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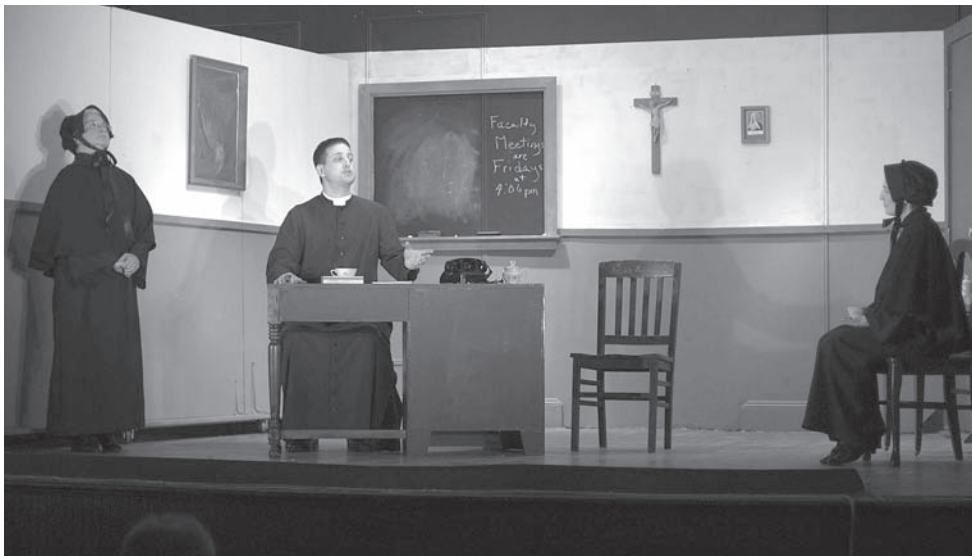
March 2007

One Dollar

A Current Review

City Island Experiences "Doubt"

By RACHEL LANICCI



Sister Aloysius Beauvier with Father Brendan Flynn, played by Dana Laite, and Sister James.

No doubt about it; the City Island Theater Group's February production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Doubt" was a real class act. Esteemed screen writer and playwright John Patrick Shanley, a native of the Bronx, granted permission for this production to the City Island Theater Group, the first community theater to be given this honor after the play's successful two-year Broadway run. Under the direction of Michael Flanagan, this winter's presentation was a truly successful venture on several levels.

"Doubt: A Parable" is a classic tale about the terrors of uncertainty. Set in 1964 in a conservative Catholic school, the story takes place in an era of vast social change. But "Doubt" presents more than just a clash of perspectives; it goes to a deeper, more personal level of fundamental human uncertainty brought on by these changes.

Although the skin color of a student named Daniel Muller is a topic of controversy at the school, the more important issues lie in the suspicions that the tough-minded school principal, Sister Aloysius, holds re-



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Sister James, played by Cori-Ann Roublick, sits in the church courtyard with Sister Aloysius Beauvier, played by Cathy Roskam.

garding the parish's well-liked priest, who may or may not have subjected Daniel to child abuse. "Doubt" is a parable about discrimina-

THE DIG GOES ON

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As of Feb. 20, 2007, Carp Construction, which is replacing the water mains and installing storm and sanitary sewers on City Island, estimated that the project was about 35 percent completed. Thanks to a relatively mild winter, the project has lost only one day of work, although the complicated nature of the underground structures has not made the job an easy one and the contractor made considerable efforts to avoid the business district during the holiday shopping season.

At a task force meeting on Feb. 20, Andy Macagnone, community liaison for the project, reported that work in front of P.S. 175 was scheduled to take place during the winter and spring breaks, in the hope that the contractor would need only a few days to complete the work after school closes for the summer. For reasons of safety, work cannot take place there when school is in session.

Mr. Macagnone said that the summer moratorium would remain in place, meaning that no work would take place on City Island Avenue, with the possible exception of the area near the school, between the week before Mother's Day in May and Labor Day. Work must continue on Schofield Street through the summer, however, because the fire trucks will have to be parked on City Island Avenue during that time and this cannot be done in

winter, when water in the trucks would freeze. Arrangements are being made for residents of Schofield Street and marina customers to have access through the Boatyard Condominium parking garage.

A number of community leaders present at the meeting complimented the contractor and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) for their excellent work on the project, which has created traffic problems and difficult road conditions along the Avenue. For the most part, Mr. Macagnone reported, Island residents and businesses had been very understanding and cooperative, although a few rude individuals have taken out their frustrations by being verbally abusive to workmen.

Although many residents would like the work to continue through the summer in order to speed up completion of the project, others feel that everyone on City Island deserves a break from the chaos. Sam Chernin, owner of a number of Island restaurants, pointed out that if next winter is also mild, there is a chance that the project may be completed before the summer of 2008, even with the summer moratorium.

Mr. Macagnone was unwilling to project a final date, because of unforeseen circumstances, since many of the underground pipes



Photo by RICK DEWITT

Councilmember James Vacca (at right) presented Nick Sala and Carol McCabe of the City Island Theater Group with a check for \$5,000 at a performance of "Doubt" on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007.

tion based on moral judgment.

All four actors in "Doubt" clearly had an intimate understanding of their characters, and they brought a real sense of life and humanity to this simple but powerful play.

Portrayed by Catherine Roskam, who is an Episcopal bishop as well as an accomplished actor, Sister Aloysius is a widow-turned-nun who comes across as rigid, judgmental and seemingly devoid of emotion. Ms. Roskam's winning performance literally set the tone for the entire play as she delivered her lines with great emotional authority.

The polar opposite of her superior, Cori-Anne Roublick portrayed the shy and naive Sister James, a role that beautifully complemented Sister Aloysius's stern demeanor. Cori-Anne is no stranger to the theater group; with several productions under her belt, her dynamic force on stage comes through yet again.

Dana Laite played Father Flynn, the priest in question, his debut performance with the CITG. His lines were delivered with appropriate smoothness but his convincing sermons elicited several "Amens" from the audience.

Perhaps the most moving performance of the night came from seasoned actress Wilna Julmiste, who was cast as Mrs. Muller, Daniel's mother. Her dramatic performance of the stoic mother was outstanding and served to

heighten the conflict between conviction and doubt.

Even though the cast was small, there were half a dozen people who served as the backstage crew and clearly put a lot of effort into organizing this wonderful performance. On hand to keep things running smoothly were stage managers Julie White and Justine Costanza, assisted by George Paturas as stage crew. The Sew & Sew designers Carole Sullivan and Carole McCabe designed the costumes; both women have been a vital part of the theater group for years. Con Grondahl contributed his expertise to the set design, along with Dorothy Muccio.

The performance on the evening of Feb. 17 was a great success, with members of the audience obviously enjoying the show and responding to its fine execution. City Council Member James Vacca, who attended the performance, awarded a grant to the theater group. He is a longtime supporter of art and music education in New York City schools, and he commended president Nick Sala and vice president Carol McCabe for the success of the theater group as he handed them a gigantic cardboard check in the amount of \$5,000.

All members of the City Island Theater Group should pat themselves on the back for a job well done!



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Work on the sewer project took place between Centre and Earley Streets during the week of Feb. 19, when the students at P.S. 175 were on holiday.

and lines are not accurately recorded on available maps, but he believes that the work would certainly be completed before the end of 2008. He assured those in attendance at the meeting that Carp Construction would put a temporary but satisfactory surface on City Island Avenue for the summer months.

Until mid-May, DDC and the Carp workers ask residents to be patient so that work can

proceed as quickly as possible. This involves paying attention not only to the men controlling traffic but also to the no-parking signs.

Anyone with questions or complaints about the project may contact Mr. Macagnone in the DDC field office at 261 City Island Avenue; the telephone number is 718-885-0308. Periodic updates on the project are available online at www.outreach.ny.com.

BRIEFLY...

COMMUNITY WALL PART 2: The P.T.A. of P.S. 175 is planning a second installment of the Community Wall, which was first unveiled to the community on Sept. 15, 2006, and is now on permanent display in the auditorium area of the school. All members of the community are encouraged to participate in this important public art project and fund-raising event. Proceeds will help support art, music and sports programs, as well as staff development. This year's tile painting party will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at P.S.175 from 6 to 8 p.m. The suggested minimum donation is \$25. To reserve your tile in advance, post or drop off a check made payable to P.S. 175 P.T.A., 200 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. For more information contact project coordinator Susan Bellinson at 718-885-2109 or Sbellinson@usa.net. Anyone wishing to view the Community Wall should call parent-teacher coordinator Tina Gisante at 718-885-1093.

IRISH SINGER MICK MOLONEY, National Heritage Award recipient, will trace the history of Irish immigration in song and its connection to American tap dance at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road. Seating is limited, so call for reservations at 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpm.org. Suggested donation \$8.


SUNDAYS AT THE MUSEUM: During the month of March, the City Island Nautical Museum will hold three "conversations with clamdiggers" that will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. On March 11, the subject will be "Who are the ghosts in your house?" and Islanders will be encouraged to talk about previous owners of their homes—in some cases members of their own family. On March 18, the subject "Did you work in one of the boatyards?" should inspire great stories about City Island's glory days as a boat-building center. The subject on March 25 will be "Where did you buy...?" and it will offer Islanders the opportunity to discuss what stores were located where in the days when we had a five-and-ten and three barbers. For more information, call 718-885-1616 or -0507.

INDOOR TAG SALE, the City Island Community Center's first this year, will be held on Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 190 Fordham Street. There are many vendors, so no more table space is available, but there will be tons of stuff to buy, so be sure to come by and shop.

WANTED - DONATIONS FOR CANCER BINGO: The Leonard H. Hawkins American Legion Post Auxiliary is holding its annual Cancer Bingo at the Legion on Thursday, May 10, and the group is hoping for donations of prizes from residents and local businesses. All proceeds from the event will go to various organizations to be used to help cancer patients and to support cancer research. If you would like to make a monetary gift or gift certificate or donate an item, please bring it to the American Legion Hall at Cross Street and mark it to the attention of the Ladies Auxiliary.

WOMEN'S "HERSTORY" MONTH CELEBRATION: On Sunday, March 18, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., City Island women and girls are invited to attend the annual celebration of women's history month to be held at Six Mile Cross Restaurant at 288 City Island Avenue. There will be live entertainment and an open menu. Bring stories, skills, interests or just yourself to this friendly annual gathering. For more information and reservations, call Toby Liederman at 718-885-3423.

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 P.O. Box 6
 City Island, N.Y. 10464



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

Member

EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

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Island Residents Face Firearms Charges

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI

Islander Jeff Hanlon of King Avenue was sentenced to three years probation on Jan. 17, 2007, in Bronx Criminal Court. Mr. Hanlon had been arrested on Sept. 15, 2006, on City Island, after a tense three-hour standoff with police who were trying to gain access to his home in order to investigate a complaint filed by his girlfriend. He was charged with assault, menacing, five counts of criminal possession of a weapon, possession of ammunition, and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Another Island resident, John Persteins, was arrested on the evening of Feb. 6, 2007, at his home on Paulis Place, for the unlawful possession of several firearms. According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, the police reported that Mr. Persteins admitted to owning the weapons for which he did not

have a license.

Ironically, the police had been called to the Persteins house in response to a 911 call reporting an attempted burglary. According to members of the family, two individuals were surprised by Mrs. Persteins when she entered the house and after striking her with a gun fled the scene, leaving her purse and the gun on the front lawn.

When the police arrived, Mr. Persteins was carrying one of his weapons, which he had taken out to confront the burglars. The police asked permission to search the house, and permission was granted. They found what the family described as a collection of antique guns in one of the bedrooms and confiscated it. The burglary is still under investigation.

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COLONEL GLOVER, THE HERO

By PHIL REISMAN

The word "hero" is bandied about rather freely and is often misapplied. But Col. John Glover was the real deal, an authentic American hero.

Glover embodies one of those "ifs" of history.

If not for his leadership and the bravery of his men, who took a bloody stand at a place called Pell's Point [now known as Rodman's Neck] some 230 years ago, we might still be taking afternoon tea and singing "God Save the Queen." Is that a slight stretch? Maybe.

But there's no question that on Oct. 18, 1776, Glover's outnumbered regiment of Massachusetts volunteers surprised 4,000 British and Hessian troops and prevented a rout of George Washington's tattered main army, which was in full retreat after suffering a series of defeats in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The rear-guard action allowed Washington to flee north and to fight another day on the heights of White Plains, above the Bronx River.

Glover served valiantly throughout the Revolutionary War, but he's usually relegated to footnote status. Only scholars and buffs know the full extent of his remarkable story.

So it seems long overdue that he be rescued from the dustbin on history—and rescuing him is exactly what the curators at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon have in mind. Last month, the museum at 897 South Columbus Avenue officially opened an exhibit titled "Overlooked Hero: John Glover and the American Revolution."

David Osborn, the site manager at St. Paul's, said Glover was a modest patriot, which might explain why his name only comes up sparingly.

"I think one of the reasons why he's a little lost in history is that most of the other Continental Army generals let everybody know what they did," Mr. Osborn posited. "This guy seems to have been a humble man. He did his job. The last couple of years, he just wants to go home."

A thumbnail sketch of Glover's military career creates a Zelig-like effect. He was at all the big events but was overshadowed by other larger-than-life characters, like Washington himself. Hailing from Marblehead, Mass., Glover was a successful fishing merchant, a self-made man who was part of the so-called codfish aristocracy. At the outbreak of the war, he formed a regiment largely made up of fishermen he recruited from local seaports. Many of his seafaring soldiers were Indians and Africans, a fact that did not initially please Washington, a Southern slaveholder.

David Hackett Fischer writes in his classic book "Washington's Crossing" that Washington was at bottom a practical man. After some compromises were reached, black soldiers were allowed to fight side by side with whites. "In that process," Mr. Fischer notes, "the Continental Army, beginning with the Marblehead regiment, became the first integrated national institution in the United States."

Mr. Osborn recently gave me a preview of the exhibit, which will run for two years. There are weapons, dioramas, paintings, various artifacts and Glover's personal belongings, including his Bible, regimental payroll sheet and well-preserved blue uniform coat. Among the rare letters on display is correspondence from Washington, praising Glover's service and wishing him a speedy recovery from illness. Another letter penned by Glover is a plea to the commissary to send his regiment a young cow to replace an older one that could no longer give milk.

I don't usually plug special events, but this is recommended to anyone who is curious about the region's rich history.

Hemmed in by a jumble of car washes, gas stations and small industrial buildings, St. Paul's Church is a welcome oasis, a place preserved in 18th-century amber. The Glover display is an added attraction.

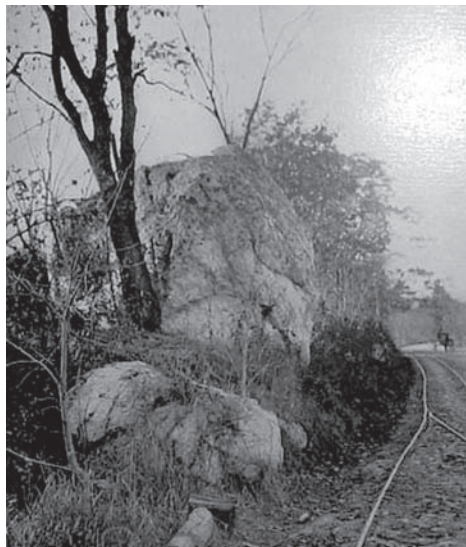
Glover used the church grounds as a staging area for the Pell's Point encounter, also known as the Battle of Pelham, which unfolded less than a mile away in what is now the Bronx and spilled into the present-day links of the Split Rock golf course. Hiding behind stone walls along a winding country lane, the sharp-shooting Americans took the enemy completely by surprise.

The withering fire mortally wounded a handsome British captain by the name of Evelyn. Glover later recalled how an American soldier "leaped over a wall and took a hat and canteen of a Captain that lay dead on the ground they retreated from,"



Photos courtesy of TOM NYE

Col. John Glover, an unsung hero of the American Revolution.



Glover's Rock is located in Pelham Bay Park along Orchard Beach Road. The Bronx Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a tablet on Oct. 18, 1901, to honor the 125th anniversary of Glover's heroic victory. Vandals stole the sign in the 1930s, and the Bronx County Historical Society dedicated another bronze tablet on Nov. 11, 1960, to commemorate the site that is so important in both Bronx and American history. The trolley from Bartow Station to City Island once ran past the rock but was removed in the 1920s.

Gen. William Howe, the British commanding officer, would admit to suffering 3 dead and 20 wounded. Glover tallied 8 American dead and 13 wounded.

But the German mercenaries took some serious lumps. There are no official casualty lists for the Hessians at Pell's Point, but I've read various estimates numbering in the low hundreds, which is a lot by the standards of that war.

After the battle, it was the British who used St. Paul's as a hospital for the sick and wounded. Not yet completely built, the church was roofless and had only a cold dirt floor. At least six Hessians, all young privates, died on that floor and were buried in a mass grave about 50 yards from the church.

The grave is marked by a small headstone that was put there by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1910. The letters are difficult to make out because they are slowly vanishing from the ravages of time. Mr. Osborn chalks it up to air pollution.

But when the sun's rays hit the stone from a certain direction, you can read the words just fine. But there are no names. The dead remain anonymous.

This article originally appeared on Feb. 4, 2007, in The Journal News and is reprinted here with the author's permission.

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CONNIE, THE SERVICE DOG

By MIRIAM KLEINBERG

For thousands of years, humans have had a close relationship with animals, which have been domesticated for food and for work, as in hunting and herding. Nowadays that bond is most often one of companionship between people and their pets, but some animals still fulfill an important role as working partners or "service animals," trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities.

We are all familiar with seeing-eye dogs, which help blind people negotiate their way through life, but a growing branch of service dogs includes those trained to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

A clamdigger who has recently returned to City Island, Joyce Deich has brought with her a beautiful little dog named Connie, who has a very important job helping her live with a serious hearing loss. Joyce has been hard of hearing since early childhood, but her deafness went undetected and untreated for many years. She compensated by teaching herself to lip read and by asking to be seated near the front of the classroom in school.

After graduating from P.S. 17 and Columbus High School, Joyce got a B.S. in nursing from Lehman College and trained at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn. Because her degree is in pediatric nursing, she worked first with children in the emergency room at Jacobi Medical Center but later worked with adults. There was a lot of yelling on the job, and this fit in perfectly with Joyce's disability. Because she worked at a city hospital, she encountered many crime victims, criminals and police officers, and she did the work of a forensic trauma nurse, although she didn't have the official title.

Joyce married in 1967 and moved off City Island in 1979, when she taught paramedics in the evening at the State University of New York at New Paltz while raising her children. (Her daughter is now an electric power nuclear engineer and her son is a homicide detective in New Jersey.)

After leaving New Paltz in 1990, Joyce went to work at Westchester Medical Center, where she read an ad that Sing Sing prison in Ossining, New York, needed a nurse. The job appealed to her, so she applied and was accepted. There are no physicians on site at Sing Sing, so Joyce single-handedly took care of emergency patients until an ambulance with a doctor could be cleared through security. Most of the prisoners were grateful for the care, and she seldom felt threatened. However, her hearing continued to deteriorate, and she finally had to retire.

Joyce then joined ALDA (Association of Late-Deafened Adults), an organization that directs its members to support groups and other resources. She had three years of speech therapy, during which time she was able to help other members decide whether they wanted to live in the world of the deaf or that of the hearing. Since Joyce had lived in the hearing world all her life, she continued down that road.

After her divorce, however, she realized that living alone with a serious hearing loss wasn't a wise idea. Many deaf people live with adaptive equipment, but these don't work when there is a power failure and many things cannot be electrified, such as someone knocking at the door, or people shouting in the street or in the building. It didn't take long for Joyce to decide to get a dog.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Islander Joyce Deich and her service dog, Connie. Connie is a Bichon Havanese and has been trained as a service dog for the deaf. The dog learns to lead the owner out of dangerous situations through predetermined signals.

When she attended ALDA's national convention, Joyce learned more about service animals and searched the Internet for agencies and organizations that exist throughout the country providing assistance and service dogs for the deaf. (If one does not have access to a personal computer at home, the public library is an excellent resource.)

Some agencies make a practice of rescuing shelter animals and training them to be service dogs, while others start with puppies bred for the purpose. All service dogs for the deaf, however, must pass proficiency tests, which include alerting the owner to any unusual noises, as well as ordinary sounds, such as doorbells, telephones, knocking, fire alarms and timers. The dog learns to lead the owner out of dangerous situations through predetermined signals.

The usual procedure is to apply through an agency, which will match people with suitable dogs. The deaf person will stay with the animal at the agency for a period of time in simulated living situations in order to learn ways in which to communicate with the dog. Some agencies retain ownership of the service dogs while others donate the animals to their clients.

Joyce chose Connie on her own, however, because she wanted a particular breed and the opportunity to bond with a dog as early as possible. Connie, whose full name is Consuela Calistena de Cisco, is a Bichon Havanese, a breed developed in Cuba during the 19th century. This breed is known for its intelligence and good temperament and has for many years been used as a circus dog as well as a companion animal.

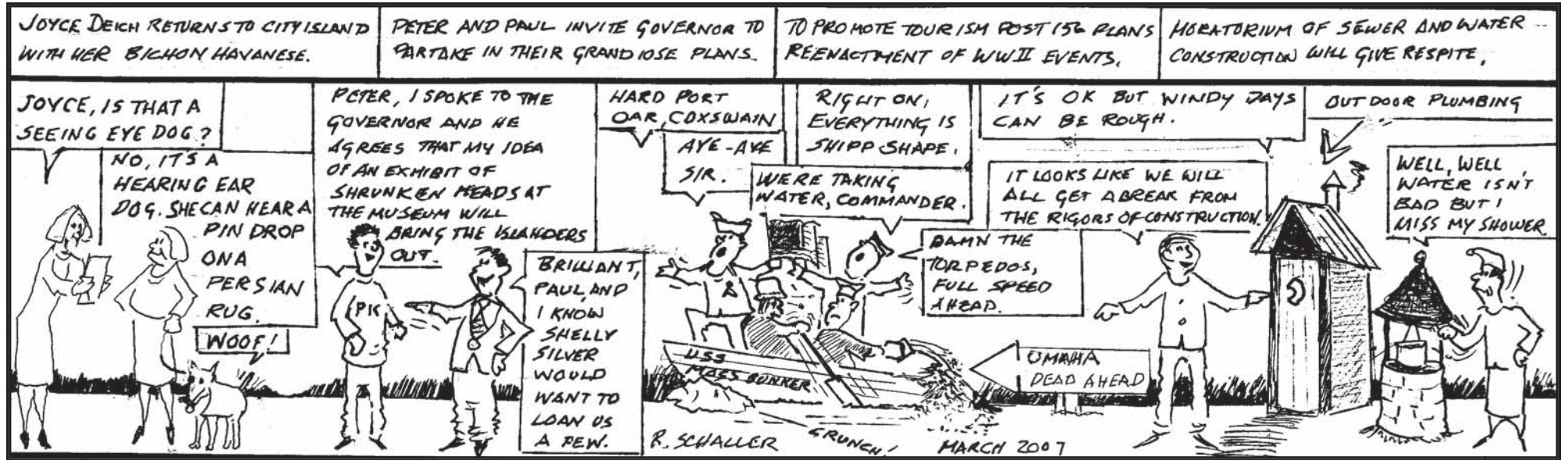
Many service dogs are matched to their owners by the age of two or three, but Connie passed the proficiency test as a puppy of eight months. Like many small breeds, Havanese dogs often live as long as 18 years, unlike many larger dogs, which may live only about 10 years. But Connie's small size poses a problem, because people rarely recognize her as a service dog. Joyce does not want people to think of Connie as a cute little toy and try to pet her, so Connie wears a service vest that clearly reads "Stop. Do Not Touch. Service Dog."

Although Connie has been with Joyce for only a year, she has already proved her value on two occasions, one of them an attempted break-in. Connie's warning bark enabled Joyce to dial 911 and to call out that she was getting her gun, which scared off the intruder.

People with visible disabilities have no problem entering public areas with their service animals, but because deaf people don't look disabled, they are often denied access to restaurants or shops when they try to enter with their dogs. Thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act, however, the Department of Justice provides disabled people with cards warning owners and employees of the penalties involved in denying access to the disabled. For more information about these cards, call 1-800-514-0301.

In the meantime, if you see Joyce walking Connie along City Island Avenue, feel free to admire her but be sure to respect the fact that Connie is doing an important job and don't be tempted to pet her.

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Response

To the Editor:

I am writing in reference to the letter that appeared in the February issue of *The Current* written by "Name Withheld," in which the writer objected to the double standard regarding Le Refuge Inn and called for a change in the leadership of the Island organizations that supported the Inn.

I wonder if the writer is aware of the fact that those organizations voted overwhelmingly to support the efforts made by the owner of the Inn to stay open in the Samuel Pell House on City Island Avenue. The leaders did not make that decision on behalf of the members. Indeed, if the writer of the letter were a member of any of these organizations, he or she would be aware of that fact.

Both the Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce welcome new members and are always open to suggestions, such as how to resolve the issues of parking, empty shops, traffic congestion, the sewer project, the proposed new bridge and real-estate development. If the writer of the letter is truly interested in changing the leadership of the Island's organizations, becoming familiar with those organizations by joining them would surely be the way to start.

It is interesting to me that the whole Le Refuge issue began with anonymous complaints rather than by people willing to stand up and be recognized.

My name is not withheld.

Jacqueline Kyle Kall

Traffic Congestion

To the Editor:

The following two issues should be addressed:

1. Why isn't there a police presence in front of P.S. 175 at dismissal time? Vehicles are doubleparked illegally on both sides of the street, forcing vehicles traveling north and south to drive in the fire lane.

2. How can we prevent the parents of the students attending P. S. 175 from parking in the bank parking lot? This parking lot is only for customers conducting bank business. The parking lot has 10 spots and one handicapped spot. More often than not, the handicapped spot is taken by a person without handicapped plates or a handicapped state tag. I have handicapped plates on my vehicle, and on many occasions I must find a parking spot outside the bank parking lot.

Tom McShane

Health Concerns

To the Editor:

Two years ago, my sister Ginger (Murphy) Bierman came down with kidney cancer. Last year, my husband, Jack Venturini, was told he had the same thing. Then my brother-in-law, Joe Venturini, and I were diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma within a week of each other. Since this was so bizarre, I sent an e-mail to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They responded that there were too few cases for them to consider this a cancer cluster. They referred me to a New York State Web site that showed the amount of kidney cancers in the Bronx were within the acceptable limits. However, the only cancer out of the four of us that would be considered a "Bronx" cancer is my brother-in-law's. Because we were no longer living in the Bronx at the time we were diagnosed, the other three cancers will be attributed to the county where we live now.

My doctor and I are concerned that the cause is environmental. I do not keep in touch with too many people, so I would like to use your publication to get the word out. I would like to know if anyone else who lived on City Island during the years we lived there have had family members come down with renal cell carcinoma. I would ask that they e-mail me and let me know who got it, what years they lived on City Island and when they were diagnosed. My e-mail address is joniv1007@optonline.net.

My family moved to City Island Avenue at the top of Bay Street in 1954 and my husband's family, which lived on King Ave-

ue, moved here in 1942. My husband and I moved off City Island in 1968 but kept a boat at the Morris Yacht Club for the next five years. My sister moved off in the late 1970s. My brother-in-law still lives on City Island.

Thank you for allowing me to use *The Island Current* for this health concern.

Joan (Murphy) Venturini

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Thanks from Dianne & John O'Sullivan

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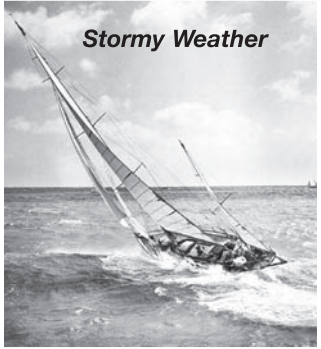
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A Current Review The Bermuda Race: A Book Review

By JANE PROTZMAN



Stormy Weather



Dorado

Photos courtesy of TOM NYE

John Rousmaniere's recently published book *A Berth to Bermuda: 100 Years of the World's Classic Ocean Race* brings to life the personalities and yachts that made this sailing race one of the most famous of its kind. Enriched with beautiful photographs and many yarns about the Bermuda Race, which celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, this book focuses on the remarkable sailors, yacht architects and great boats that contributed to the lure of sailing to Bermuda.

Included in the book are descriptions of several yachts that were built on City Island,

including *Venona*, *Dorado*, *Brilliant*, *Stormy Weather*, *Mustang*, *Bolero* and *Running Tide*, and a discussion of the considerable contributions made by the yacht-design firm Sparkman & Stephens, which had its original offices on City Island.

The idea of a Bermuda race and modern ocean racing was born on May 26, 1906, when 15 sailors (including one woman) in "three sailboats between 28 and 40 feet crossed a starting line off Brooklyn" and sailed toward Bermuda through 700 miles of blue water. Two of the boats reached Bermuda.

In the century that followed, the author

tells us, new boat types, technology and racing and rating rules were developed that would no longer allow the likes of these three sailboats in a Bermuda race. Indeed, a sailor in 2007 would find these boats barely suitable, let alone comfortable enough, for a weekend cruise to Oyster Bay. So the boats gradually got bigger, and by 1909 four of the five entries were big schooners. A year later, the amateur sailors in smaller boats stayed away as the schooners sailed by "tycoons and professionals" won the prizes.

The earliest of the City Island-built boats to compete was *Venona*, a 65-foot schooner built in 1905 at the Robert Jacobs Yard. The owner, E. Jared Bliss, claimed that she won the five-boat Bermuda Race in 1908 but she did not, although "she did win everything else" that year. (According to City Island's nautical historian Tom Nye: "In 1908 a City Island boat won the Bermuda Power Boat Race, the *Ailsa Craig*, a 60-foot power boat designed by A. Carey Smith and Ferris, who had also designed *Venona*, and built by City Island Shipbuilders.")

By the 1930s, the fleet had grown in size to 42 boats, mostly schooners, but design innovations, stimulated by changes in the rules and an increased interest in safety, resulted in "newer narrow heavily ballasted boats" that were shown to beat the more traditional schooners. In 1930 the 52-foot yawl-rigged six meter *Dorado*, the family yacht of Olin and Rod Stephens, outperformed schooners sailing upwind and in 1932 came in first in her class. Built in the Minneford Yacht Yard, *Dorado* was designed by Sparkman & Stephens and campaigned by the Stephens family.

The Henry B. Nevins Yacht Builders were responsible for three Bermuda Race yachts featured in the book; all designed by Olin Stephens. *Brilliant* was built in 1932 and was described in London's *Yachting World* as "Mr. Walter Barnum's [61-foot] gaff-rigged schooner; she is all solid teak, and I never saw a finer and more honest piece of boat building and rigging in my life." (This reference was found in one of the interesting new journals in the City Island Nautical Museum, *Yacht Yard Journal*, vol. I.) Mr. Rousmaniere refers to the Nevins yard as a "cutting edge builder in the '30s."

Stormy Weather, built at the Nevins yard in 1934, was owned by Philip LeBoutillier, the owner of Best & Co., one of the many Fifth Avenue department stores that have disappeared into history. She was one of 135 in the fleet in 1960 that experienced an unpredicted tropical storm with 70-knot winds registering on the

yacht's anemometer. *Stormy Weather*, a 54-foot yawl, got its name after Mr. LeBoutillier heard Lena Horne perform at a hotel in Montauk. She sang the Harold Arlen song "Stormy Weather," and when Miss Horne asked him if he liked the song, he replied, "Like it? You just gave me the name for my new boat." (*Yacht Yard Journal*, volume I.)

Owner Rod Stephens and skipper Olin finished second in their class in 1946 on *Mustang*. In 1936 the New York Yacht Club had commissioned Sparkman & Stephens to produce its "one-design" New York 32 sloop, and 20 were built in the Nevins Yacht Yard. *Mustang* was one of the famous examples of the 32 class, many of which are still sailing today.

Bolero, built by Nevins in 1949, the author writes, "became the undisputed queen of East Coast yachting and in time set a new course record to Bermuda" in 1956.

The hull for *Running Tide*, according to Tom Nye, was built in Germany but was completely finished from the bare hull by Kretzer's Yacht Yard. In 1976 this Olin Stephens-designed 61-foot sloop "became the first Class A boat to win a Bermuda Race since 1962."

Olin Stephens is the yacht designer with the most wins (14) between the years 1934 and 1994—a remarkable record. By 1976 he had designed 10 Bermuda Race winners, "as well as 11 first-to-finish boats and 101 top-three class finishers." Olin's younger brother, Rod, liked to rig and race boats, while Olin liked to design them. Rod "created or advanced now-common yachting equipment, the *Dorado* ventilator [small baffled hood for decks to let in air and keep out water], the parachute spinnaker, the Genoa jib, the aluminum mast and stronger standing and running rigging." Rod Stephens sailed his last Bermuda race at the age of 74.

City Island's yards and firms played a large part in the Bermuda races. In fact, according to Tom Nye, not only were these boats built on City Island but many of the Bermuda Race entries came to City Island to be fitted out and made ready for the race. However, there is no reference to City Island in the book's index, even though the yards where these yachts were built and made ready to sail were clearly among the best of their day.

A copy of *A Berth to Bermuda* and the *Yacht Yard Journals* may be consulted at the City Island Nautical Museum and Historical Society. If the terms schooner, yawl, sloop, nautical miles and spinnaker are new to you, visit the museum, take a look around and learn more about the rich nautical history that surrounds us.

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KLONDIKE CUBS



In January, the Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 211 participated in the Eastern District Klondike Derby Race Weekend in Alpine New Jersey. They won the "best-built sleigh" competition and came in second in the speed race. Shown above (l. to r.) are the proud team members and their leaders: Cubmaster Angelo Bellocchio, John Branley, Cian Byrnes, team leader Nicholas Bellocchio, Andre Brown, leader Pat Branley, Daniel Green, and leader Pete Green. Kneeling are Connor Saulnier and Michael Bellocchio.

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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 current exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, features wedding photographs taken by Ron Terner and Leo and Lisa Bento. The show will be on view until March 31. For more information, call 718-885-1403 or visit 222.photographybyronterner.com.

Welcome to Hawkins Street! **A-Quality Glass & Shade Co, Inc.** (formerly Philip Glass & Shade Co of White Plains Road) is now located at 104 Hawkins Street, the building that once housed Kroppe Controls. This business serves both residential and commercial needs, featuring mirrors, table tops, screens, blinds,

shades, storm windows and doors. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Before you go off the Island to shop for glass, stop by or call us at 718-885-2100.

Excel Facility Services has moved its office and base of operations to 640 Minneford Avenue on City Island. Excel is a full-service maid, janitorial and building maintenance provider, serving residential, commercial and retail establishments throughout the country. The company offers a full array of cleaning and maintenance services to meet the needs of its clients. Excel is proud to call City Island its new home and is offering a 15 percent introductory special on all new residential and commercial cleaning services through April 1, 2007. Whether you need a complete maintenance program for your business or just a reliable and professional maid service for your home, call Michael Hancock at 347-256-3274 or visit them on the web at <http://excelfacilityservices.com>.

WARRIOR FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION

The Warrior Football Program will hold open registration for boys and girls ages 6 to 14 on Sundays, March 4 and 11, at Lehman High School from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jay and Geri Demers invite all youngsters to join flag, tackle and cheerleading activities in the following divisions:

- Cheerleading: 6 to 14 years old, no weight restrictions
- Flag football: 6, 7 or 8 years old, no weight restrictions
- Mite tackle football: 7 and 8 years old, under 91 pounds
- Pee Wee tackle: 9 and 10 years old, under 111 pounds
- Junior tackle: 11 and 12 years old, under 131 pounds
- Junior tackle: 13 years old, over 131 pounds


Ages are determined as of July 31, 2007. All divisions are co-ed. Registrants should be accompanied by an adult and must bring a

copy of their birth certificate. Enter through the side entrance by the field and proceed to the gym. Lehman High School is located at 3000 East Tremont Avenue.

Chief Demers told *The Current* that many Islanders have participated in Warriors over the years, including some season MVPs.

Practices begin in August on weekday evenings for the fall football season. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays in Pelham Bay Park and at Lehman High School. The cost schedule for the 2007 season is \$120 for tackle football, \$100 for flag football, \$150 for travel tackle team, and \$125 for cheerleading.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, and those who fail to register in the spring are not guaranteed a roster spot in August even if they are returning players. For more information about football, call Jay Demers at 718-829-7574, and for cheerleading call Geri Demers at 718-792-5747.



St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Holy Week Schedule 2007

CONFESSIONS
SATURDAY, March 31
4:30 - 5:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY - April 1
VIGIL MASS - SATURDAY, 5:15 P.M.
SUNDAY - 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. & 12:00 Noon
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

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

HOLY THURSDAY, April 5
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
Procession to Repository
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 12:00 Noon
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS - 4:00 P.M.
Confessions 5:00-6:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 7
Confessions 9:00-10:00 A.M. & 4:00-5:00 P.M.
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL- 8:00 P.M.
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

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

The P.T.A. of P.S.175 is proud to announce the return of our 5th annual ...

Card Party

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On Friday, March 23, 2007 at 7pm. P.S.175 will host a card party at the Lido Caterers, 101 City Island Ave., tickets are on sale now. Please contact the P.T.A. office to purchase your tickets at 718 885-1093 ext: 1300. Tickets are \$40. per person.

This will be a fun filled evening for all with lots of prizes a 50/50, and a great meal for a great deal. The Grand prize is a Carnival Cruise to the western Caribbean! So please don't delay! Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. You can buy one ticket or put a table together filled with family and friends. Thank you City Island for your support year after year!

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The P.T.A. of P.S.175 Executive Board Members

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The New York Boat Show: 2007 Edition

By BILL CLANCY

On the first weekend afternoon in January, and the last weekend of the show, I hustled myself down to the Javits Center. Happy that I made it at all, but sad that I had to change the words of that Celtic ditty "Irish Rover" to "when the whole of the crew was reduced down to one." Being on a tight schedule since getting back from a Christmas trip to Germany, I was not able to assemble my usual crew of wits, old salts and raconteurs to enjoy the magic that is a boat extravaganza in the middle of winter. Thank God for my ever-active imagination, which had to carry me solo through this experience.

The theme of the event this year was "Discover Boating," part of a public-awareness effort managed by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) on behalf of the North American recreational boating industry. The Dec. 25-Jan. 1 issue of "The New Yorker" magazine said it best when it described the show as "the annual display known to inspire dreams of escape, adventure and, at the very least, warmer weather. The Boat Show's publicity material announced that the life of our fellow countrymen is, in one word, hectic. People are working too much, not spending enough time with their families and are, in general, being robbed of the things that would bring them closer to those they love. The answer to our current disconnect is boating, the NMMA ad said: "Boating connects like no other."

So true, I thought, but what should we get for the poor clamdiggers and mussel suckers of City Island who the past few months have dodged steel plates over trenches, flagmen trying to keep them out of holes, new parking restrictions, heavy equipment, dust and a general discombobulation along City Island Avenue? A fund should be created for the businesses from Fordham to Carroll Streets. Another fund should be set up to bring tranquilizers to the good denizens of East Schofield Street. I was away for a while this year. What did those folks do to deserve what is happening on their block? The next thing we will hear is that giant windmills will be built at the water's edge to power the pumping station.

Getting back to the theme of the show, you must agree that it is a good one. There is nothing like a good day on the water. Fun in the sun, fishing, swimming, even cutting bait are all worthwhile activities. Thank our lucky stars that they are all part of our lives here on City Island.

I started to look around the exhibits in the lobby, which are always different and very in-

teresting. The state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had a large and a must-stop-to-see booth. The entire area drained by the Hudson and its tributaries is 13,390 square miles, and tides go upriver 153 miles to the Troy Dam. There are 200 species of fish, including the Atlantic sturgeon, commonly five to eight feet long. There are bald eagles, blue-claw crabs, artificial reefs, a lot of Native American names and many informative signs in various languages, including Spanish, Chinese and Korean.

I had a nice conversation with two very personable enforcement officers—ECOs—who were great representatives of their agency. If the DEC had an airborne detachment, these men would have been in it. They were standing next to a heavy-duty-looking patrol craft with twin 225, 4-stroke Hondas. There was a pot-hauling winch aboard and many other all-purpose safety and law enforcement-looking devices. The ECOs make up the primary police authority responsible for enforcing the rules and regs of saltwater recreational fishing and State Navigation Law. They may, without warrant, search your boat, vehicle, coolers or any other container that they suspect contains marine fish, crustacean or other regulated marine resources that were taken illegally or possessed. If you are approached by an ECO and ordered to stop, do it and await instructions. The patrol boat I mentioned looked very mean and fast. Please also know that these officers are armed. Remember, however, that they are the friend of the conservationist and angler and the bane of scofflaws and those who disrespect the environment.

This booth always has a fabulous five- to six-foot model of the prehistoric-looking sturgeon, a longtime denizen of the deep sections of the Hudson, a long slender fish with bony scales on its exterior. It is the largest freshwater and inland water fish in the United States, the record being around 1,200 pounds from the Snake River in Idaho. I told the officers of a story I had read in a sports magazine some time ago of a 2,000 pounder that was caught in the same area of the Snake. The old fisherman responsible said he knew it was there and had been looking for it for many years. He supposedly pulled it out of the water with a jeep. This, by the way, is an unofficial record. Because it is an endangered species, the sturgeon is no longer fishable. This ban, I'm sure, includes Capt. Joe Somers of the *Moontide* and the unofficial king of L.I. Sound, Ted Weyrauch.

The DEC booth also had a lot of hand-out reading matter. A couple of interesting booklets



Bill Clancy. Photo by RICK DeWITT

concerned fishing in N.Y.C. Did anyone know that we had freshwater fishing in the Bronx? There are two locations, Van Cortlandt Lake and Crotona Park Lake, that commonly have trout, sunfish, carp and catfish, among others. These, as well as the other 10 sites around the city, have no-kill regulations, meaning that caught fish must be released.

Saltwater fishing, on the other hand, is well known. What I didn't know were all the various access spots around the city, including 16 in the Bronx. We have more than 500 miles of shoreline in the city and 119 access spots. Most of them, 39, are in Queens, with 17 of those in the Rockaways. City Island is credited with two: the west side of the bridge and the boat livery at the north end of the avenue.

Offshore saltwater sport fishing in New York is another large, popular industry. On your way to the ocean through the Sound from Westchester and City Island or from the entire south shore of Long Island, you will find a who's who of sport fish on your menu. There are five kinds of shark, four types of billfish and at least a dozen other species from tuna to mackerel to cobia. Aficionados come from all over the entire world to enjoy the action.

The DEC has implemented the I FISH NY initiative, which is intended to provide better information on both how and where to fish throughout the state, with an emphasis on urban and suburban areas. The program will provide many in- and out-of-school educational programs, from techniques to regulations to habitat improvement. One last advisory from this booth was the toll-free number of the NYS Dept. of Health. If you have any questions about the edibility of a fish you have caught, no matter how fresh it might appear, call 800-458-1158 ext. 27815. Kudos to the DEC. I think we are getting a bang for our buck.

Finally getting to the Press Room after the long lobby stop, I picked up my pass, which was in the computer this year, and entered into the calm blue water of the Javits. My first sight is both good and bad. Good that I see many beautifully colored hulls and bad that I see mobs of spectators. Colored hulls were an item a few years back that I know I told the *Current* readers about. In recent years, they have not been so popular, especially on the larger hulls. Now, right in front of me, I am surrounded by Deep Tan, Cream Rust, Magenta and Royal Blue, among others. They will have to be kept as standard from now on. Everyone knows how hard it is to keep that glossy white color looking nice and shining, especially near the waterline. Colored hulls work and look better. Are we all in agreement? Good!

Seeing that the boat section was so crowded, I looked up Gioia Sails in the program. Don Gioia is an old Island friend and a successful businessman in New Jersey now, and I have not seen him in years. Luckily, his booth was very near the boat section, across the aisle actually. Unfortunately, however, he was not in attendance that day so I left him a note. "Hope to see you next year!"

Very close by was the Mariners School, run by a very personable Captain Bob Figular. I listened to him speak to a couple of men ahead of me and was very intrigued by his enthusiasm for his teaching program. He told me that he was a high school dropout who had enlisted in the Navy. His greatest asset, he said, was that he always believed in himself. When he got out, he went into a business that became wildly successful, and then he sold it. His first love was the water and teaching people about it, so he founded the Mariners School out of Princeton, New Jersey. He now has one Navy captain and two commanders on his 250-person faculty. The beauty of his program, besides being given year round up and down the entire East coast, is that, being USCG approved, you need only pass the school test to qualify for your license. Very impressive! As a sideline, Bob is on call as a motivational speaker. He won my nod for exhibitor of the '07 show.

There were so many interesting exhibits in

this accessory section that I decided to stay for a while. Poet's Landing is a new condominium and marina being built on Candlewood Lake near Danbury, Connecticut. Old friends and CI-VAC members of years ago, Ursula and Norbert Hofer, lived there in a beautiful lakeside house that I visited a few times. The lake is 11 miles long, largest in the state, with 62 miles of shoreline. It is unusual as the water is drained out every winter and then refilled in the spring. I had never heard of that before. The condos, no doubt state of the art, were selling for \$500,000 to \$850,000. The marina, heated pool, beach, spa and racquet club come with it.

Another spectacular address for wealthy folks is the Residential Cruise Line concept. I spoke with Cynthia Andersen, ace salesperson, and she told me that it is very simple. You buy a cabin on a brand-new full-sized ocean liner, *Magellan*, and you live aboard. The ship will go around the world every two years, stopping in 300 ports of call in 150 countries. You can get on and off as you please, but the ship maintains a schedule so you will have to catch up. There is a heliport topsides for any personal trips you care to make. The prices for full ownership start at \$1.875 million, fractional ownership at \$156,250. Look it up under *ResidentialCruiseLine.com*, or call 480-497-8833 (Arizona). It sounds out of this world and probably is. Maybe Dianne and John O'Sullivan will buy a few to take care of their frequent travelers. Maybe there should be a City Island contest to see who should be sent on a two-year trip. That would be interesting.

By this time I had been talking and listening for more than three hours, so a break was in order. I listened for the tinkling of glass and the sound of laughter, and I headed in that direction. It was not far; actually, it never is. A big Bud and dog are only \$8.50, a bargain by Manhattan standards. The best thing about these little stops at the show is that they are populated by the same friendly, high-on-life types that you meet at the marina or some gunk hole. No one knows anyone else, but that doesn't stop the conversation. It would make a good "Saturday Night Live" skit. Fishing spots, bottom paint, engine controls, electronics, no matter what, everyone is an expert trying to convince someone he doesn't even know that his brand, method or knowledge is the best. It is great and one never tires of it. It is reminiscent of our schoolyard days of old. This is shoreline boating at its best. Promising to be back later, I got back on my tour.

Stopped at the NYS (Erie) Canal exhibit as usual, as I have been fascinated by the concept of it literally most of my life. Opened in 1825 by Governor DeWitt Clinton, it made possible the cheap transportation of iron ore, lumber and farm products, among other things, from the Midwest through the canal to the Hudson River. The ditch, as it was called, was dug by hand with not one graduate engineer in residence. Within 25 years New York became the Empire State because of its manufacturing capability. There is a great video series available on the Hudson River Valley that is wonderful to watch. At the end of the 19th century, Troy, New York, the end point of the tidal flow, was the ninth largest city in the country.

Excuse my diversion, dear readers; on another day I will do a story exclusively on this wonder of American history. Ms. McFay and Dave from Amsterdam, New York, were repping the Erie Canal booth that day. They told me that parts of the Canal were closed for up to three months because of the upstate flooding that occurred last May. You might remember the rescue operations that took place along the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, where people were taken off their roofs by boat. Major damage was done to bridges on Routes 17 and 81. If the locks of the Canal had not been kept shut, a tidal wave of water and debris would have done damage all the way to the Hudson, and then it would have created more chaos as it came downriver. They are looking for a better season this year.

Still walking, I saw a sign off to the side announcing the Elite Fleet Club. I questioned the two security men, and they told me that it is the lounge exclusively for exhibitors. I asked about yacht club members, thinking that I could get in on the backs of a couple of yachties I know. I could call Rear Commodore Gerald Artz, I told them, who would be accompanied by the Commodore Ruth. Would that get me in? The security men were impressed but unbudging. How about past commodores like Robin Ricca, Carl Steiner, Steve Lott, Tony Rosco? And I know more, I told them. Then I went for broke, mentioning John Mazzante and Scouse McIntyre of naval fame. Their heads were shaking, but one guy started to talk into his radio and I bid them a friendly adieu.

There is so much more to tell you about, but Editor Barbara is tapping her finger. June 16 is the NYC Powerboat Poker Run from Liberty Landing to Havestraw and back. See you in the harbor.



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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MARCH

Tues., March 6, **Bronx Republican Party meets**, 6:30 p.m., Bronx Republican Headquarters, 2113 Williamsbridge Road, 2nd floor.

Thurs., March 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Owen Dolan Center, 1400 Westchester Square and East Tremont Avenue, Bronx.

Tues., March 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., March 29, and Fri., March 30, **Kindergarten Registration for City Islanders only**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue (see School News).

Sat., March 31, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

APRIL

Week before April 8 (Easter Sunday), **Boy Scout Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

AARP Chapter 318

Chapter 318 meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Fellowship Hall, 113 Bay Street. Refreshments are served following each meeting.

Membership in our chapter is open to anyone who is 50 years of age or older. In order to join the chapter, you must be a member in good standing in the national AARP.

Blood pressure readings are taken at the first meeting of every month for those members who wish it.

In addition, a notary public is available before and after every meeting to notarize documents, free of charge, for all of our members.

If you are not a member of AARP, why not join us at our next meeting on March 7 and see what we are all about. Everyone is welcome.

Carmelia A. Ramftl

Temple Beth-El

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

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Adar is the month of fun and this first weekend of March should be a blast at Temple Beth-El. Join us on Friday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. for a Kabbalat Shabbat service, with song and dance, led by Rabbi Shohama Wiener. As part of Bronx Borough President Carrión's initiative to bring the Jewish and Hispanic communities together, we have invited Pastor Moses Zapata and congregants of our "sister house of worship," Grace and Peace Church, to come to that service. I hope many of our members will be on hand to "break challah" with them after our service. (We have been invited to pray with them at their service on March 18 at 12 noon.)

Then there is our gala Purim party on Sunday, March 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. Adults and children in costume are a special part of our fun. We have the script—watch the story of Esther unfold or be part of the hilarity "on stage." And, of course, sing songs, eat hamen-tashen, and just have fun!

Rabbi Shohama's SHOHAM class on spiritual healing, Kabbalah and meditation begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 12. Aliza Erber, our rabbinic intern, leads Saturday Torah Study on March 31 at 10:30 a.m. Our lively discussions are insightful. We welcome you all to enjoy this time to share.

Sunday school for children ages 4-12 is on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. Call 718-885-3502 for more information.

Tai chi-yoga classes will continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in March. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Finally, we need organizers next month to plan and set up our second-night seder for Tuesday, April 3. Please call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 to discuss your preferences or to make reservations. Our seders are quite comfortable, congenial and kosher!

Enjoy the benefits of membership, take the free trolley to Temple (on the first Friday of each month) and visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

Trinity United Methodist Church

It's Easter season here at Trinity. Spring will soon be here, and the earth will begin its rebirth. We as Christians celebrate a rebirth with the resurrection of Christ. In preparation for Easter, we will observe Palm Sunday on April 1 at our 10 a.m. services. Maundy Thursday will be observed on April 5 at 8 p.m.

In celebration of Easter Sunday, our lay leader, George Cavaliere, will gather for a sunrise service at 6 a.m. This gathering will be held in the Pelham Cemetery under the "big tree." We will have an additional celebration of the resurrection at our services at 10 a.m. All are welcome to either or both celebrations.

We will be holding our Spring Fair on Saturday, March 31. The fair will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a lunch will be served. Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there!

Trinity's Budget Shop will be open the following days in March: Tuesday the 6th and 20th and Saturday the 3rd and the 17th. As usual, we are making a plea for volunteers. Please look into your hearts. We really need people to help behind the scenes to help us get all the wonderful merchandise we get out on the floor. Please call Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241 or Myra Martin at 718-885-1049.

Anne Sill

City Island Republicans

Despite the cold, there is plenty of positive activity going on in the Bronx Republican party. I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting at Bronx Republican headquarters on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at county headquarters, located at 2113 Williamsbridge Road.

Several items were on the agenda. The major item of business was filling all of the county committee slots in our great borough. Currently, many seats remain vacant, and, in some cases, the county committee people were either incapacitated or have been deceased for years. These spots are important because they are the people who elect the Bronx Republican party board. The City Island Republicans will make sure our nautical community's eight spots are filled with people who are living and breathing on their own.

Another item on the agenda was finding candidates not just for 2007 but also for 2008. We need strong candidates for both elections. The 2007 elections include Bronx district attorney, and several Bronx County Civil and Supreme Court judgeships. The party wants to field a strong candidate against our current district attorney, Robert Johnson.

Unfortunately, political corruption is out of control in the Bronx, and our district attorney does not seem to be doing enough. As a result, federal prosecutors have stepped in on several occasions to prosecute these corruption cases.

A strong Republican candidate could do extremely well or even possibly win in a Bronx district attorney race, because voter turnout is dismal in the election held the year before a presidential election. If Republicans, Conservatives, and all voters who feel we need to clean up Bronx politics come out to vote, then anything can happen at the polls.

If you or anyone else you know is interested

in becoming a district attorney or judicial candidate for 2007 or even a candidate for a congressional, assembly or judicial slot in 2008, please call Bronx Republican headquarters at 718-792-5800.

Other items on the agenda included a Bronx Republican picnic at some point when the weather gets warmer and a major fund-raiser later in the year. To help find candidates and get people involved, the Bronx Republican party wants to start running ads in the local papers and possibly posting profiles of the different party leaders across the Bronx in the local press as well. The Bronx Republican party will also be posting a Web site within the next month or so. Stay tuned!

There are many Republicans out there who are not registered as Republicans. We encourage these voters to switch to Republican, because next year is a major election year. We need all of the signatures that we can get, because there will be stepped-up efforts to get our candidates thrown off the ballot, and only registered Republicans can sign a petition for a Republican candidate. Anyone wanting to change to Republican can contact the City Island Republicans at 347-680-7695. We will be able to file the form so that the change goes through, since in past years some City Islanders have switched but the election board never put them through.

The next meeting of the City Island Republicans will be held in April. Details will be in the next *Current*, including the time and location.

Fred Ramftl

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site: www.gracecityisland.org.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during March and early April: Sunday, March 4, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School. All school-age children are invited to participate.

Tuesday, March 6, 7 p.m.: Book Discussion Group. We are currently reading "Faith and Practice" by Frank E. Wilson. Newcomers are always welcomed!

Sunday, March 11, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School.

Palm Sunday, April 1, 10 a.m.: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist.

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.: The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.: Ecumenical Service with Trinity Methodist Church (at Grace Church).

Holy Saturday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.: The Great Vigil of Easter. The Easter Vigil traces its roots to the early Church and is one of the most beautiful and deeply symbolic services in all of Christian tradition.

Easter Sunday, April 8, 10 a.m.: Festival Holy Eucharist.

Mother Patty Alexander

Boy Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 211 continues a busy year of scouting. Last fall, the troop completed two camping trips, during which scouts braved the elements by completing a five-mile hike and sleeping in tents and lean-tos (small three-sided wooden structures).

In January 2007, the troop competed in the Klondike Sled Derby in New Jersey. During the derby, 15 Troop 211 scouts tested their endurance and scouting skills by pulling two wooden

sleds around a large scout camp. As a reflection of the troop's successful program, we brought the largest contingent of scouts to the derby.

In February, scouts learned swimming and lifesaving skills at two "Pool Nights." Living on City Island, these skills, which include how to safely rescue a swimmer in distress, are extremely important to know.

The troop plans even more exciting trips to finish off the year. In March, we plan to visit a dude ranch to enjoy horseback riding, snow boarding and hiking. The troop will also hike to Orchard Beach and test compass skills, complete a spring camping trip, go whitewater rafting and spend a week at a Boy Scout Summer Camp.

Please support Troop 211's mission by stopping by our Easter Flower Sale during the first week of April at Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Money raised during this sale pays for our scouts to attend these great trips. The troop will also have a special fund-raising table at the sale where people can sponsor a scout book and help replace old and damaged scout teaching materials and merit badge pamphlets. Many of our books are more than 10 years old and missing pages.

Troop 211 is a unique organization in which youth teach and lead other youth in an adventurous, challenging and safe environment. If you know boys aged 11 or older who are interested in joining Troop 211, e-mail your interest and questions to Troop211ideas@yahoo.com.

Scout meetings are held on Friday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. during the school year at Trinity Methodist Church on Bay Street. On average, 20 boys attend the meetings. Boys can join at any time of the year. It is never too late to start the adventure.

Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins

City Island Nautical Museum

It has been a good winter for us. Work on the Community Room is going well, and we hope to be able to complete the exhibits this spring. Then it is on to the School Room. We are especially grateful to the Bronx Council of the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program for a recent grant to help us with the Community Room project.

We are also grateful to numerous generous souls for their donations to the Historical Society, especially Adelaide Bialek, and to a number of volunteers, including Barbara Hoffman, Jane Protzman, Johnny McGowan, Steve Schmitz, and Christine Frohnert (who has helped us conserve our precious old books).

As part of an oral history project, we are sponsoring three Sunday events in March. Everyone is invited to participate in these "Conversations with Clamdiggers," which will focus on three subjects. On March 11, we will talk about old houses on City Island, especially those inhabited by the people who built them; on March 18, we are inviting anyone who worked at one of City Island's boatyards or sail lofts to come and share their memories. On March 25, the subject of conversation will be old shops on City Island, where they were located and who their proprietors were. The conversations will run from 2 to 4 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

If you want to join the museum's membership program or have any questions or wish to make a special visit, please call 718-885-0507. The museum is open every Sunday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. but special appointments can be made for those who cannot visit during regular hours.

Those of you who have old photographs of City Island buildings or people are encouraged to bring them to the Sunday conversations to help stir old memories.

Barbara Dolensek



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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indoor Community Tag Sale: Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lots of vendors and lots of merchandise!

2007 Membership Drive: Our 2007 membership drive is under way. With a membership, you will receive a membership card and various mailings throughout the year, including discount coupons for many of our events and activities! 2006 members will be receiving renewal forms within the next two weeks. If you don't get one, please call 718-885-1145 and we will send you one.

Web site: Our new Web site is up and running. Please check it out at www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com.

E-Mail Address: Our e-mail address has changed. We can now be contacted at cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com.

Drue Breen Spelling Bee: Check your mailboxes for more information about this exciting event coming soon!

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Storytime Art for Children: Ages 2-4, Tuesdays 12:45 to 2 p.m., Jan. 30 through March 27 (no class Feb. 20). Read stories, learn songs, rhyme with puppets, story-based art projects. \$60 for 8 classes. Limited to 12 children. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 to register.

Art in 3D-Off The Wall: Learn how adding a third dimension to a piece of artwork can make it more interesting and fun. Make artwork that changes with your point of view. Uses reflected color and a variety of shapes and spaces. Grades 4-7, Tuesdays 3:45 to 5:15 p.m., Feb. 27 through March 27. \$80 for 5 classes. Limited to 8 students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 to register.

Martial Arts: Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Ages 4 through 7. Three days weekly: Mondays and Fridays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. Ages 8 and up, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

Sally's Playground: Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. \$6 per

child; \$4 for siblings. Call 718-885-0349 for more information.

First-Grade Brownies and Girl Scouts: Mondays after school. If you are interested or if you have questions, call Brenda at 718-885-9040.

Girl Scouts "Where girls grow strong." Troop #1075: A place for girls to come together and develop strong friendships to last a lifetime. Camping, sweetheart dance, Girl Scout cookie sale, Hall of Science and sleepovers are just a few exciting things that will take place throughout the year.

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

ADULT PROGRAM

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

Belly Dancing with Miriam: Thursdays at 7 p.m. Basics class 8 p.m. and Sunday evenings 6 p.m. Call Miriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

Salsa With Miriam: Saturday evenings. Call 347-602-8968 for more information.

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

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

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

Chess Club: Monday evenings, due to start again soon. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message if you are interested.

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

Cub Scout News

The Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 211 recently participated in the Eastern District Klondike Derby Race Weekend in Alpine, New Jersey. In this very competitive sleigh race the boys have to pull a sleigh as they visit towns scattered all over the woods of the Alpine Boy Scout Camp. Each of the 24 towns has a theme, such as First Aid, Fire Safety, Astronomy, Map and Compass, Cooking and so on. The scouts had to meet certain criteria in each town that tested their knowledge and skills in each of the subjects. The object of the race is for the scouts to use their strategy and acquire as many points as possible in the allotted time. The race started at 10 a.m. and ended at 3:45 p.m.

This was the first time in the history of Pack 211 that the Webelos went to participate in this huge event. The boys prepared by building their own sleigh according to the specifications of the competition. Each sleigh had to weigh a certain amount and



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

City Island's Cub Scout Pack 211 had a busy start in the new year. First, they presented the colors during National Scout Sunday mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Feb 4 (top photo). Then on Feb. 10, the scouts "slept with the fishes and came back alive" from a sleepover at the Norwalk Aquarium, according to Scoutmaster Angelo Bellocchio. Scouts and their families slept on the floor among all the exhibits and were able to tour the Aquarium for an inside look at the inner workings of the marine museum.



have specific gear on board.

When we showed up at the camp in the frigid early morning hour, the boys realized that they were facing daunting competition, especially since the troop was short two scouts. The team was supposed to consist of eight boys, so the Webelos asked if they could recruit the one and only Bear scout who came to cheer them on. The team consisted of team leader Nicholas Bellocchio, Cian Byrnes, Daniel Green, Andre Brown, Connor Saulnier, John Branley and Michael Bellocchio (the Bear scout). The team called themselves "the Clamdiggers."

Although the team was still short one scout, the boys stood up to the challenge and showed outstanding teamwork and camaraderie. They relied on their individual strengths and helped each other through their weaknesses. Not once did they second guess themselves or each other, and they all showed true sportsmanship, not only to themselves, but to their competition as well.

After the Klondike race each team competed in a speed race over a short distance, and then a "best-built sleigh" competition.

At the end of the day, when all the competitions were over, the judges specifically acknowledged Pack 211 for their first venture into this widely recognized competition. At the start of the awards ceremony, it became apparent that our scouts had not only done well but that they had tied for first place with the infamous "North Pole" of the Klondike race.

The tie was broken by a time factor—which team had first handed in its score cards. So in the end the scouts of Pack 211 were awarded second place. They also won the "best-built sleigh" competition and came in second in the speed race.

Words cannot express how proud the leaders, Pete Green, Pat Branley and Angelo Bellocchio, were to see our scouts not just rise to the challenge but to excel and overcome the daunting challenges they faced.

Angelo Bellocchio

Legion News

It seems as though I've attended many wakes, funeral masses, memorial masses, hospitals and rehab centers during the past month. While on a visit to a neighbor at Sound Shore Medical Center, I myself took a tumble, landing on my proboscis (AKA my nose). My fall occurred at the main entrance, and the hospital staff responded with a wheelchair before I hit the ground. Someone asked if I was covered; I thought he was referring to a blanket but quickly realized he meant medical insurance. When it was discovered that I had not only Medicare but also United Healthcare, I was whisked off to the emergency room forthwith.

This year our Chinese brethren celebrate the Year of the Pig, which makes the Sons of the American Legion pig's knuckle party something special. Unfortunately, by the time this newsletter hits the streets, the party will be history.

On Sunday, March 11, the Post will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Aside from the usual fare of corned beef and cabbage, wine, beer and soda will also be served. In order to accommodate the expected hordes, there will be two sittings, at 1 and 4 p.m.

Past Commander Hecker informed me that his telephone was resurrected from his basement, and he is now in a position to receive incoming calls.

If you know what culprit was responsible for buying all the knishes at Papa John's, please let comrade McShane know. He terms this a case of unmitigated greed.

People still ask me about the deplorable condition of the siding at the southwest corner of the Post building. I am happy to report that progress is being made despite the weather. Our commander reminds us that Rome wasn't built in one day.

Meetings for March are: March 5 and 19, regular meetings, and March 12, executive board meeting.

I know of no one on sick call, which is good news for a change. Until next month, at ease.

Russell Schaller

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Public School 175

Although a short month, February has been quite busy. Students in Grades 3 through 8 have been working diligently with their teachers to prepare for their standardized math tests, which will be given in March. The sports and arts after-school program has been in full swing, with students participating in Lego Robotics, hip-hop dance, gym, bookmaking and homework help. In addition, over the mid-winter break, small groups of students went to New Roc City for a fun-filled time of bowling, a pizza party and the movies.

Students in kindergarten through third grade have been working with a Lincoln Center teaching artist and their classroom teachers studying Klezmer music. We are most grateful to our generous PTA for providing our students with the opportunity to work with Lincoln Center.

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year, although the sixth-grade students will be going in April when they will be better able to enjoy the outdoor activities. We are most fortunate that Mr. Rauh has promised to accompany the students for the 22nd consecutive year!

Our fifth-graders have been busy working with their classroom teachers and Mrs. Fateman on their May performance of scenes from "Oklahoma." After seeing the rehearsals, we can tell that this is going to be a marvelous production! In April, as an extension activity, the students and teachers are going to see "Hairspray" on

Broadway and will meet with one of the actors after the show to learn more about what goes into a professional production.

Our seventh-graders are gearing up for two fun and learning-filled trips that will take place in the coming months. In March they will be going to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social studies.

The students and parents of the eighth-grade graduation committee have been meeting with Mrs. Rondi and Mrs. Gisante to plan for the momentous June event. This month they held the annual Valentine's Day sale fund-raiser, which provided an opportunity for their schoolmates to purchase Valentine's Day gifts for family members. The fund-raiser was a huge success! This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, March 20, from 12:30 to 3:40 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Book Fair and Science Fair display will take place on this day as well.
- Kindergarten registration for City Island residents ONLY will take place on March 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On-going registration will continue on Thursday mornings beginning April 5 from 9 a.m. to noon.
- The second annual PTA tile painting project will take place on Tuesday, May 8, in the school cafeteria from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
- The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 21, at 10 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.
- The eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 22, at 10 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 20, at 6 p.m.



Knock Your Socks Off Endings

The phrase "They don't make 'em like they used to" resonates with me when I consider the many older films with endings that have blown me away with their emotional impact.

I was in college when I first saw **The Shoes of the Fisherman** (1968) at what was then Grauman's Chinese Theater in Los Angeles. The film stars Anthony Quinn as Kiril Lakota, a Russian priest who has spent 20 years in a Siberian labor camp. At a point when the world is on the edge of destruction because famine in China threatens the invasion of Russia, Prime Minister Kamenev (Sir Laurence Olivier) has Lakota released and sent to the Vatican. There Lakota is made a cardinal and befriends a brilliant young priest, Father David Telemond (Oskar Werner), whose philosophical writings are being reviewed for heresy.

This exceptional international cast includes Sir John Gielgud as His Holiness the Pope, Leo McKern as Cardinal Leone and famous Italian director Vittorio De Sica as Cardinal Rinaldi. A subplot involves news reporter George Faber (David Janssen) and his estranged wife, Dr. Ruth Faber (Barbara Jefford). Through Faber, the viewer learns the fascinating process by which a pope is elected. During the papal coronation, a profound gesture is made to intercede with international politics and avoid war. When the movie was over, I couldn't speak for an hour because I was so moved. (I suggest not reading any other reviews of this film as most spoil the impact of the ending.)

Reds (1981) is an epic historical romance that was written and directed by Warren Beatty, who also stars as American Communist John Reed. The film begins in 1915, when Reed meets Portland journalist Louise Bryant (Diane Keaton) and their

love affair begins. The story is told through the eyes of various "witnesses" and features famous friends of Reed, including Emma Goldman (Maureen Stapleton), Eugene O'Neill (Jack Nicholson) and Max Eastman (Richard Hermann). As the years move on, Reed becomes increasingly disillusioned by the harsh realities of Bolshevism. However, this film is less about politics than it is about a time in history when there existed a kind of moving optimism. The sight that blew me away was a simple hug, but the power of its impact was the result of the sacrifices and trials endured up until that magical moment.

The Color Purple (1985) was based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker that spans 1909 to 1949 in the deep South. Whoopi Goldberg is spectacular as Celie, the center of the film. She is virtually sold into a life of servitude to her brutal husband, Albert (Danny Glover), after having been raped by her father and having borne two children, who are taken away from her. Another amazing performance is that of Oprah Winfrey as Sofia, the strong-willed wife of Albert's son from a former marriage. Celie forms a strong friendship with Albert's mistress, Shug (Margaret Avery), which empowers her. She searches through her husband's belongings and discovers that her sister Nettie (Akousa Bouisia) had been writing to her for years from Africa. This film's final reconciliation of forces that had been beyond Celie's control is profoundly moving.

Steven Spielberg's **Empire of the Sun** (1987) is based on an autobiographical novel by J. G. Ballard that tells the story of Jim Graham (Christian Bale), a spoiled young British boy who is living with his family in Shanghai at the dawn of World War II. When the Japanese invade, Graham is separated from his parents and befriended by an American opportunist named Basie (John Malkovich). The two are thrown into a prison camp, where they spend the duration of the war learning to survive. The cinematography is dazzling, and the music is haunting. The final act of the film resolves the question of whether Graham's parents are still alive and if he will ever be reunited with them.

Cinema Paradiso (1988) is the name of a movie theater in the town of Giancaldo, Italy, where eight-year old Salvatore (Salvatore Cascio) grows into an adolescent (Marco Leonardi) during the years following World War II. He is befriended by the theater projectionist, Alfredo (Philippe Noiret), who tutors the young man and sparks his love of film. The town priest, Father Adelfio (Leopoldo Trieste), watches all of the movies before they are shown in public, and he rings a bell to have Alfredo cut the film wherever there is any kissing so as not to corrupt the townspeople. Salvatore (Jacques Perrin) eventually becomes a wealthy movie director in Rome. He returns home for the first time in many years for Alfredo's funeral and finds in a stunning finish to a very sweet film that Alfredo has left him a special gift.

And until next time, happy viewing...



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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

Ground Zero, The Bronx: The Story of Charlotte Street

If the Grand Concourse is the most famous street in the Bronx, Charlotte Street is the most infamous. Like most Bronx neighborhoods, Charlotte Street was built with pride and sheltered thousands of hard-working families in search of the American dream. It was an average block in a stable, working-class Jewish community in the southern Bronx. So how did it become the poster child for urban decay and possibly the most famous ghetto in the Western world? How did things go so wrong? The story of Charlotte Street is an extraordinary saga about the rise, demise and rebirth of one Bronx neighborhood.

With the arrival of the elevated train in the beginning of the 20th century, Charlotte Street was situated ideally for development. New apartment buildings rose one after another. Most were five-story brick walk-ups, but on the corners and on the avenues more grandiose, elevator buildings were constructed. Italian craftsman skillfully installed marble foyers; mosaic tile floors on each landing, solid brass fixtures and carved stone cornices that overhung the street.

The new tenants, almost all of them Jews from eastern Europe, were eager to leave the crowded streets and dilapidated tenements of Manhattan's Lower East Side for the comparatively luxurious new apartments in the Bronx. This new neighborhood had everything a family could want—a large park, good public schools, convenient access to the subways, synagogues, movie theaters and excellent shopping. At 127.5 acres, Crotona Park is the largest park in the South Bronx, and the Jennings Street Market was a cornucopia for the kosher housewife. Throughout the 1920s, the neighborhood grew and the families on and around Charlotte Street prospered.

Things began to change by the mid-1940s, after the end of World War II. For returning veterans, the cost of buying a home in the suburbs with a V.A. mortgage was the same as or cheaper than renting an apartment. In addition, as young people finished college, got jobs and married, many moved to the West Bronx, with its newer, more elegant and spacious buildings. As the Jewish families moved out, new tenants, mainly blacks and Puerto Ricans, replaced them. The newcomers were for the most part poorer and less educated. Their ways were different and many didn't speak English, much less Yiddish. This created fear among many families and the Jews fled Charlotte Street in droves.

The apartment buildings on Charlotte Street were by this time 40 and 50 years old and the natural lifetime of the electrical wiring, plumbing, and heating systems was coming to an end. Many landlords were reluctant to make the huge investment of a complete overhaul of their aging properties, as the income from rents didn't justify it. Even if they had wanted to renovate, it is unlikely that any bank would have lent them the money.

The new tenants had more children than the Jewish families, and often more than one family occupied a single apartment. This put additional wear and tear on the aging buildings, and the housing stock in and around Charlotte Street began to deteriorate rapidly. Many long-time landlords began to sell to new landlords who were either inexperienced, unscrupulous or both.

By the mid-1960s, the turnover was complete and the old-timers were gone.

The symptoms of poverty and social disintegration that the Jews had escaped on the Lower East Side had chased them from Charlotte Street as well. Arson, crime, drug addiction and abandonment were now rampant, and about half the families in the community were on welfare. Engine Company 82, the firehouse that serves the Charlotte Street-Jennings Market neighborhood was now the busiest firehouse in the city. During 1970 the engine responded to 4,246 fires, or about eleven a day. In a two-week period in August 1973, the blocks around Charlotte Street had 56 fires in 22 buildings.

For the unconscionable, arson became an extremely lucrative practice. In fact, government policies actually encouraged it. The

Housing Development Agency's well-known practice of awarding funds to already-vacant buildings meant that a building owner could look forward to fire insurance and a government-supported renovation of the fire-damaged apartment house. The Welfare Agency also encouraged arson with its practice of moving families to the top of the housing list if they were burned out and granting them a \$2,000 payment to refurnish their new dwelling. Junkies and vandals also torched buildings, later to be mined for valuable materials, such as copper piping.

Crime was at epidemic proportions, and the people of this area lived in fear. The 42nd Precinct, which serves the neighborhood, was now nicknamed Fort Apache, later to be immortalized in the 1981 film *Fort Apache, The Bronx*. Charlotte Street was in complete chaos, and no one knew what to do. Charlotte Street was burning down and no one seemed to care. Charlotte Street was hooked on drugs and no one seemed to notice. But that was soon to change.

In early October 1977, President Jimmy Carter came to New York to attend a session at the United Nations. The U.N. trip was the declared purpose for Carter's trip to the city, but he also had a secret itinerary known only to a handful of city officials. Carter was planning to visit a decaying inner city neighborhood to promote his platform of urban renewal. The choice was narrowed down to either Bushwick or Bedford-Stuyvesant, both of which are in Brooklyn.

When Patricia Harris, President Carter's secretary of Housing and Urban Development, contacted New York Mayor Abe Beame's office, she was convinced by a Beame aide, who happened to be a Bronxite, that a trip uptown should be considered. So it came to be. On the morning of Oct. 5, 1977, the president of the United States, a presidential motorcade with flags flying, the mayor of New York City, three helicopters whirring overhead, an eight-car NYPD escort and an astonished press corps left Manhattan and arrived at Charlotte Street, The Bronx, New York, U.S.A.

There was almost nothing left on Charlotte Street itself by 1977. Most of the buildings had been turned into piles of bricks and garbage, a mountain range of failure. The few buildings that still stood were burned-out shells. The president and his entourage were visibly shaken, and the people of Charlotte Street were completely stunned. That night American television viewers saw their president walk through an absolutely extraordinary cityscape of empty lots heaped with bricks, bottles and burned-out cars against a backdrop of empty, abandoned buildings stretching as far as the eye could see. A perplexed CBS anchor Bob Schiefer commented that this was "perhaps the worst slum in America."

Only a week later, during a World Series game at Yankee Stadium, the ABC sports cameras spotted a blazing building somewhere in the South Bronx. At regular intervals, the camera would pan the Bronx sky and zoom in on the fire, as Howard Cosell pronounced in his nasal twang to the millions of World Series viewers that "the Bronx is burning." To sensitive Bronxites President Carter's visit was long overdue and offered a glimmer of hope, but the words of Howard Cosell were just painful and humiliating.

Almost overnight the South Bronx became a cause célèbre and Charlotte Street was ground zero. Some months after President Carter's visit, Mother Teresa of Calcutta came to the area and soon dispatched a contingent of sisters from her order, the Missionaries of Charity, who opened a soup kitchen and shelter for battered women in a derelict, abandoned apartment house. On Oct. 2, 1979, on his way to say Mass at Yankee Stadium, Pope John Paul II stopped at Morris Avenue and 151st Street to bless the site and address an ecstatic crowd. To the delight of those who had gathered, the pontiff spoke to them in Spanish.

Charlotte Street had by now become a must for political aspirants to make promises and to point their fingers at other people's failures. Ted Kennedy made his appearance in March of 1980 just before the New York presidential

primary. Ronald Reagan came to Charlotte Street on Aug. 6 of that same year to lambaste his opponent, Jimmy Carter, but he was greeted by an extremely hostile crowd and was whisked away by his handlers. Just three days later, the national media were there again as the Convention for the People's Alternative set up a counter-convention to coincide with the Democratic National Convention taking place in Madison Square Garden.

Charlotte Street had now come to represent all the ills of an imperfect society. It received a steady stream of "urban disaster" tourists, as well as visiting foreign dignitaries, documentary filmmakers and the brave but curious. On one occasion, a parade of Hiroshima survivors dressed in Buddhist robes marched down Charlotte Street chanting for peace. What made this seem even more baffling was the fact that this devastation was part of New York City, the richest city in the world, and only a few miles away from the largest concentration of wealth anywhere on this planet.

In 1982, the year after the *Fort Apache* film came out; work began on Charlotte Gardens, an urban renewal project of 94 single-family ranch-style houses built on 10 blocks amid the charred rubble of a once vibrant New York City neighborhood. The skeptics and the critics of the project were many, but when these suburban-style homes were put on the market, so many qualified buyers applied that the houses had to be sold by lottery. The absurdity of this spurred a front-page story in the New York Times and received coverage around the world.

Of all the efforts confirming the renaissance of the South Bronx, none has been more heralded than Charlotte Gardens. The neighborhood has been revived through a rebuilding program of truly epic proportions and normalcy has returned. If Charlotte Street was ground zero for a crumbling South Bronx, then Charlotte Gardens is the monument built

to honor the many thousands of decent, hard-working people who stayed and struggled on a daily basis to bring it back to life.

Local points of interest include:

- **Charlotte Gardens.** An urban renewal project of 94 ranch-style homes completed in 1983. The complex is bounded to the north by East 174th Street, to the east by Southern Boulevard, to the south by Jennings Street and to the west by Crotona Park.

- **Crotona Park.** For more than 100 years, Crotona Park has been one of the most important public parks in the Bronx, a sanctuary of rolling grass, lofty trees, baseball diamonds, a pool and Indian Lake. The 3.3-acre lake was originally a natural pond and provides a home to ducks, turtles and numerous species of fish. At 127.5 acres, Crotona Park is the largest park in the South Bronx and the sixth largest in the borough. Crotona Park hosts many special programs throughout the year. Since 1984 the Bronx Urban Park Rangers have organized walks and tours that use Indian Lake and the trees and fields around it as an outdoor learning laboratory. Visitors explore pond ecology, bird watching, Bronx history and Bronx plant and animal life. The park's 20 tennis courts are the site of the annual Bronx Pro Tennis Classic.

- **Herman Ridder Junior High School** at East 174th Street and Boston Road, a six-story building that was completed in 1931. The architect paid homage to skyscraper design with setbacks and vertical window strips. Citing it as the first Art Deco school building in New York City, the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission designated Herman Ridder Junior High School as a landmark in 1990.

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

Obituaries

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

John Bonicoro

Longtime City Island resident John Bonicoro passed away on Jan 21, 2007.

He was born on March 9, 1924, and grew up in the Pelham Bay area. He graduated from P. S. 71 and Christopher Columbus High School. After high school, he attended Drake Institute, where he studied drafting. The United States was at war, and so on April 12, 1943, he was inducted into the Army Air Corps.

John was sent to radio and gunnery schools at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Yuma, Arizona. After training, his group was dispatched to Mitchell Field on Long Island, where they embarked for Europe. His friend and co-pilot Chris Zervos recalls that before leaving for Europe, John invited his crew to his home in the Bronx, where they enjoyed a dinner prepared by his mother.

The 15th Army Air Corps was stationed in Italy, and John's group, the 376th Bomb Group 515 Bomb Squadron, was active not only in Italy but also in southern France, Romania and Bulgaria. According to Chris Zervos, their plane was shot down, with its crew of 10. They bailed out close to each other, and on the way down, Chris counted only nine chutes. He assumed that one of the crew had not made it, but then he realized he had forgotten to count himself.

Listed first as missing in action, John's status would shortly be changed to prisoner of war. Because he was a man of unusual modesty, most of his adventures remain known only to himself. After returning to the United States, John was discharged on Oct. 29, 1945. He received a number of medals and decorations, including the Air Medal, the Purple

Heart, the Middle Eastern Medal, the Air Offensive-Europe, American Defense, Victory, Good Conduct, Air Combat-Balkans, Rome and Arno.

John married his wife, Flo, on June 1, 1947, at St. Francis de Chantal Church, and they moved to City Island on April 1, 1956. They lived on Schofield Street, where they raised their family. John was a member of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club and the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion for many years. He was also active in the AARP Chapter 318.

John is survived by his wife; his sons, John, Michael and Gary; his daughter, Carol Esposito; and five grandchildren, Tracy, Kim, Dana, John and Gideon. A memorial mass was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and he was interred in Pelham Cemetery.

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

MARCH 2007

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Thu	0406	0.2	1010	7.7	1637	-0.2	2233	7.4	Thu 01
02 Fri	0451	0.0	1054	7.7	1718	-0.2	2314	7.5	Fri 02
03 Sat	0532	-0.1	1134	7.7	1755	-0.1	2350	7.6	Sat 03
04 Sun	0609	-0.1	1209	7.5	1825	0.1			Sun 04
05 Mon	0022	7.5	0640	0.0	1239	7.3	1845	0.2	Mon 05
06 Tue	0043	7.4	0700	0.1	1258	7.0	1851	0.4	Tue 06
07 Wed	0058	7.4	0715	0.2	1317	6.8	1913	0.5	Wed 07
08 Thu	0121	7.3	0742	0.4	1345	6.7	1946	0.6	Thu 08
09 Fri	0155	7.3	0819	0.6	1423	6.5	2027	0.8	Fri 09
10 Sat	0235	7.2	0903	0.8	1507	6.3	2112	1.1	Sat 10

ALL TIMES ARE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 11

11 Sun	0421	7.1	1053	1.0	1659	6.2	2304	1.3	Sun 11
12 Mon	0514	7.0	1152	1.2	1759	6.1			Mon 12
13 Tue	0004	1.5	0615	7.0	1302	1.2	1908	6.3	Tue 13
14 Wed	0111	1.4	0723	7.1	1425	0.9	2021	6.6	Wed 14
15 Thu	0227	1.1	0833	7.3	1533	0.5	2124	7.2	Thu 15
16 Fri	0341	0.5	0938	7.7	1625	-0.1	2215	7.7	Fri 16
17 Sat	0442	-0.2	1033	8.0	1712	-0.5	2302	8.2	Sat 17
18 Sun	0534	-0.7	1124	8.2	1756	-0.9	2347	8.6	Sun 18
19 Mon	0624	-1.2	1212	8.3	1839	-1.1			Mon 19
20 Tue	0031	8.8	0713	-1.4	1300	8.2	1923	-1.0	Tue 20
21 Wed	0117	8.8	0804	-1.3	1350	7.9	2008	-0.7	Wed 21
22 Thu	0206	8.6	0859	-1.0	1443	7.4	2057	-0.3	Thu 22
23 Fri	0258	8.2	1001	-0.5	1543	7.0	2155	0.3	Fri 23
24 Sat	0358	7.7	1113	0.0	1702	6.5	2314	0.8	Sat 24
25 Sun	0523	7.2	1227	0.4	1826	6.4			Sun 25
26 Mon	0042	1.1	0654	7.0	1337	0.6	1938	6.5	Mon 26
27 Tue	0156	1.1	0806	7.1	1439	0.5	2040	6.8	Tue 27
28 Wed	0259	0.9	0907	7.3	1535	0.4	2134	7.2	Wed 28
29 Thu	0355	0.6	1000	7.5	1624	0.3	2223	7.5	Thu 29
30 Fri	0444	0.3	1047	7.6	1708	0.2	2306	7.7	Fri 30
31 Sat	0528	0.1	1130	7.6	1747	0.2	2346	7.8	Sat 31

APRIL 2007

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0607	0.0	1209	7.5	1822	0.3			Sun 01
02 Mon	0020	7.8	0643	-0.1	1243	7.4	1849	0.4	Mon 02
03 Tue	0048	7.7	0712	0.0	1311	7.2	1902	0.5	Tue 03
04 Wed	0103	7.6	0730	0.1	1328	7.0	1912	0.6	Wed 04
05 Thu	0117	7.6	0745	0.2	1345	6.9	1940	0.7	Thu 05
06 Fri	0145	7.6	0814	0.4	1415	6.8	2016	0.8	Fri 06
07 Sat	0220	7.6	0851	0.5	1453	6.8	2058	1.0	Sat 07

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!



Photo by KAREN NANI

The children of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island turned football's Super Bowl Sunday into Souper Bowl Sunday on Feb. 4, 2007. They collected money to feed the hungry and donated \$300 to the POTS (Part of the Solution) program in the Bronx. Shown above with their Souper Bowl are (l. to r.): Gregory and Emily Sexton, Nicholas and Kaitlyn McGuire, and Noel Aponte. Not shown: Ian and Chandler Campbell.



The Poor Robin!

The poor robin! Duped by the unusually warm January we had, the robin, who becomes a kind of recluse in winter, was coaxed from his seclusion two months too soon. And now robins are turning up everywhere, no doubt cold and confused: Jane, Tom and John have reported sightings on City Island.

For an in-depth look at a much wider variety of the birds of City Island and its environs, we strongly encourage you to visit www.cityislandbirds.com. Islander Jack Rothman maintains his own Web site on the subject. It includes close-up color photography of local avian by Jack and others that is sure to enhance knowledge and experience for birders of all levels. We were especially impressed by the red-tails vs. monks link.

On the subject of highly recommended Web sites, we continue to recommend www.historicpelham.com for scholarly glimpses of City Island's past. Of course, there is the City Island Historical Society's own site at www.cityislandmuseum.org, which should not be missed. The last time we checked they had an amazing collection of class photographs for online viewing. One was from the graduating class of 1901, when

P.S. 17 was known as P.S. 102.

If the Internet is not your thing; if you are a brick-and-mortar, flesh-and-blood kind of guy or girl, then perhaps the lectures at the Huntington Free Library and Reading Room at Westchester Square are for you. We were in attendance at January's talk about the history of Hart Island. As we write this, we eagerly await City Island's own Tom Nye and his presentation at the Huntington about—what else?—City Island. For more information about future presentations, contact librarian Cathy McChesney at 718-829-7770.

And, finally, it was with mixed emotions that we read Howard E. Pooler's letter in last month's *Island Current*. That is to say, with a mixture of pride and embarrassment. Embarrassment first, because his recollections and those of other City Islanders were stirred to life again by inaccuracies in our own *Sights and Sounds* column. On the other hand, knowing that we were responsible—if only accidentally—for the nostalgic treats shared recently in the letters-to-the-editor section of this paper makes it seem worthwhile, after all.

As always, you can share your thoughts, nostalgic or otherwise, with us at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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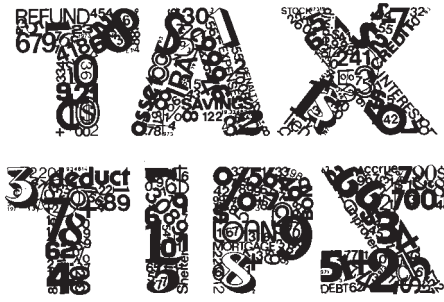
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Ten Tax Reduction Ideas, Plus One

The AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) has identified 10 ideas for minimizing taxes before April 16, 2007 (April 15 is a Sunday), and I have added one more for good measure.

1. Claim all charitable deductions. Individuals should be sure to determine and deduct miles driven for charitable purposes, such as when they drive themselves or their children to volunteer work sites. For 2006 returns, the charitable deduction rate is 14 cents per mile. Also, remember to deduct any charitable contributions made via payroll withholdings.

2. Claim all medical deductions. Mileage for medical purposes is deductible, like charitable miles, but at 18 cents per mile or, if greater, out-of-pocket cost. Any premiums paid by Social Security for Medicare by taxpayers over age 64 should also be included in your medical expense calculations.

3. Claim business mileage. For 2006 the mileage allowance for business use of your vehicle is 44.5 cents per mile. Most business use of vehicles probably costs more than this, at least in some metropolitan areas. For those taxpayers accumulating significant mileage, computing actual cost versus the standard mileage rate might be worth a try.

4. Be aware of the minimum tax credit. Individuals owing alternative minimum tax (AMT) are also probably generating a minimum tax credit that can be used against their regular tax in the future. Taxpayers should be aware of the amount generated from prior years; such information should be included in any tax preparation software used, so that it is not overlooked in future years.

5. Compare tax filing approaches and save. Taxpayers should determine their optimal filing methods, such as taking the standard deduction versus itemizing, and married couples should compute tax liability both

jointly and separately, to see which method is more beneficial.

6. Know the rules for taxation of state income tax refunds. Historically, the tax benefit rule has caused a refund of state income taxes deducted in a prior year to be taxable in a current year to the extent that itemized deductions exceeded the standard. However, revised IRS Publication 525, Taxable and Nontaxable Income. Miscellaneous Income, states that the taxable amount is further limited to the excess of the state income tax deduction over the state and local general sales tax deduction that could have been claimed.

For example, a taxpayer deducted \$10,000 in state income taxes on his 2005 return, because it was higher than the \$9,000 sales taxes he paid that year. If the taxpayer receives a \$3,000 refund of state income taxes in 2006, the maximum amount taxable would be \$1,000 (\$10,000 income taxes less \$9,000 sales taxes), because the taxpayer could have deducted \$9,000 in any event. Consequently, even if the deduction for state income taxes exceeds that for sales taxes, which is the table amount plus taxes on major purchases, taxpayers should take steps to ensure that the potential alternative sales tax deduction is as high as possible so as to limit taxable refunds.

7. Contribute to Roth IRAs. Under the IRA rules, taxpayers whose adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain levels (\$160,000 for joint filers and \$105,000 if single) cannot contribute to a Roth IRA. However, a change made by the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (TIPRA) now allows these taxpayers to effectively make contributions, even though their AGI exceeds these levels. Beginning in 2010, taxpayers can roll over amounts from traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs, regardless of their AGI. They can take advantage of this change now, by making nondeductible contributions to traditional IRAs, then rolling these amounts into Roth IRAs in 2010.

As a practical matter, taxpayers prohibited from making contributions to either Roth IRAs or traditional IRAs rarely make nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA, thinking that they are investing after-tax dollars and the income, when distributed, although tax-deferred, would be taxed at ordinary rates rather than long-term capital gain rates if such amounts were invested in growth stocks or similar investments.

However, the TIPRA changes this. Making a nondeductible contribution for 2006 by April 15, 2007, up to the maximum of \$4,000 per taxpayer (\$5,000 for those 50 or older), enables a taxpayer to roll over such amounts to a Roth IRA in 2010. Any amount taxable in 2010 from such a conversion results in half of the amount being included in income in each of 2011 and 2012. This two-year spread is only available for conversions occurring in 2010.

8. Have siblings claim siblings as dependents. Effective in 2005 and beyond, a taxpayer can claim an individual as a dependent if the latter is a qualified child. Such individual generally must (1) live with the taxpayer for more than half the tax year; (2) be under age 19 (age 24 if a full-time student); and (3) meet a relationship test. One way the relationship test is met is if the individual is the taxpayer's brother or sister. Prior-law income and support tests have been eliminated; as a result, a young adult living in the household who is not a qualifying child of his or her parents could claim a younger sibling as a qualifying child. This could be extremely beneficial when the income phase out rules eliminate the parents' ability to claim an exemption or child credit.

9. Split refunds between bank accounts. Taxpayers can elect up to three different bank accounts into which they may split their income refunds for deposit. In the past, only one bank account could be used.

10. Contribute to a Coverdell account. Formerly known as education IRAs, these accounts are limited to \$2,000 per child per year, and must be made by April 15th of the year following the year to which the contribution applies. Unless the child has special needs, the beneficiary must be under age 18 when the account is opened. The ability to contribute to these accounts phases out for joint filers with adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$190,000 and \$220,000 and for single filers with AGI between \$95,000 and \$110,000.

11. Claim the Telephone Excise Tax Credit (TET). Available for 2006 to individuals, business entities, estates, trusts and not-for-profit organizations is a one-time federal tax credit for excessive excise taxes charge on long-distance telephone services between March 1, 2003, and July 31, 2006. Individuals may claim credit based on an actual calculation method or lower standard allowance amounts of either \$30 or \$60 depending on prior filings facts. Businesses, estates, trusts and non-profit/charitable organizations must use the actual payment determination method or a hybrid approach utilizing April 2006 and September 2006 excise tax payments as a base for determining a percentage ratio to be applied to all actual telephone charges for the period noted. See IRS Form 8913 and related instructions for further clarification.

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All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

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

Hello Readers! Just wanted you all to know that this column marks my 200th for *The Island Current* so HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to me! Hopefully, I will be able to continue this fun column for many more years to come, so please keep the news rolling in. And remember, there is no charge at all to have your good news included in this column. Thanks again for 20 wonderful years!

It's a boy! Congratulations to Fordham Street's Theresa and Toby Moors, who welcomed baby Oliver on Nov. 2, 2006.

Happy March 31 birthday greetings go out to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday to Marine Street's Christopher Butterworth, who will celebrate his big day on March 8.

Happy ninth birthday on March 3 to Joseph Nelson with love from your family. And more birthday greetings go out to his dad, Joseph, who celebrates on March 28.

Welcome to the world, Mia Zapata, who made her entrance on Jan. 26. Proud mom and dad are Kim and Danny Zapata and thrilled great-grandmother is Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody. Mia has four brothers and sisters who can't wait to play with her.

The City Island Republicans would like



Photos by ROSE KOLB

City Island Girl Scouts and their escorts enjoyed themselves at their Annual Sweetheart Dance held at the Seashore Restaurant on Feb. 11, 2007.



The Random Farms Kids Theater, Inc. (RFKT) was created in 1995 and stages productions at theaters throughout Westchester County, New York. Members come from all over Westchester and Putnam Counties, New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut and range in age from 5 to 18. Several City Islanders have participated in this children's theater program, including students from P.S. 175 and Camille Pruvost (shown above as Sharpay in "High School Musical"). As of 2006, RFKT is the resident children's theater at the Tarrytown Music Hall. For information, visit www.randomfarms.com.

to send birthday greetings to Bronx Republican Party Chairman Jay Savino, who celebrates his big day on March 13.

Happy birthday and St. Patrick's Day to King Avenue's Virginia McGuire with love from your family and friends.

Maria Swieciki

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