by leaving a message at 718-885-1145.

A raffle coordinated by Danielle Calbo will offer 20 donated prizes. Tickets will be sold at the Make a Plate event and the tag sale, and drawings will be held at the City Island Street Fair on June 11. Marcy Brennan will host a dog show at the Street Fair and this will also raise funds for the floor. For more information, call 718-885-0551.

All funds raised will be charted on poster-board-size barometers, which are now on display at Chase Manhattan bank, City Island Pharmacy and the Community Center. As of press time, \$3,000 has been raised, but an additional \$3,600 is needed for the new floor to become a reality.

Until the total amount of \$6,600 can be raised, Jay Howard has leveled the crumbling floor as a temporary fix and given it a fresh coat of paint, and Island artist Mark Whitcombe has adorned it with an original mural (see photo). The names of all contributors to the Floor Fund will be inscribed on an artistic rendering designed by Laury Hopkins that will be permanently displayed in the Community Center.

As a way to remember her late mother, Islander Yvette Clements felt that a substantial donation in her mother’s name would be a fitting tribute to a woman who loved and worked closely with children all her life.

The Teen Center, Millennium Moms, Children’s Art & Playgroup, Chess Club and Civic Association all call the Center home. And art, aerobics, yoga, dance, martial arts and photography classes are held there on a regular basis as well. If everyone who uses and cares about the Center is willing to pitch in and have a good time doing so, the floor fund-raiser should be a great success.

Legion News

Tempus fugit. Here we are just a few days from the end of February. For you Pacific veterans, February 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. It was one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, with 6,000 dead and 18,000 wounded on our side; 21,000 Japanese were killed or committed suicide. I was surprised and perplexed that the February 2005 issue of our illustrious American Legion Magazine gave less than a page coverage of the 22 days of fighting while featuring a full page color ad of some no-iron polyester slacks. If you feel as I do, send a letter to The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or Magazine@ Legion.org.

By the time the *Island Current’s* March edition hits the street, the Sons of the American Legion pig’s-knuckle party will be history. Heed Dr. Sander’s advice and enjoy the fare and libation with moderation.

I recently talked with my friend Colonel Floyd McRae, who soldiered with me during the big deuce. The colonel had come across an article in the New York Times relating to the brouhaha over the firing of the cannon at the Harlem Yacht Club and wrote letters to both the Times and the Current in support of the club. Since a prominent local business-

person also approached me, I brought the subject up at a meeting but the matter, to the best of my knowledge, died a slow death. Unfortunately, we did not expedite a timely response.

I received information on three people on active duty. Mary Sadler, granddaughter of Captain Ed and Laura Sadler, recently completed basic training in Aberdeen, Maryland, and is awaiting assignment for additional schooling.

Michelle Healy, granddaughter of Ethel Lott, just completed patrol with the Coast Guard in Alaska. She said the seas were as high as 18 feet, and she came close to slipping off the deck. Michelle is a Gunner’s Mate Second Class and already has earned two commendations.

Matthew Murphy has been activated in the Coast Guard. Matt called me and said he misses his family and is looking forward to seeing them soon. Matt’s wife is a major in the Army Reserve, but not on active duty. Matt was on of my flag crew. Anyone interested in taking up the slack, call me on ext. 2087.

I’ve heard through the Island grapevine that Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Goonan is back. Although rumors abound that Joe was wounded in Washington, D.C., I’ve found this not to be true. Joe was hit by a youngster on a tricycle and suffered a broken arm.

Sunday, March 13, will be the annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner. A large crowd is anticipated so there will be two sittings, 2 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. The price for this gastronomical extravaganza will be \$17. The fare will of course be corned beef and cabbage.

Meetings for the month of March: Regular meetings: Monday, March 7 and 20; Executive Board: Monday, March 14.

Just 60 years ago, on March 7, the U.S. forces, 9th Armored Division, captured the Ludendorff Bridge, aka the Remagen Bridge. Among the first to make their way across the bridge, prior to its collapse was comrade Joe DeLuca, who fought his way from Omaha Beach earning a Purple Heart, Silver and Bronze Stars.

In parting, here’s a tidbit for you WWII buffs. SNAFU is a popular American acronym that stands for “Situation Normal, All Fouled Up.”

Until next month, at ease.

Russell Schaller

Cub Scout Pack 211 News

Our young men have been busy enjoying their annual events. In December, along with the Girl Scouts, the boys performed their annual sing-along for the Pilot Cove residents.

In January the boys had their annual Pinewood Derby competition. The competition was tough and exciting, and we had many winners.

Tiger’s trophy winners: First place, Kresnick Lajqi; second place, Jack Green; third place, Jonathan Nagy.

Wolf trophy winners: First place, Michael O’Connor; second place, John Branley.

Bear trophy winners: First place, Ian Kelly; second place, Nicholas Bellocchio; third place, Cian Byrnes.

Webelos I winners: First place, Kevin Decuffa; second place, Kyle Kreig; third place, Ryan Fitzpatrick; fourth place, Hajqi Lajqi.

Webelos II winners: First place, Mitchell Santiago; second place, Daniel Master-son; third place, Nicholas Ruggiero; fourth place, Kevin Whalen.

Traditionally, the first Sunday in February is National Scout Sunday. The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts all participated in the services at the 10 a.m. mass, which went beautifully. The mass was attended by many and appreciated by all.

Congratulations to Boy Scouts for winning their Klondike competition.

Angelo Bellocchio
Cub Master

Little League News

Spring is almost here and we are ready for baseball. We have a newly elected executive board that has been working diligently on plans for our new season. The following positions are held by: Bob Whelan as president, Larry Saulnier as vice president, George Spencer as treasurer, Liz Lyons as secretary, Chris Demarco as corresponding secretary; Tom Vivolo and Ed Cullen share the information officer role.

The winter training program has already kicked off at St. Mary’s gym, and all of our registrants may participate. The players are developing their skills under the guidance of our volunteers. We work on the fundamentals of pitching, hitting, catching and sliding. We would like to thank Father Michael and Mrs. Dennehy for letting us use their facility.

We held our final registration for the 2005 season on Feb. 5, 2005. If anyone is interested in playing baseball with the City Island Little League, you must act soon. Children ages 7 through 9 (Minor League), 10 through 12 (Major League) and 13 and 14 (Junior League) must be registered by March 7, 2005, or they will be ineligible to play during the 2005 season. Children ages 6 and under can join us at any time, but if you are interested please contact us as soon as possible, by e-mail at cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com or by telephone at 718-885-3875.

We would like to thank the following team sponsors for their continuous support; New Yorker Contractors, JP’S Restaurant, Sammy’s Fish Box, American Legion Post #156, Ruggiero & Sons Funeral Home, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Jack’s Bait & Tackle and the IGA. We would also like to thank the following t-shirt sponsors; the City Island Diner, the City Island Medical Group, DJ Ray, O’Sullivan Travel, Sea Food City, and the City Island Pharmacy. If any Island business would like to become a t-shirt sponsor or a league booster, we can be contacted at 718-885-3875. Please leave a message.

We are looking forward to another exciting season. We offer an outstanding athletic program that teaches children not only the fundamentals of baseball but also the values of teamwork, respect and self-confidence. So come out and enjoy a game or become a volunteer. See you at the field.

Larry Saulnier



Grace Episcopal Church

Please join us for any—or all—of the following Holy Week and Easter services this year. Our doors are open, and you are most warmly welcomed. For more information, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or e-mail RevPPA@gracecityisland.dioceseny.org.

Palm Sunday, March 20: The Liturgy of the Palms and The Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, March 24: The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25: Ecumenical Service (with Trinity Methodist) at Grace, 7:30 p.m.. Our preacher will be the Reverend Susan Chadwick, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church.

Holy Saturday, March 26: The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27: The Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

In addition, the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) is especially recommended during Lent and Holy Week and may be scheduled by calling Mother Patty at the above number.

Joe Nixon

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Ballroom Dancing

Ballroom-dancing movies were defined in the 1930s by the incomparable team of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Any fan of light-hearted romantic comedies who enjoys watching dancing, where partners actually have physical contact and demonstrate supremely graceful movements, would be happy to see any of the following films: *Flying Down to Rio* (1933), *The Gay Divorcee* (1934), *Top Hat* (1935), *Roberta* (1935), *Swing Time* (1936), *Follow the Fleet* (1936), *Shall We Dance* (1937), *Carefree* (1938) and *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* (1939).

But let's jump ahead half a century to 1993 with *Strictly Ballroom*, which begins as a sort of "mocumentary" and is about competitive ballroom dancing in Australia. This delightful film stars Paul Mercurio as Scott, a handsome and extremely talented dancer, who to the horror of his family is innovative as well. No one will dance with him because he doesn't follow the rules, except a newcomer to the dance studio, Fran (Tara Morice), an ugly duckling who predictably turns into a swan. There is a zaniness to this film, which is full of incredible costumes and characters.

Dance with Me (1998) belongs in the category of "sweet sleeper." When Rafael Infante (Puerto Rican singing star Chayanne) comes to Texas to visit his late mother's old boyfriend, John Burnett (Kris Kristofferson), he is given a job as a handyman at Burnett's dance studio and a place to live over his garage. Rafael is personable, and there is chemistry between him and Ruby

Sinclair (Vanessa L. Williams), a dancer who has a child by her former dance partner, Julian (Rick Valenzuela). The hilarious Joan Plowright (Mrs. Laurence Olivier) is on hand as Bea Johnson, a competitor in the senior division, who steals every scene she is in. And, of course, there is the requisite final sequence of the dance championships which are quite wonderful to behold.

There are two almost identical versions of the same delightful movie *Shall We Dance*, neither of which is a remake of the Astaire-Rogers film of the same name. The Japanese version was released in 1997 and the American one in 2004. The basic plot is the story of a bored businessman who commutes by train every night and sees a melancholy woman standing in the window of a dance studio. He works very hard and comes home faithfully to his wife and daughter, but his life seems joyless. He finally takes the plunge, gets off the train and signs up for dance lessons. When he starts getting home late and his demeanor changes, his wife becomes suspicious and hires a private detective to find out if he is having an affair. An enchanting subplot involves the detective, who is very kind and endearing and wants to help the wife. Although I enjoyed the Japanese version when it was first released, I was delightfully surprised by the charm of the American remake, which is truly a star vehicle. Richard Gere sets the perfect tone as the businessman, Jennifer Lopez is just right as the sad dance instructor and Susan Sarandon is terrific as the suspicious wife. Especially droll are Richard Jenkins and Omar Benson Miller as the detective and his assistant. Wearing a long-haired wig, Stanley Tucci steals every scene as a dancer who strives to be a Latin lover. The dancing is great fun, and the competitions are truly joyful.

The song "Shall We Dance" was made famous in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *The King and I* (1956). For those who did not grow up on movie musicals, the story of a widowed British teacher and her

son, who travel to the Far East to teach the children of the king of Siam, is a must-see. A classic scene shows Anna (Deborah Kerr) teaching the king (Yul Brynner) to dance to that song.

Another film that isn't about this month's theme per se but has the best ballroom dancing scene ever made is *The Fisher King* (1991). It stars Jeff Bridges as Jack, a has-been radio star, and Mercedes Ruehl as Anne, his video store-owning girlfriend. They befriend Parry, a disturbed and tragic man (Robin Williams), who is in love with Lydia, a meek and clumsy office worker (Amanda Plummer). The dance scene takes place when everyone in Grand Central Station suddenly breaks into a grand ballroom dance that is pure magic on the screen.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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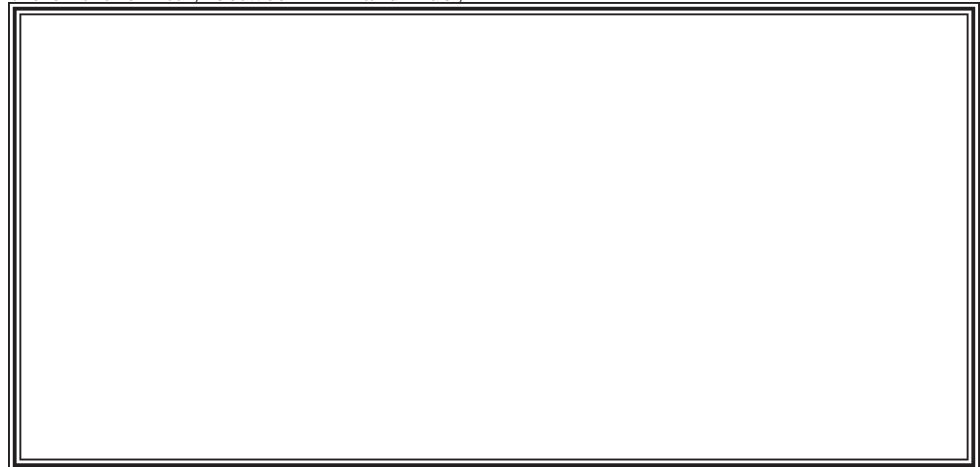
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St. Mary, Star of the Sea
Holy Week Schedule 2005

CONFESSIONS
 SATURDAY, March 19
 4:30 - 5:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY - March 20
 VIGIL MASS - SATURDAY, 5:15 P.M.
 SUNDAY - 8:00, 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon
 (Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

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

HOLY THURSDAY, March 24
 SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE
 LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
 Procession to Repository
 Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25
 COMMEMORATION OF THE
 PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS - 3:00 P.M.
 STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:30 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY, March 26
 SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL- 8:00 P.M.
 (Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27
 MASSES - 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 Noon



Public School 175

The kindergarten children are getting ready for the famous Leprechaun visit on St. Patrick's Day. Will he or won't he make another appearance and leave us a mess to clean up? The children are also busy studying their sight words, practicing writing skills and learning how to tell time by making an actual clock with moving hands. Finally, they are learning about the value of coins in math so that they too can become savvy shoppers.

The first-graders are learning about symmetry by creating both visual and tactile displays. They have also been practicing the idea of before and after, focusing on the events that happened before and after the terrible tsunami. They have effectively used their writing to demonstrate that they understand the concept.

For Grade 2 March is Mystery Month. Students are reading mysteries, and each is writing about his or her particular book. In math they are investigating the idea of equal groups of numbers in early multiplication. For St. Patrick's Day they will be making delicious Irish soda bread.

The third-graders are busy working on International Day reports and will also be learning and creating limericks for St. Patrick's Day.

Grade 4 is completing work on part two of the genealogy project. In math the students are learning about decimals and fractions, and they are reading about the American Revolution in social studies. A docent from the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is scheduled for a visit, which will be followed up by a class trip to learn how people lived during the 1800s.

The children in Grade 5 continue to work on perfecting their upcoming play, "Fiddler on the Roof." Look out, Broadway! In social studies they are learning about Mexico, our neighbor to the south. Finally, they are enjoying literature circles in which they read, write and have group discussions about books they are reading.

Grade 6 is studying ancient civilizations. At this time the focus is on the ancient Chinese and their contributions to humanity. In language arts the students are practicing persuasive writing and learning how to use flip books to make outlines.

The seventh-graders had a wonderful time on their trip to Greenkill, New York. This was their third and last time to visit, because next year they will be upperclassmen looking toward graduation and all the fun things that go along with that. In social studies class they are studying the U. S. Constitution.

Grade 8 had a wonderful time at their Friendship Dance. The students are now expanding their musical experience to include the blues, courtesy of Lincoln Center. In math they are learning about algebra and geometry. The focus in social studies is on completion of their exit projects and preparation for the social studies examination in June.

Kindergarten registration for City Island residents will take place on Thursday, March 31, from 9 to 11 a.m. for last names beginning A through L and on Friday, April 1, from 9 to 11 a.m. for last names beginning M through Z. Items needed for registration include: two proofs of address, proof of birth (passport, birth certificate or baptismal certificate), and up-to-date immunization records. Acceptable proofs of address would be a utility bill, a deed to a house, medical insurance cards, or letters from employer, social agency, community-based organization or a religious institution. A telephone bill or driver's license alone are not acceptable proofs of address.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

February was a month of many celebrations: Black History Month, Mardi Gras,



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Scout Master Edward Esposito is very proud of his scouts for what they have achieved in the past couple of years. On Feb. 5, Troop 211 won first place in the Klondike Derby. Troop 211 is shown: (l. to r.) first row: Liam Flynn, Joe Amorosa, John Broughtat, Dave Anderson, and Hart Deese. Middle row: scoutmaster Edward Esposito, Omar Garcia, John Devlin, Ryan Pena, David Mooney, and Alex Skokos. Back row: Peter Coyle, Sal Kulka, Chris Hennessy, Eddie Ciarletta, and Waldo Persteins.

Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Kindness Week, Catholic School's Week, Honors Assembly, and the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent.

March is here and we are once again preparing to take our ITBS standardized tests. These tests give a fair overview of the progress our students have made this year with special attention paid to math and language arts.

Pre-registration for grades Pre-K through 7 will take place on Tuesday, March 15, Wednesday, March 16, and Friday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Saturday, March 19, at 9 a.m. we will conduct a screening evaluation for any child who has been pre-registered. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, baptismal and sacramental certificates if applicable, immunization and health records, the most recent report card, any standardized testing results, and a \$50

non-refundable pre-registration fee with you on the day you come to pre-register. It is not necessary for you to bring the child on these days. It is only necessary that you bring the child to the screening evaluation on Saturday, March 19. You will be notified of your child's acceptance by telephone during the first week of April. School will be closed for the Easter recess for the weeks of March 21 and 28. If you have any questions, please call 718-885-1527 or stop in during the school day. You are most welcome!

As spring draws closer, several field trips are being planned: Medieval Times, a trip to our State Capitol in Albany and a baseball game with a tour of Yankee Stadium are among some of our upcoming events.

We wish you a very happy St. Patrick's Day as well as a blessed Easter! Hope to see many of you later this month.

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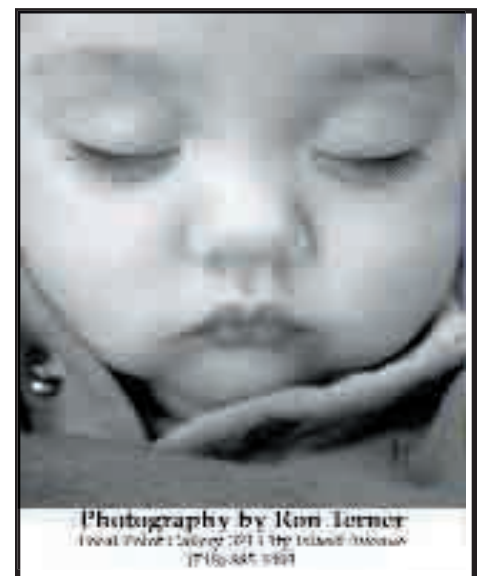
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TAX TIPS

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

Tax Time

As you file your 2004 individual federal income tax returns, keep in mind that a new federal tax law provides for taxpayers to choose to deduct itemized state and local sales taxes instead of state and local income taxes. You will not be allowed to deduct both, so it's one or the other, and it's your choice.

The election alternative was intended to benefit taxpayers who live in states that do not impose an income tax (such as Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming), but anyone can make the election. Here's a tip: Because most states (including New York) require taxpayers to add back state income tax deductions when calculating their state tax liability, it might actually be beneficial overall to take a lower state tax deduction for the sales tax allowance on your federal return and thus create a savings on your state income tax.

The law allows taxpayers to use IRS prepared tables as an alternative to saving receipts. The deductible table amounts will be based on "total available income" as well as exemptions. In addition to the table allowance amount, taxpayers will be able add sales taxes paid on large purchases for automobiles, motorcycles, motor homes, recreational vehicles, port

utility vehicles, trucks, vans, off-road vehicles, leased vehicles, boats, house boats, aircraft, home building materials and other such items allowed by regulation, but only up to the amounts paid at general sales tax rates.

Be careful, however, because sales taxes paid on any items used in a trade or business does not qualify for the elective calculation. Those must be deducted as an expense of that trade or business and not on Form 1040, Schedule A. Make note that receipts reflecting actual sales taxes on any additional "large purchase" amounts will be required.

"Total available income" includes your taxable income reflected on Form 1040, Line 37, plus any non-taxable income from sources such as tax-exempt interest, non-taxable combat pay, worker's compensation, the non-taxable portion of your social security and/or railroad retirement benefits, non-taxable IRA distributions and public assistance programs.

The new rules are complicated for those of you who are married and filing separately. If one spouse elects the new alternative deduction via the IRS provided tables method, the other must do so as well. Each spouse must use their own total available income. Good luck!

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.

Howard P. Hurley

Long-time City Islander Howard P. Hurley, 57, passed away at Jacobi Hospital on Jan. 22, 2005, after a long illness.

Howard was the youngest of three children of Edward and Margaret Hurley and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. As an adult, he worked at many of the boat-yards on City Island, and before he became ill, he worked at Rhodes Restaurant and at its successor Gallagher's.

Howard proudly served his country in Vietnam as a member of the United States Army and was a member of the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post.

He is survived by his brother, Roger Hurley of City Island, and his sister, Monica Romaine of Connecticut. A memorial Mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Feb. 12, 2005.

Eleanor O'Keefe Smith

Former resident, Eleanor M. (O'Keefe) Smith, died on Nov. 21, 2004, in Putnam Valley, New York. She was 82.

Mrs. Smith lived on City Island for many years. For the past 19 years, she resided in Putnam Valley and spent much of her time at the Putnam Valley Senior Center.

She was predeceased by her husband, Francis Smith, and two brothers, Joseph and Jeremiah "Buddy" O'Keefe.

She is survived by her sister, Marie Conway of Hershey, Pennsylvania; her children, Ellen Crosby of Yonkers, Stephen Smith of the Bronx, and Elizabeth Boscarino of Putnam Valley; her grandchildren John, Kenneth, Douglas, Gregory, Michael, Stephen,

Kevin, Jennifer, Christine and Robert; and seven great-grandchildren.

Interment was Dec. 4 following a mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.



Ruth Schmahl

Longtime Island resident and homeowner Ruth Schmahl passed away on Jan. 18, 2005, in New Jersey. She was 98.

Born in Canada in 1906, Mrs. Schmahl arrived here in 1926 with her husband Captain Fred Schmahl, to whom she was married for 66 years. She and her husband owned and operated gasoline barges off the east coast of City Island. Later they operated a 260-foot railroad barge situated by Big Tom's rock on the west side of the Island. After that, Captain Schmahl operated a series of fishing boats.

Their last home on City Island was on Buckley Street, where Ruth was famous for her 52 rose bushes.

Mrs. Schmahl is survived by her three children, Donald Schmahl of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Fay Jordaens of Netcong, New Jersey, and Lynne Connelly of Stanhope, New Jersey. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)
 Heights in feet above readings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are local times. For times on the table beginning with 1200, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. time (e.g., 1825 - 1200 = 6:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).
 P.M. = hours; M.M. = minutes.
 Tide chart by Tom Smith

MARCH 2005

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0156	7.9	0825	0.0	1424	6.9	2035	0.8	Tue 01
02 Wed	0244	7.5	0918	0.3	1517	6.5	2127	0.6	Wed 02
03 Thu	0337	7.5	1018	0.6	1617	6.3	2225	0.9	Thu 03
04 Fri	0439	7.3	1130	0.8	1730	6.1	2337	1.2	Fri 04
05 Sat	0552	7.2	1301	0.6	1909	6.3			Sat 05
06 Sun	0124	1.1	0728	7.3	1443	0.2	2035	6.8	Sun 06
07 Mon	0253	0.8	0832	7.8	1540	-0.3	2154	7.9	Mon 07
08 Tue	0355	-0.1	0933	8.0	1631	-0.7	2225	7.5	Tue 08
09 Wed	0449	-0.6	1040	8.2	1718	-1.0	2311	8.2	Wed 09
10 Thu	0538	-1.0	1134	8.3	1803	-1.1	2355	8.4	Thu 10
11 Fri	0628	-1.2	1220	8.2	1848	-1.0			Fri 11
12 Sat	0708	8.4	0712	-1.1	1905	7.9	1825	-0.7	Sat 12
13 Sun	0120	8.2	0758	-0.8	1949	7.5	2004	-0.9	Sun 13
14 Mon	0203	7.9	0845	-0.4	1998	7.0	2041	0.9	Mon 14
15 Tue	0248	7.5	0935	0.2	1929	6.6	2119	0.8	Tue 15
16 Wed	0341	7.1	1033	0.7	1631	6.3	2207	1.3	Wed 16
17 Thu	0448	6.8	1136	1.1	1739	6.1	2327	1.6	Thu 17
18 Fri	0502	6.7	1236	1.3	1843	6.2			Fri 18
19 Sat	0646	1.8	0707	6.7	1937	1.3	1941	6.4	Sat 19
20 Sun	0147	1.7	0809	6.9	1928	1.2	2032	6.7	Sun 20
21 Mon	0238	1.5	0853	7.0	1918	1.0	2117	7.0	Mon 21
22 Tue	0324	1.1	0935	7.2	1632	0.8	2159	7.2	Tue 22
23 Wed	0402	0.8	1012	7.8	1624	0.8	2228	7.4	Wed 23
24 Thu	0434	0.5	1039	7.4	1647	0.4	2244	7.8	Thu 24
25 Fri	0501	0.1	1056	7.4	1707	0.2	2302	7.8	Fri 25
26 Sat	0528	-0.2	1121	7.5	1738	0.0	2331	8.0	Sat 26
27 Sun	0601	-0.3	1158	7.5	1807	0.0			Sun 27
28 Mon	0607	8.2	0839	-0.4	1294	7.4	1843	8.0	Mon 28
29 Tue	0647	8.3	0721	-0.8	1318	7.2	1929	0.2	Tue 29
30 Wed	0133	8.2	0808	0.0	1407	7.0	2016	0.8	Wed 30
31 Thu	0228	7.9	0904	0.4	1503	6.7	2111	0.9	Thu 31

APRIL 2005

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	MM	FEET	
01 Fri	0829	7.6	1012	0.7	1609	6.4	2216	1.3	Fri 01
02 Sat	0428	7.2	1200	0.9	1741	6.4			Sat 02
ALL TIMES ARE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, APRIL 3									
03 Sun	0101	1.4	0700	7.1	1424	0.6	2021	6.8	Sun 03
04 Mon	0243	1.0	0844	7.3	1527	0.5	2128	7.3	Mon 04
05 Tue	0349	0.3	0950	7.8	1621	-0.2	2219	7.8	Tue 05
06 Wed	0445	-0.3	1044	7.9	1710	-0.5	2306	8.2	Wed 06
07 Thu	0535	-0.8	1133	8.0	1758	-0.7	2351	8.4	Thu 07
08 Fri	0623	-1.1	1218	8.0	1838	-0.7			Fri 08
09 Sat	0732	8.5	0708	-1.1	1901	7.9	1918	-0.5	Sat 09



Photo by TOM MCDONNELL

This harbor seal was spotted at 11 p.m. on Jan. 16, 2005, on the breakwater at South Minnecord Yacht Club, by Islander Bill Hraska.

Seals and Stuff

In response to last month's column, Maureen was kind enough to pass along the photographs that Tom took of a seal on the breakwater at Minnecord's that you see here. We at *The Current* owe them thanks for that.

The seal in the photos is a harbor seal, one of a number of pinnipeds that have been making a steady comeback in Long Island Sound during the last 20 or 30 years. A pinniped is an aquatic mammal with four

flippers that have evolved from limbs. It is carnivorous, feeding mostly on fish, but also on squid and assorted crustaceans. Other pinnipeds to be found in the Sound include the harp, hooded, ringed and gray seals, but none more numerous than the harbor seal.

Like its cousins, the harbor seal migrates south for the winter, usually arriving in the Sound around Thanksgiving. By May, most have returned to their northern breeding grounds, which include the coasts of Canada and Greenland. The historical record points to seals in our area as far back as 1670, which stands to reason since their pelts were highly prized by many of North America's first traders.

In fact, the harbor seal and its brethren were hunted right up through the 1960s. It wasn't until the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 that seal hunting was made illegal in this country. Their rising population can probably be connected back to that act, although Tom Andersen might beg to differ. Mr. Andersen's book, "This Fine Piece of Water: An Environmental History of Long Island Sound", suggests that cleaning up Long Island Sound was a key factor for the resurgence of all sorts of marine wildlife throughout the area.

Be all that as it may, there is still time for harbor seal spotting in our area. Wherever there are rocks (and now docks!) large enough and out of the way enough, there may be seals. They have been known to haul-out somewhat regularly onto the rocks of Rat Island and Hart Island; and if we're lucky, maybe some day City Island.

Some of the first spring blooms to be on the look out for are crocuses, daffodils and tulips. Budding forsythia and lilac shrubs have already been accounted for. Look for the robin redbreast too, that age-old harbinger of warm weather to come. As the robin arrives, the waterfowl that have been rafting round and round our island this winter get ready to depart. Maura and Paul of Schofield Street can even tell you which week they leave.

As usual, we welcome your feedback and invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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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.

Let's hear it for Mike Rauh, who was featured in the Winter 2005 issue of "New York Runner" magazine. Mike was among several marathon "streakers" who were recognized for completing 20 or more New York City marathons. In the accompanying group photo, Mike wore the t-shirt from his first New York City Marathon in 1978.

Congratulations to Jean-Pierre and Luciana DeGrazia on their marriage on Feb. 2 in California. Jean-Pierre is the son of Lina from the Lina Petite Salon on City Island Avenue. The happy couple will reside in Long Beach, California. Lina will cross the country this March to celebrate their happy marriage and also to celebrate her granddaughter Sofia's first birthday. Lots of love from Mom, Zia Lolá and Jonathan.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the Current's theater critic, Reynolds Street resident Teresa Teto, who is recuperating after knee surgery. Teresa is showing off her scar and flirting with all the therapists and doctors at Sound Shore. Get well soon!

It's a girl! Welcome to Winter Street's newest addition, Evita Esposito, born Jan.

25. Proud parents are Edward and Lena Esposito Jr. and thrilled grandparents are Eddie and Carol Esposito. Happy aunts are Tracy and Kim.

Happy first birthday on March 28 to Devon Zapata from the Cepek and Carmody families. Proud great-grandma is Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody.

Best wishes for continued success to Margaret (Puco) Pasquino on the opening of her new business, Me Me's Bridal Salon in Larchmont. Buona fortuna from your friends on City Island!

Happy 15th birthday on March 8 to Marine Street's Christopher Butterworth.

Birthday greetings to Joseph Nelson, who turns seven on March 10.

Happy St. Patrick's Day birthday to "Jules" McGuire.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Scouse and Anne McIntyre, who will celebrate their anniversary on March 28.

Happy birthday to Joe Nelson on March 28.

Happy birthday on March 31 to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, with love from your family and friends.

Happy anniversary wishes go out to Bay Street's Connie and Hy Cantor.

Congratulations to John and Jeannine (Mazzella) Cito on the birth of their son Nicholas John on Jan. 19, 2005. Proud grandparents are Dolores and Tony Mazzella of City Island and John and Annmarie Cito of Manasquan, New Jersey.

Happy spring (March 20)!

Maria Swieciki



Editorial board members and staff of The Island Current gathered with family and friends for the annual party on Jan. 9, 2005, at the American Legion Hall. Shown above celebrating The Current's 34th year of publication are (seated, l. to r.): Rose Kolb, Margaret Lenz, Ginger Dannegger and Ben DiGregorio. Standing are Jane Protzman, Bill Clancy, Joe Nixon, Barbara Dolensek, Mark Nani, "little Maria" Swieciki, Maria Swieciki, Karen Nani, John Sheridan, Maria Sutherland, Paul Nani and Russell Schaller.

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