

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Community Center Floor Fundraiser a Success!

By CELESTE ZAYAS



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Helping to inaugurate the new floor at the City Island Community Center on Friday, Sept. 16, 2005, were (l. to r.): Father Michael Challinor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea; Rabbi Shohama Wiener of Temple Beth-El; Dr. Alan Dattner, Amy Gottlieb-McElroy, Brenda Prohaska and Jeri Stark of the Community Center. Missing from this picture: Mother Patricia Alexander of Grace Episcopal Church and Rev. Susan Chadwick of Trinity Methodist Church.

Thanks to the generosity of many Island residents and organizations, the fund-raising effort to support the installation of a new floor in the City Island Community Center, chronicled over the past 10 months

in *The Island Current*, is now complete. This is, therefore, the last installment of a nearly year-long series of articles, for the new hardwood floor in the Center is now a reality.

On Friday, Sept. 16, a gala reception

was held at the center to celebrate and thank everyone involved in making this dream come true. Participants at the event dined on delicious food donated by Yvette Chandel catering, Crab Shanty, Seafood City, Lobster House and Deana Weyrauch from the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, and listened to the cool jazz provided by the Lickety Split Band. Island teens Alaura Mancuso and Valerie Della Cera passed around hors d'oeuvres and made sure that all guests were well fed. "Gina from Small Potatoes kept the little ones busy, much to the delight of their parents, with a complimentary cooking class." St. Mary's Father Michael Challinor and Trinity Church's Rev. Susan Chadwick were in attendance, along with Mother Patricia Alexander from Grace Episcopal Church and Rabbi Shohama Wiener from Temple Beth-El, both of whom blessed the center and its new floor.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a hardwood plaque etched with the names of those who donated to the floor. The plaque was handmade by Island artist and resident Laury Hopkins and is on permanent display in the main room of the center.

Brenda Prohaska and Jeri Stark, who conceptualized the fund-raiser and spearheaded it throughout the past year, thanked everyone involved and reiterated what City Islanders already know—that when we put our minds together we can achieve great things.

The installation of this new floor is the culmination of many cosmetic changes made to the center over the past several years, such as a fresh coat of paint and the dropped ceiling. These improvements have attracted more programs to the center, which has been home to the following organizations and activities: Irish step dancing, aerobics, adult tap dancing, tap and jazz for children, Boy and Girl Scouts, photography classes, the Civic Association meetings, the Millennium Moms and the chess club.

Thanks to the recent renovations, the following new programs are slated for this fall: a knitting club, juggling, belly dancing, Small Potatoes (a cooking class for children), Chamber of Commerce meetings and Spanish classes for pre-K children. In addition, the Teen Center has reopened under the guidance of Islander Jay Howard, and after a long hiatus, the Haunted House will delight all on Halloween.

Even with the advent of these new programs complementing the existing ones, there are still many time slots available for more programs. Anyone who wishes to schedule a class or has suggestions for new programs may call Amy Gottlieb-McElroy at 718-885-3502 for further information.

Officers of the Community Center are grateful to the entire City Island community for its contribution to the installation of this beautiful floor.

## Longtime Islanders Honored by Chamber of Commerce

The City Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual awards dinner on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Lido Restaurant, 101 City Island Avenue. This year's awards will be presented by master of ceremonies State Senator Jeff Klein to a number of individuals who are well-known to City Islanders.

**Frank Fitts**, president of the City Island Civic Association, will receive the Exemplary Community Service Award. Born and educated in the Bronx, Frank met and married his wife, Lucille, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and moved to City Island 32 years ago. During those years Frank and Lucille raised two daughters, Lucille and Elizabeth, and a son, Andrew. Elizabeth and Andrew both became officers in the New York Police Department (NYPD). And nowadays they are enjoying their four grandchildren.

Frank, known by his friends as "the Reverend," was employed in the newspaper and publishing field for 30 years. In 2001 he embarked on a consulting career for local businesses, community organizations and the NYPD. He became actively involved in community service and civic work, serving as vice president and president of the Civic Association during the 1980s and as treasurer during the 1990s. He was re-elected president in 2000, a position he still holds.

Frank has also served as president of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parents' Association; on the St. Mary's Council, and as president of Iona Prep Fathers' Council. He is president of the 45th Precinct Community Council and is also active with the NYPD Citizen's Police Alumni Association, having served as its secretary.

Frank continues to be energetically involved in the 9/11 Memorial for the NYPD and FDNY and is a driving force on City Island and elsewhere in the Bronx. As the Reverend, he still takes pleasure in offering advice and solving problems with a gentleman's smile and a great sense of humor.

**Dianne and John O'Sullivan** of O'Sullivan Travel Service, will be recipients of the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award. Both clam diggers, they have been married for 35 years and were blessed with three children, Sean, Dianne Marie and Brian. Both are active members of their church, St. Mary, Star of the Sea as lecturers, eucharistic ministers and parish council members.

John has worked for years for the New York City Police Department but has supported the O'Sullivan Travel Service, which Dianne started in 1994. They organize group trips to the Caribbean, to Europe and throughout the United States. They are well-known for helping to assist and accommodate those who travel on their own, and they make sure that everyone is taken care of in the special "O'Sullivan way." Their success has resulted over the years in the formation of many delightful, long-lasting friendships.

John and Dianne love living on City Island and have been dedicated to helping the community for many years. Their involvement has included the Parents Association of P.S. 175, the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary; St. Mary's POTS Program and potluck barbecues, Friends of Seniors Program and the once-active City Island Voluntary Ambulance Corps (CIVAC). The

O'Sullivans are also dedicated to fund-raising projects for underprivileged children and families and support a college fund for two children in Nigeria.

Blessed with seven grandchildren, John and Dianne are always busy with the next project at hand, and both are a striking complement to our Island!

The **Garden Club of City Island** will receive the Chamber's Service to Community Award. Established in 1960 when three ladies attended the first meetings, the Garden Club became a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State the following year and is now a thriving organization.

During its 45 years, the Garden Club has grown considerably and has attained state recognition for its accomplishments. Its members are dedicated to making City Island clean and beautiful; they are also responsible for seeing that hundreds of new trees are planted on side streets and along the Avenue and arranging for the abundance of plants and flowers at various places on the Island. The club was also instrumental in restoring Hawkins Street Park and the Bridge Promenade and for many years arranged for street cleaning along the Avenue in the center of the village.

Two years ago, the club planted a garden at our Post Office and this spring planted the American Legion Memorial triangle near the bridge and filled planters in front of the library. The Garden Club continues to maintain these gardens, to work with the Parks Department and to carry out its beautification program for City Island.

The Garden Club is a very important and vital part of City Island, and we commend its officers, including the current president, Susan Strazzer, and its members for their efforts and accomplishments. The Garden Club has 23 active members and is eager to add like-minded residents to its membership.

**Dr. Norbert Sander, MD**, of Sound Shore Medical Center, will be honored with the Tom Cerreta Accomplished Business Service Award. Dr. Sander was raised in Yonkers and attended Fordham Prep, where he captained the cross-country team to two city championships, the only ones in the school's 170-year history.

Dr. Sander majored in pre-med at Fordham University and was an All-American member of the 1963 track team that won the Penn Relays, breaking the long standing four-mile relay record. He continued his successful streaks by winning the Yonkers Marathon in 1973 and the New Orleans Mardi Gras and New York City Marathons in 1974.

Dr. Sander was instrumental in bringing the sport of track and field back to New York City. After a three-year effort, the city handed him the keys to the dilapidated Fort Washington Armory on West 168th Street. With the help of several of his good friends, including fellow Millrose runner Michael Frankfurt, who is now chairman of the Armory, they raised over \$25 million and restored the Armory to become an award-winning urban jewel serving 125,000 youngsters annually. The Armory has a world-class indoor track and field facility with over 1,000 high schools and 200 colleges competing yearly in 120 track-and-field competitions.

Dr. Sander attended medical school at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and graduated from Albert Einstein Medical School in 1971. He opened a practice on his beloved City Island, where he remembers his father, a pilot, taking his mother, sister and himself on spellbinding seaplane flights up along Long Island Sound. Dr. Sander raised two daughters, Eva and Jessica, on City Island before moving to Manhattan.

Dr. Sander began his longtime affiliation with Sound Shore Medical Center in 1976 in

*Continued on page 5*

**BRIEFLY...**

**CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON**, a division of the United States Power Squadrons, will conduct an eight-week Public Safe Boating Course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, starting Monday, Oct. 17, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The course is for individuals 12 years and older and will provide Personal Water Craft (PWC) certification upon completion. Topics will include boat handling, seamanship, navigational aids, marlinspike, "rules of the road," elementary piloting, plotting, regional boating, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio telephone usage and more. Instruction is free; materials are \$65. For more information, call Jim at 718-863-3844 or e-mail [pegfmorton@aol.com](mailto:pegfmorton@aol.com).

**AN OLD-FASHIONED CARNIVAL** will be hosted by St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, complete with rides and games in the schoolyard behind the school, on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14 and 15, beginning at 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 16, beginning at 3 p.m. Please bring your friends and family. Parking is limited so be considerate of your neighbors and park legally.

**ST. MARY'S 75TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY YEAR.** A meeting to plan the gala anniversary dinner to be held in the spring of 2006 to honor the school's 75th year will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at the school. Wine and cheese will be served. For more information, call Helen Livingston-McMahon at 718-885-1197, Kelly Kretzer-Saulnier at 718-885-1313, Eileen McGee-Hess at 718-885-2509 or Bill Mueller at 718-885-2252.

**BABY SHOWER:** The Leonard Hawkins Auxiliary Unit 156 will hold its annual "baby shower" on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. This year all items will be sent to another American Legion Auxiliary located in Biloxi, Mississippi, which will distribute these items where they are needed. Please donate new items only, sizes infant to four years of age. Donations may be dropped off at the Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, on the night of Oct. 12 or call 718-885-1358 to arrange for pickup or delivery.

**FREE COMPOST** will be made available on Oct. 15 and 16 at the Soundview Composting Facility at the end of Randall Avenue, near Soundview Park. The New York City Department of Sanitation will give away to residents of New York City unlimited amounts of free, high-quality compost made from the leaves that the department collects each fall. Bring a shovel and enough study bags or containers to take away all the compost you want. Staff from the department will be available to answer recycling and compost-related questions, and home compost bins will be available at \$20 each. For more information, call 718-817-8543.

**Rash of Burglaries Alarm Islanders**

By BARBRA DOLENSEK

The summer of 2005 may be remembered as a summer without rain (enjoyed by all except the trees, flowers and lawns) but it is also possible that it will be remembered as a summer of burglaries, most of which affected City Island businesses.

The burglaries were relatively minor in nature, but the sheer number of them has raised concern among residents and businesses alike.

The most recent break-in occurred on Thursday, Sept. 15, at Lickety Split, the ice cream store at 295 City Island Avenue, next to Hawkins Park. The perpetrators broke into the back of the store and stole money from the cash register, as well as rolls of coins that had been hidden here and there in the shop. According to the owners, Skippy and Louise Giacco, the police were slow to respond, although they did eventually appear on the scene and found fingerprints. The Giaccos have put up a reward of \$300 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the burglars, although Skippy told *The Current* that what he really wanted was a heartfelt apology from those who committed the crime.

The Black Whale suffered a similar break-in during mid-August, when the cash register was emptied and the freezer doors were left open. The On Board Laundomat of City Island also experienced the loss of rolled coins, stolen by whoever got into the office through a window in the back of the building.

Police at the 45th Precinct confirmed that a number of commercial burglaries have been reported and are being investigated by the Burglary Apprehension Team (BAT). During the last six months, three unlawful break-ins occurred at City Island businesses, sometimes through unlocked windows and doors. Small items and cash totaling \$100 or less were stolen in each case.

According to Lieutenant Michael Brenyo, patrols have been increased on City Island during the midnight tour of duty in response to the burglaries. Although no arrests have been made, police have some theories. "We believe one individual is responsible for these burglaries and that individual is a City Island resident," he told *The Current*.

Rumors about other incidents mostly proved to be unfounded. The Pizza Place had a rock thrown through the window but was not broken into; the City Island Diner also did not experience any criminal activity.

The yacht clubs are said to have been another target, including the City Island Yacht Club, the Morris Yacht Club and the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, all of which suffered minor losses at different times over the summer. Calls made by *The Current* to the yacht clubs were not returned.

Not all of these incidents were reported to the police, which Skippy Giacco feels is most unfortunate, because the Police Department should be kept informed of criminal activity on the Island, no matter how minor.

Paul Klein of Exotiq said that he had not suffered because he has a gate that he installed when he first bought the store. He replaced an existing gate, much to the dismay of residents who felt that gates give visitors to City Island the wrong impression, but he was obliged to do so, since a gate had already been in place and now he is glad it is in place.

Lt. Brenyo urges Islanders or anyone else to call the 45th Precinct (718-822-5449) if they have any information related to these crimes.

**Corrections**

The photograph of a sewer outflow in the September issue of *The Current* was incorrectly captioned; the outflow pipe is on east, not west, Schofield Street.

In the primary election article, Anne and Richard J. Riordan were listed as candidates for the County Committee for the Conservative Party. This information was furnished by the NYC Board of Elections Web site in late August, when the newspaper went to press. By primary day, however, both names had been removed from the ballot.

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On Saturday, Sept. 10, Lily Kolb (left) and Madylyn Piscatelli sold iced tea and popcorn to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They were joined by Sammy Pryor (not shown), and together they raised \$96.50 for the cause. Lily and Madylyn were shining examples of the generosity City Islanders showed toward those in need after the devastating hurricane that hit Louisiana and Mississippi.

## CONSOLIDATED YACHTS TO BE DEVELOPED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In what has come to be a continuing refrain, yet another boat yard on City Island is going to be sold for a housing development. Consolidated Yachts, Inc., located on City Island Avenue north of Pilot Street for the past 40 years, is in contract with Cava Construction, which is preparing to apply for a zoning change for the seven-plus acre property now zoning M1-1 (Manufacturing).

Representatives of Cava have met twice with Community Board 10, and on Tuesday, Sept. 27, they presented a preliminary proposal to members of the City Island Civic Association. Cava's architect, Alan Bolton, explained to those in attendance at the meeting that instead of constructing 26 two-family houses on the property, which would be allowed within the Island's residential zoning, Cava proposes building three larger structures, each housing 18 units, plus a community building with a pool, meeting room and gym.

Mr. Bolton explained that there are a number of advantages to this relatively high-density approach. First, the arrangement of the buildings on the property would allow a much greater view of the waterfront from City Island Avenue, with only 30 percent of the site used for building, as opposed to 65 percent for the small-house approach. Also, the construction methods and materials would be more substantial and safer for the larger buildings than for individual houses.

Although the final drawings have yet to be completed, the development is planned as a gated community of condominiums, each unit with two or three bedrooms, parking beneath the buildings for two cars each, and a slip in the development's marina. There would be guest parking for 30

or more cars near the Pilot Street, slips for transient boaters and a waterfront area accessible to the public. The main, gated entrance to the development would be on City Island Avenue; non-residents would access the property through Pilot Street. No building would be higher than 35 feet, which is the maximum height allowed in City Island Special District Zoning.

Cava Construction is owned by cousins Carmine Della Cava, 52, and Peter Serpico, 39, both of whom grew up in Pelham Bay. They are the developers of Shelter Cove Marine Condos in Throggs Neck at the end of Clarence Avenue as well as the development of the former Sunrise Marina property on Eastchester Bay, but they are also committed to helping the communities in which they build.

When the Edgewater Park Volunteer Fire Department recently wanted to rehabilitate their hall, Jimmy Vacca, district manager of Community Board 10, called Cava to ask for help. "Cava Construction and Peter Serpico said if I ever needed anything, or if I could identify a project that would benefit the community, to give them a call. . . . As soon as I explained the situation, they agreed to help out, volunteering manpower and expertise. It [became] a joint effort between the company and the volunteer members of the firehouse."

Both Mr. Serpico and Mr. Cava were present at the Civic Association meeting and answered a number of questions from residents. The issue of public access to the water was considered desirable, although it opens up the potential problem of loitering and so on that affects other public water access on City Island. The appearance of the buildings was also questioned, but nothing final has been designed as yet. Although the units would be large enough to accommodate families with children, the developers felt that the likely market for the units would be professionals, empty nesters and families without children, making a negligible impact on the already crowded schools on City Island.

City Island residents will get another opportunity to review the plans at a public hearing that the Community Board will hold as part of the ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), which is a necessary requirement for a zoning change.

The one question that the Cava representatives were unable to answer, however, was "Where can we put our boats now?" It looks increasingly as if the only answer may soon be "not on City Island."

## The Nautical Museum Needs You!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Walsh Room (above) and the Nautical Room at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street; open to the public free of charge on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.



tion of City Island's cultural and maritime history.

The Nautical Room, designed and installed by president Tom Nye, is a fascinating source of information about City Island's shipbuilding past with actual artifacts as well as pictures and boat models. The Walsh Room exhibits works of art and boasts a library that has been of great use to those studying City Island history, including the Department of City Planning and students from Pratt Institute and Columbia University.

What is needed now is community-wide support for exhibits in the Community and School Rooms and ideas from those who have lived here for years as well as those who are just now getting to know the Island and its special character. Old photographs, such as graduation pictures from the City Island schools and houses as they used to look, memoirs, diaries, and other reminiscences of longtime residents are especially needed.

The officers of the museum extend an invitation to anyone who would like to see City Island's past presented in the most accurate and attractive way. Volunteers are needed to help catalogue this material and to help install the exhibits, or to embark on other projects on their own time.

Most important, however, is the funding to help cover the costs of the reinstallation. The City Island Historical Society is a tax-exempt organization, meaning that all donations are tax deductible, and all donations will be acknowledged with wall plaques appropriate to the gifts. Membership is another form of support; family membership costs only \$25, individuals \$20, and seniors and juniors \$10 each.

Anyone who would like to donate ideas, money, time or effort should call 718-885-0507 or send an email to [cihs@cityislandmuseum.com](mailto:cihs@cityislandmuseum.com) (and while you're at it check out the museum's wonderful Web site at [www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org)). The Museum is open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at 190 Fordham Street; donations may be mailed to P. O. Box 82, City Island NY 10464.



Photography by Ron Turner  
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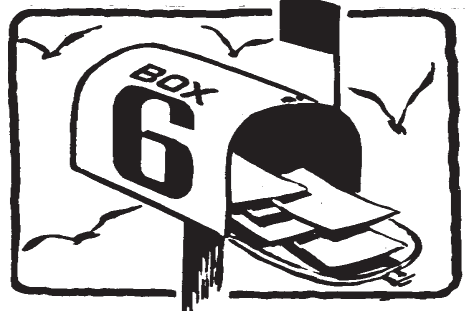
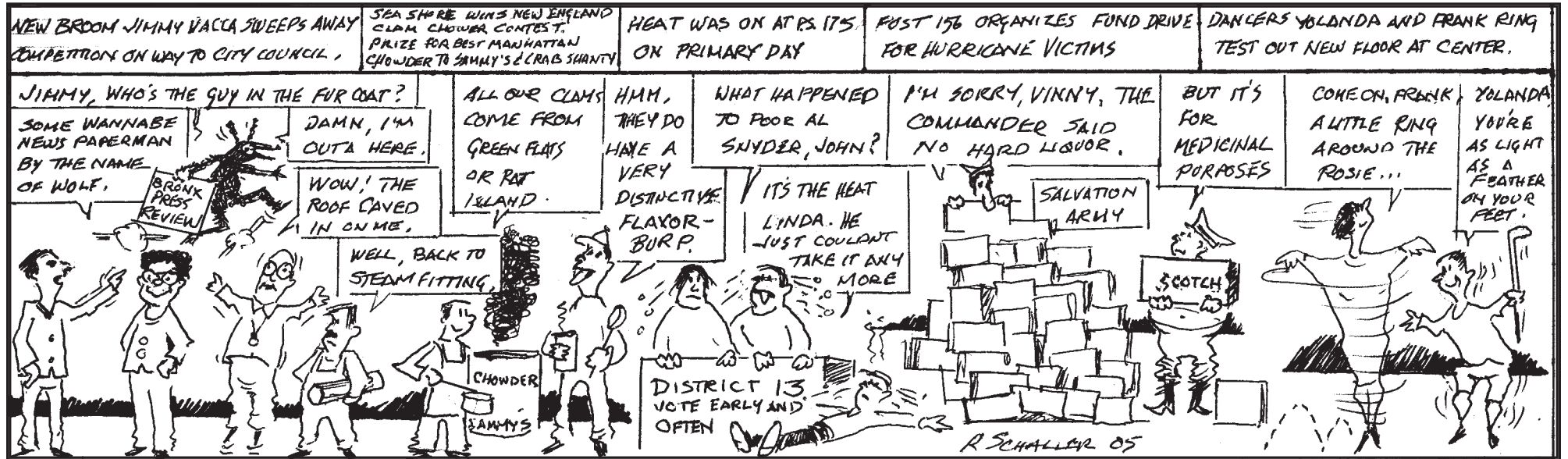
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**New Rochelle Bus**

To the Editor:  
A shuttle bus is being proposed for those of us who have to make the detour to Pelham Bay Station in order to make the Bee Line Bus connection to New Rochelle and all points north. Such a shuttle would save us time and, hopefully, money.

The shuttle would make designated stops on City Island Avenue and Pelham Road and terminate at the New Rochelle Transportation Center, where connections to Metro North and other Bee Line Buses toward Mount Vernon, Port Chester and White Plains are available. There would also be a return trip in the evening.

The bus company has requested a survey to determine whether there is sufficient interest in the shuttle. Please send an email to [ebaker@cnr.edu](mailto:ebaker@cnr.edu) if you are interested in participating, along with your desired departure and return times. If we do get a decent response, time and fee schedules will be established. I will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

**Evyonne Baker**

**Chamber Summer Fair**

To the Editor:  
The City Island Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone who participated in the fair on Sept. 10-11 to make it a wonderful weekend success. We thank chairperson Paul Klein of Exotiq and his wonderful staff; the new owner of Lickety Split, Louise Giacco, for donating the great music for the benefit of victims of the storm in Louisiana and Mississippi. And we thank Yolanda Cirulli, Marion Rosenfeld and Margie McNulty for their time and efforts.

Restaurants who participated in the 2005 Clam Chowder Contest were: Artie's Steak & Seafood, City Island Diner, Crab Shanty, Lobster Box, Sammy's Fish Box, Seafood City and Sea Shore. Votes were taken from 100 participants in choosing the winners. Chamber board member Joe Valenti of the Sea Shore Restaurant ran the contest, with the help of John Mandy and Seafood City's Bernardo Ramirez, and we thank them for all their hard work.

The winner of the New England Clam Chowder Contest was the Sea Shore; runner-up was Artie's Steak and Seafood.

The Manhattan Clam Chowder Contest

was a tie between the Crab Shanty and Sammy's Fish Box, with the City Island Diner as runner-up.

The winner of Saturday's 50/50 Raffle was City Island resident Shauna Kaul; the winner Sunday's 50/50 Raffle was Bronx resident Marianne LaSalandra.

**Peter LaScala**

**Support for Principal**

To the Editor:  
This is in regard to the letter titled "A Matter of Principal," which appeared in the September issue of *The Current*. It galls me to no end how Mrs. Lopez is still vilified on City Island. I will vouch for the fact that her people skills were sorely lacking, but the way she was treated while she was here was simply despicable. Thank you for letting me defend her.

**Annette Cornier-Lopez**

**Hurricane Relief Day**

To the Editor:  
On behalf of Post 156 Sons of the American Legion, I would like to thank all the residents of City Island who contributed to the Hurricane Relief Day. The event was a huge success. We raised over \$2,500 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and we collected more than 300 bags of clothing, as well as 50 cases of water, food, canned goods, diapers and medical supplies.

Special thanks go to Father Mike of St. Mary's Church, Connie's Supermarket and the New York City Department of Sanitation for supplying two large trucks to transport all the donations to the Salvation Army.

The clothes were shipped to New Orleans on Monday night. The eighth-grade class of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School came to the Post to help load all the trucks. Finally, I would like to thank the members of S.A.L. and their wives for the help on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005.

**Jim Livingston**

**Happy Hookers**

To the Editor:  
The Happy Hookers, a fishing club comprising members from the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, held their annual clambake on Sept. 4, 2005. During the clambake, they announced that proceeds from their raffle would go to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I am happy to tell you that they raised \$700.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

**Anne Marie DeCristofaro Gerhard**

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Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano led the festivities dedicating the restored American Boy statue in Pelham Bay Park in August 2005. Islander Franz Helmke (not shown) heads the Friends of Pelham Bay Park and assisted in organizing the ceremony.

### AMERICAN BOY RETURNS

The 14-foot statue of a boy, which originally stood on top of the grandstand of Rice Stadium in Pelham Bay Park, has been restored and reinstalled on a new pedestal overlooking the running track and ball fields in the southern part of the park, not far from its original location.

The statue, carved by Louis Saint-Lanne in 1923, was commissioned by the wife of the late Isaac Rice after whom the stadium was named. When the stadium was demolished in 1989, the Parks Department salvaged the statue and placed it in storage until funds were made available by Council Member Madeline Provenzano to restore and reinstall it as a symbol of athleticism and personal fitness.

Emma and Phoebe, who are budding running enthusiasts. He continues to be active in long-distance running and serves as president of the Armory Foundation and as a member of the board of directors of the New York City Road Runners Club.

The dinner on Nov. 11 will feature John Valenti's five-piece band called Here and Now, as well as a full dinner. Tickets are \$60 each and must be ordered in advance from Jane LaScala, 19 Schofield Street, City Island NY 10464. The evening begins with cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

### Chamber Awards

*Continued from page 1*

general and sports medicine. In 1989 he and Dr. Lawrence Klekatsky collaborated to alert the public on the growing dangers of steroid abuse in sports by hosting a symposium at Sound Shore, but their warnings, unfortunately, fell on deaf ears.

Dr. Sander is now married to Bridget Bennett, with whom he has two daughters,

## FAIR '05: WALKIN' ON SUNSHINE

*Photos by RICK DeWITT*

The City Island Arts and Crafts Fair was a weekend success during Sept. 10 and 11, 2005, thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Chamber of Commerce. Highlights included the Chowder Contest in which over 100 participants cast their votes for the best tasting mollusk soup on City Island. The Lickety Split band entertained fair goers in Hawkins Park and sunny skies (typical of the summer of '05) kept organizers and vendors smiling.



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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.

Island resident **Edward D. Heben** was appointed in July to the board of directors of Calvary Hospital, where he had volunteered his services. Mr. Heben, who writes a column for *The Island Current*, is a certified public accountant, certified valuation analyst and accredited estate planner with offices in Rye, New York. He looks forward to helping those in need by offering his many years of professional experience to Calvary.

The **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will be exhibiting *MetamorphFaces*, face painting by Laury Hopkins and photography by Rick DeWitt from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31. The Opening, from 1-4 p.m. on Oct. 1 features face painting and photographs for kids of all ages. A special addition is Halloween face painting on Oct 31 at the gallery from 1-5 p.m.

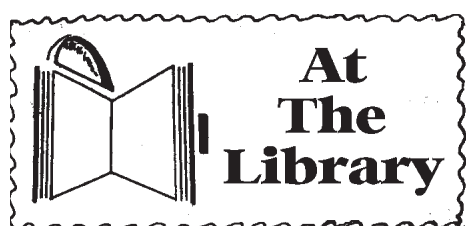
**Focal Point Gallery** will then be exhibiting new works and prints by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner during the month of November. The opening reception is Friday, Nov. 4 starting at 7:00 p.m.

The **Starving Artist Café & Gallery**, 249 City Island Avenue, continues with a fall line-up of art and lots of music. On Saturday, Oct. 8, the walls of the cafe will sing with the art of Chesiel John at her opening reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Later that night, singer-songwriter Matt Turk takes the stage at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 9, enjoy a duet performance by Port O' Monkeys, featuring Spanish, Middle Eastern and original music; the show, from 5 to 7 p.m., features City Island's Dr. Chris Wertenbaker. On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Beatles return to the Starving Artist in the presence of their tribute band, Rubber Soul; those two shows, at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., are SOLD OUT! On Sunday, Oct. 16, it's back to jazz with the City Island Jazz Quartet, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The following weekend features two new bands: Friday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m., Bomb-

shell; Saturday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m., Purple Rose. (Purple Rose got the attention of owner-proprietor Elliott Glick at the first singer-songwriter open-mike night in July.) There will be another open mike night for singer-songwriters (as there is on every last Friday of the month) on Friday, Oct. 28, starting at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 29, listen to a regular performer at the café: singer-songwriter Sam Leopold, starting at 8 p.m. For more on the schedule, including additional October dates and dates to year-end, visit our Web site at [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com) or call 718-885-3779.

**Burke's Boat Supplies**, 526 City Island Avenue (718-885-1559) has a free flyer on "How to Winterize Your Outboard Motor and Inboard Outboard.) Save money and do it yourself. Captains, stop in for a copy.



**From the Children's Room**  
**Toddler Program:** Every Thursday morning (Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27) at 10:30 a.m. Ages 18 to 36 months. Songs, stories and arts and crafts. Pre-registration is required.

**Arts and Crafts:** Halloween arts and crafts. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration required.

**Millennium Babies** will meet for songs and story time on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 1:30 p.m.

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


For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.



On Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto gave out certificates to the children who participated in Summer Reading Program at the City Island Library. Also present were the branch librarian, Evelyn Geroges, and guest storyteller Lu Anne Adams.

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# CITY ISLAND GOLD

By PATRICK GANNON, City Island Beekeeper

"City Island Gold" is the name our six-year-old son, Julian, created for a product that you will find on the shelves of local shops, including the Sugar & Spice Bakery. This is the honey that our Italian lady honeybees produced with the nectar they collected from millions of miscellaneous flowers all over City Island. It is a mellow and distinctive honey with no aftertaste, and we feel that it captures the sweet nature of the people who make our Island so special.

I was initiated in the joys of the craft of beekeeping in 1975 in the small agricultural village of Lode, outside the city of Cambridge in England, where I was fortunate to receive tuition from farmers who took beekeeping very seriously. Farmers rely heavily on the services of honeybees to pollinate the flowers of their crops, such as apples, oil seeds and clover, in order to increase their production.

These "agri-sages" advised me not to expect to harvest very much honey, since there were a great many bees already in the area and the competition would be fierce for local flowers. However, they advised me to spend some time looking at bee-friendly flowers in the area to determine what the nature of the competition might be.

As I looked at foraging bees at different times of the day over a couple of weeks in late spring and early summer, I realize that the competition wasn't as bad as they had predicted. I figured that their bees must be totally satisfied with what they got from the farmers' fields and had no interest in competing with my bees since they had so much pollen and honey in storage.

Thirty years later, in the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005, I made a similar study of City Island, Pelham Bay Park and the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary, assuming that honeybees were abundant and the competition fierce, since I didn't want

to put too much effort into a beekeeping project that might fail for them and for me. However, I was in for a major disappointment—a dearth of honeybees no matter where I looked.

One might think that the bees would have lined up to sample pollen at some of the main pollen flowers of early spring, such as skunk cabbage and purple loosestrife (which bees love but which environmentalists don't, because it's not an indigenous species and has degraded many prime wetlands by crowding out native plant species). These early pollen bearers are critical in providing nutrition for the spring brood of bees, so that the babies will be ready to fly and collect lots more pollen and nectar for the hive within a few weeks.

Although these plants were abundant, the honeybees were noticeably absent. A little later in the spring, as the major nectar-bearing plants started to bloom across the area, a similar story unfolded. Some honeybees were out there doing business, but there were not very many of them, although there were some bumblebees offering competition. I was concerned, not just for the health of the two honeybee colonies I planned to bring in, but also for the status of wild honeybees—and by natural extension for the ecological well-being of City Island and the park without major pollinators.

I wondered if some destructive element was compromising the well-being of nature's ecological vanguard, so I got some good local advice and learned that the absence of bees had nothing to do with the local landfill monster but was probably caused by the fire-breathing dragon malathion, an insecticide that affects not only honeybees but also other local insects, such as crickets, butterflies and dragonflies. Even the Mayor's Chem-Bio Handbook describes malathion as a toxic nerve gas



Photo Courtesy of PATRICK GANNON

Islander Patrick Gannon and his daughter, Hannah, take a hands-on approach to beekeeping.

related to one used by the Nazis in World War II. The risks posed by malathion have been recognized, and "scientists are stating that malathion (even at low levels) is in fact, a harmful chemical" at many levels from wildlife to humans (<http://www.chem-tox.com/malathion/research>).

The malathion spraying that took place in the summers of 1999 and 2000 in and around City Island in an attempt to curtail the spread of West Nile virus (transmitted to humans by mosquitoes) seems to have had a devastating effect on many species other than mosquitoes. Ironically, the absence of mosquito predators such as dragonflies has given rise to a 15-fold increase in mosquito levels, according to Dr. Warren Bell, past president of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. Dr. Bell also points out that "Malathion is dangerous and isn't very effective for long-term mosquito control."

My wife, Nancy, who was pregnant at the time of the first spraying in 1999, became worried after she read about the use of this pesticide and the implication for its role in birth defects (see the Web site referred to above for details). Sure, these beneficial species will likely bounce back, and the spraying of a major pesticide may well have been justified for human health. But in the future it may be more environmentally appropriate for all concerned to have used a less globally destructive method of mosquito control.

This year the city's Department of Health is following up on West Nile by spraying Anvil (sumithrin), a pesticide that is supposed to be less toxic than malathion, but perhaps one day we will move beyond this to a more organic approach. Why not ship in hordes of indigenous dragonflies, praying mantis and other mosquito feeders?

Anyway, in the spring of 2005, I crossed my fingers and hoped that the dragon was gone and that it was time to start repopulating the City Island honeybee population and to help reinvigorate that part of the ecological equation. First I explained to my neighbors about the apiary-to-come so that they would understand the environmental role of honeybees. Unlike wasps (yellow jackets), honeybees do not care about your summer picnic food or fruit juices and will not bother humans. In fact, all they care about are your flowers and the pollen and nectar they can harvest. Leave honeybees alone and they will leave you in peace; they are too busy working to waste their precious time on such an onerous life-threatening job as attacking humans.

Many people who complain that "the bees are bothering me" are really talking about the pesky yellow guys who will hunt you down, especially if you have the audac-

ity to swat them. Although wasps do have their own role in nature, beekeepers do not like them. They are opportunistic scavengers and can decimate a weak hive. They can also sting you many times over and survive, whereas a honeybee lady who stings to protect her colony will die in the effort, so it is always a necessary last resort.

Although the New York Times ran an article on Sept. 20 reporting that honeybees were deadly, the writer got his facts completely wrong; He apparently misread a study of 617 people who suffered allergic reactions, not to honeybees but to ants, wasps, yellow jackets and hornets, and all of them walked home after three hours of treatment. Far from being deadly, honeybees have proven to be medically valuable. Since ancient times and in many parts of the world today, bee venom is used in apitherapy to treat multiple sclerosis and arthritis. For more information, see the article by Dr. Glenn Rothfeld at <http://www2.shore.net/~spectrum/apitherapy.html>.

Next I placed six yellow-jacket catchers all around my yard—bottles filled with fruit juice that use the lobster-trap "can't find the exit" method, so that they drown in the juice they love. No honeybees were ever attracted to the traps, but lots of wasps and biting flies were.

The third step was to set up the hives and to put our 15-month-old daughter, Hannah, on my lap so that the neighbors could see us admiring the bees in perfect safety as they flew in and out of the hive.

And the final step was to harvest the honey, leaving more than enough for the bees to survive the winter, and to distribute samples of City Island Gold to all understanding neighbors and friends and to put some on sale at selected Island stores.

This school year I will be working with Ms. Carter-Spencer, a kindergarten teacher at P. S. 175 in order to have her students experience and be inspired by the wonder of a bee colony. I plan to visit the classroom and give an illustrated lesson of a honeybee's life and then (with parental permission) to arrange a field trip to see the inside of a hive (through a mosquito- and bee-proof net tent) as I open it up and show how the bees work.

Like any beekeeper, I would be happy to offer the City Island community my services as a swarm catcher for anyone who worries that the species in question is not honeybees. And if anyone has a desire to learn how to keep bees and how to set up a colony or two, I would be pleased to serve as a mentor.

As you may have gathered, beekeeping is not just a way to get honey. It is inspirational to manage them, to help them survive the pitfalls of life and to watch them fly out and work hard for themselves and for us.

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 7 to 9, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale.** Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

Thurs., Oct. 20, **AARP 3303 Annual Fair and Raffle,** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Hall at 113 Bay Street.

Thurs., Oct. 20, **Community Board 10 meets,** 7:30 p.m., Villa Barone Restaurant, 3289 Westchester Ave. at Pelham Bay Station.

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

Sat., Oct. 29, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

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

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 8, **Election Day,** 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

#### Chapter 318 AARP

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

Blood-pressure readings are taken on the first Wednesday of the month by Beryl Benham between 12 noon and 1 p.m. A notary public will be present to notarize any documents for you free of charge. See Margaret Iacone.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Oct. 11. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. For reservations, call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Our Penny Social will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Admission is \$5 and includes lunch and two sheets of tickets.

Flo Bonicoro has lined up several nice trips for us. For starters, we will be going to see "Irish Wake" on Tuesday, Nov. 1, in Staten Island, New York. This includes open bar for one hour with wine, beer and soda on the table, plus a full sit-down luncheon. She has three more wonderful trips planned.

Please come to the meetings for more information.

Marie Tirelli

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful new year (5766).

We conduct Sabbath services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. Our doors (at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets) are open to all and holiday attendance is free.

#### High Holy Day Services Schedule:

Yom Kippur Eve: Wednesday, Oct. 12, will begin with a musical prelude promptly at 6 p.m., followed by Kol Nidre at 6:15 p.m.

Yom Kippur Day: Thursday, Oct. 13, morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. Torah reading starts at 10:15 a.m. and Yizkor at 11 a.m. Closing service begins promptly at 5:15 p.m. and ends at 7:15 p.m.

A Sukkot celebration will be led by Rabbi Shohama on Monday evening, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Simchat Torah will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Tai Chi -Yoga classes resumed in September. Led by Marc Kaplan, these exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more

flexible and energetic. Eight sessions: \$80 for members; \$120 for non-members. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available. Visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Garden Club News

As part of our Beautification Project for City Island, we continue to maintain the plantings at the Post Office and the Veteran's Memorial Triangle. In addition, we now have beautiful flower planters at the City Island Library and have groomed and weeded in front of the museum. We have also mulched all the tree pits on the avenue and hope property owners and businesses will continue to maintain their pit areas.

**Gardening Hint:** Why not dry some of your beautiful late summer flowers? Cut small bunches at a time and tie them with either rubber bands or string. Then hang them upside down in a cool dry place for a few weeks to dry. You will have lovely dry flowers for fall arrangements.

The Garden Club is planning the fall cleanup and spring bulb planting on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 9 a.m. at Hawkins Park. Volunteers are welcome.

Phyllis Goodman

#### City Island Seniors

Did you know that there is another seniors group on City Island beside the two local AARP chapters? The Island Seniors meet the first Tuesday of every month at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Dues are \$10 per year, and all who are 50 years old or older are welcome.

There are no quotas on membership, as there are with the AARP chapters; just walk in the door. Several social gatherings are held each year, culminating in our annual Christmas party at the Lobster Box Restaurant, which is open to members and friends. We are now having a membership drive and look for your support.

For more information, contact Charles Rosa at 718-597-0712 or Judy McPhillips at 718-885-0971.

Russell Schaller

#### Chapter 3303 AARP

The Minneford Chapter, AARP 3303, will hold its annual fair and raffle on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Trinity United Methodist Hall at 113 Bay Street. The fair will include various items of artwork, craft specialties, jewelry, a cake table and food baskets, gifts for the holiday season and the fabulous dollar table. Members are busy creating these articles and getting the gifts ready for the fair, which is open to the public. Admission is free and refreshments are available.



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

On Thursday, Oct. 13, the chapter is sponsoring a Columbus Day celebration to Williams Lake Resort in Rosendale, New York, for a full day of enjoyment. It will include coffee and Danish on arrival, fun and games (bingo included), a complete sit-down luncheon with a choice of menu, entertainment, dancing and much more. Departure time is 8:30 a.m.

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

Lucy Puglia

#### City Island Nautical Museum

Now that summer has drawn to a close, our boats are coming out of the water and we are looking for new projects to keep us busy during the winter months. Please keep the Historical Society and Nautical Museum in mind during the coming months. Here is what we have in store for you:

Sit and enjoy a chat about Island history (and the present) any Sunday afternoon between 1 and 5 p.m. Clam diggers and musselsuckers alike will find congenial company, as well as impressive nautical exhibits, works of art and a large library, including old City Island newspapers. Admission is free though donations are gratefully accepted.

Volunteer to work on one or more projects for the museum. We are looking for people to catalogue books, sort and organize clippings, design and install exhibits, collect oral histories from longtime Island residents, serve as a docent on Sunday afternoons and much much more. Some of these projects can be done on your own time. Call 718-885-0507 for more information.

Become a member and help support us through your donations. Send a check made out to the City Island Historical Society for \$25 (family), \$20 (individual) or \$10 (senior junior) to PO Box 82, City Island, NY 10464. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Donate objects, maritime books and photographs that you come across in cleaning up your attic or that old closet. We can scan your family or school photographs and return the originals to you. We also need your advice and your money to help create new exhibits for the Community and School Rooms.

We are very grateful for two recent gifts: a beetlecat sailboat (now on our lawn) from the family of the late John P. McGowan and a \$200 gift from the "Foreign Legion" formerly of the American Legion. Thank you all.

Come by some Sunday and see what we are all about and what you can do to become part of City Island's history.

Tom Nye

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Fall is in the air and things are in full swing at Trinity. Our worship service is at 10 a.m. each Sunday and all are welcome.

Sunday school meets at the same time, and it is never too late for children to join in. The Sunday school is studying a unit on God's family and how we are all a part of that family. This includes the story of Abraham, Sarah and their descendants. Last spring, the children helped put together health kits with items donated from the community for people affected by the tsunami. We are sending some of these kits to the people who have been affected by Katrina.

Anyone interested in making a monetary contribution to hurricane relief can be sent to the church; we will take the donations and send them to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Simply state that your contribution is for Katrina and the whole amount of your check will be donated to the relief effort.

Oct. 16 is Laity Sunday at Trinity and also the start of Bible Study on the Gospel of John. The group study of the gospel will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for six Sundays through Nov. 20. All interested are welcome. George Cavalieri, Trinity's lay leader, will be moderator and instructor. No prior registration is required.

Each session begins with a brief video and light refreshments. The Gospel text and an outline will be provided. The study will consist of the first seven chapters and is expected to resume again during Lent in 2006. The emphasis will be on who Jesus is and who he presents himself to be.

This subject is particularly relevant in the light of the fictional portrayal being promoted as fact in the very clever and entertaining novel "The Da Vinci Code" and a film soon to be released, which reinforces its ongoing deception of the minds of many biblically ignorant and sincere but uninformed people. Here's your chance to get it right from an eyewitness and reliable source, the disciple John. He is described as the one "whom Jesus loved;" the one who was Jesus' closest friend and confidant. He knows and communicates the truth about Jesus in all he writes.

John states his reason for writing his Gospel as follows: "...these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ), the Son of God, and believing you may have life through His name." (John 20:31). Come and see and be informed.

Because of a lack of volunteers, the Budget Shop will be open only on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and on posted Saturdays. The hours remain the same: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We request that you no longer donate tapes, records and paperback books. Please note that this is our last ditch effort to save the Budget Shop. Budget is a major source of income for your church, and we depend on it to help keep our doors open. If you have time to donate, please call Ellie Hebbard at 718-518-7241.

Anne Sill

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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.

**Announcements**

**New Class: Belly Dancing With Nadia.** Friday or Saturday evenings depending on interest. Call Nadia at 718-885-9660 for more information.

**New Class: Small Potatoes-Creative Cooking for Kids.** Join our fall program for six sessions on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (started Thursday, Sept. 22). Call Gina for more information: 845-531-5011

**New Class: Learn Spanish!** An introduction to Spanish for kids ages 3 through 5 on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 p.m.. \$80 for an eight-week session. Call Alexandra Guzman at 646-796-6200 to register. Classes begin Oct. 18.

**New Class: Next Generation Yoga for Kids.** If interested, please call Jodi Komitor at 212-595-9306

**Ongoing Events**

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

**Teen Center:** Saturday evenings beginning Sept. 17 from 8 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 for more information.

**Juggling for Fun, Health, Relaxation & Focus:** Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Class is \$10 per session with a 10 percent discount for each additional family member. There will be a one-time equipment fee of \$15.

**Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts:** For information call Grace Nagy at 718-757-1338. Registration for fourth-grade Girl Scouts will be held in October.

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

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

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

**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. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450.

**Adult Tap Classes:** Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

**Photography Classes:** For adults and teens. Call Ron Terner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue.

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

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

**Amy Gottlieb-McElroy**

**Legion News**

The annual Pumpkin Sale will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 7, 8 and 9. John Ulmer will again be selecting a variety of gourds and mums for the discriminating customer. If you can help, see Ed Shipp.

The SAL installation of officers dinner will be held Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at JP's Restaurant. The \$40 fee will include dinner, beer, wine, soda, coffee and dessert.

On Saturday, Oct. 22, an Oktoberfest will be held at the Post from 4 to 8 p.m. The menu will include knockwurst, bratwurst, German pretzels with mustard, sauerkraut, potatoes and red cabbage; a whole pig will be roasted. For those members with cholesterol problems, it would be well to consult Dr. Sander before partaking in this gastronomical orgy. For those who enjoy a little libation with their dinner, German beer will be provided. All this for only \$20.

Looking ahead: Sunday, Nov. 6, the troops will muster for the annual Veteran's Day parade. Marchers will meet at the Post at 9:30 a.m. On Friday, Nov. 11, the troops will again muster at 9:30 a.m. at the Post and



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The beat goes on for Island teens, who danced at the opening of the City Island Community Center's Teen Center on Fordham Street on Sept. 17, 2005.

proceed to the Grove in Pelham Bay Park for the Veteran's Day service at 10:30 a.m.

The annual Military Ball will be held on Thursday Nov. 10, at the Green Tree in New Rochelle. Tickets are \$60 for the event.

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) golf tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 3. The \$120 fee per player will cover a breakfast at 7 a.m. at the course. Beer, soda and food will be provided at the turn.

The disaster relief drive initiated by the SAL was a big success. Clothing, food and water were collected at the Post and filled the meeting room. The eighth-grade students from St. Mary's School were enlisted to load a large sanitation truck, the contents of which were donated to the Salvation Army. Money collected from residents and local business people amounted to more than \$10,000. I'd be remiss if I failed to mention that Connie's grocery store wrote a check for \$500. The Post and SAL thank everyone for their generosity.

Like the Marines, we could use a few good men to help with the flags on City Island Avenue. You need not be a member of the Post. Several of our volunteers are just Island residents. If you can help, call me on 2087. Some flags have not been taken down for several months. Left up this long, they tend to deteriorate. If for some reason you are not able to remove them on schedule, call me. A word of thanks to Bill Clancy, who has covered most of the Avenue from Ditmars Street to Cross Street, in addition to his own sector. Our quartermaster Buddy Pontecorvo is ordering additional flags and looking into the price difference between the flag poles that we have been purchasing and aluminum poles, which are more expensive but don't rust.

I have no updates on our people on active duty. If you know of someone serving, please let us know.

Comrade Anthony Mirabito has been hospitalized. I'm certain a card or note would be appreciated. His home address is 71 Reynolds Street.

And for you WWII buffs, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery was still giving orders to the U.S. ground forces when the allies had most of the German forces in Western France encircled, with the exception of a gap at Falaise. Montgomery refused to allow General Patton to advance

to close the gap and allowed half the German troops to escape. Patton never forgave Monty.

Until November,

**Russell Schaller**

**Cub Scout News**

Cub Scout Pack 211 is well under way with a new and exciting year planned. Our young boys are all excited as they look forward to achieving their merit badges and awards. This month we plan to go camping at Alpine, New Jersey, and to participate in the Ghost and Goblins weekend right before Halloween.

Enrollment is still open and going well. The pack is in dire need of adult leaders and organizational staff. If any responsible adult is looking for a rewarding experience, we could certainly use the help. Anyone who would like to register or volunteer can e-mail us at [CUBSCOUTPACK211@aol.com](mailto:CUBSCOUTPACK211@aol.com).

**Angelo Bellocchio**  
Cubmaster

**Grace Episcopal Church**

The Grace Church family gathers every Sunday at 10 a.m. for the celebration of Holy Communion, and you are invited to join us. If you have never visited Grace before, or it has been a long time since you participated in our worship, we encourage you to do so: we are a warm, inclusive, growing Christian community and we would be delighted to count you among our number. Visitors and newcomers are especially welcomed to our Potluck Lunch following the service on Sunday, Oct. 2; please call Ann McGuire at 718-885-1710 to sign up. Also on Oct. 2, at 12:30 p.m. we will once again bless the animals of City Island in a special service honoring St. Francis of Assisi. Feel free to bring your non-human family members of all descriptions to the church at that time.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, we will honor the children of City Island in a special service in observance of the National Children's Sabbath. Children of all ages—and their families—are encouraged to join us at 10 a.m. on that day.

On Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m., Grace Church will host an informational session on the benefits of reiki as a holistic therapy. Reiki, an ancient Japanese technique, has been used for years in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices to reduce pain and relieve stress. It is a non-manipulative and extremely gentle therapy. The discussion will be led by Grace's parish nurse, Susan Velcheck, R.N., and reiki master Valerie Tarangelo. A question-and-answer session will follow, with coffee and tea. Please join us for what should be a very informative evening. Admission is free.

For more information about Grace Church, please contact Mother Patty Alexander, priest-in-charge, at 718-885-1080 or at [RevPPA@aol.com](mailto:RevPPA@aol.com). See you in church!

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**Fortune Smiles**

Through the years, Hollywood has often looked at how luck, or the lack thereof, has played a prominent role in the lives of many people. **Mr. Lucky** (1943) stars Cary Grant as Joe, a gambling entrepreneur, who tries to ingratiate himself into an organization of society women called War Relief, Inc. Although gambling is illegal, he convinces one of their leaders, Dorothy (Laraine Day), to let him run some tables at a charity affair so her group can raise money for supplies for soldiers overseas. To avoid the draft, Joe assumes the identity of a 4F classified man but does not know the man has been to prison twice. It looks as if luck has finally run out for this charming conniver, but of course, the love of a good woman could change everything if he chooses the honest path.

Another enjoyable classic film about a gambler and his relationship with an honest woman is the musical **Guys and Dolls** (1955). It stars Marlon Brando as Sky Masterson, who bets his buddy Nathan Detroit (Frank Sinatra) that he can convince a "doll" of Nathan's choosing to come with him to Havana within 24 hours of their meeting. The doll Nathan chooses for Sky's conquest is Sergeant Sarah Brown (Jean Simmons), a Salvation Army officer who is trying to bring religion to people and deter them from their gambling obsession. Stubby Kaye is featured as Nicely Nicely Johnson, a friend of Nathan and Sky who performs the show-stopping number "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat." Vivian Blaine is on hand as Miss Adelaide, Nathan's fiancée of 14 years. Marlon himself actually sings "Luck Be a Lady Tonight" in this fun musical.

Kevin Kline is a gambler named Paden who think he is cursed with bad luck in this film of the Old West, **Silverado** (1985). After being robbed and left for dead in the desert, he experiences a change of luck when he is found and helped by Emmett (Scott Glenn), who is on his way to meet his brother Jake (Kevin Costner). Paden accompanies the two brothers on their way West, where they befriend another down-on-his-luck cowboy, Mal (Danny Glover). The four of them make a formidable team in traditional shoot-outs, first with Sheriff Langston (John Cleese) and his posse, and then Sheriff Cobb (Brian Dennehy) and his men. Also on hand are Linda Hunt as Stella, a bar maid; Jeff Goldblum as Slick, a card shark; and Jeff Fahey as Tyree, a bad guy with the piercing blue eyes.

Set in 1970s New York City is **29th Street** (1991), a story about one of the luckiest men alive, Frank Pesce Jr. (Anthony LaPaglia). Frank lives with his parents (Danny Aiello and Lainie Kazan) and his siblings. Frank has been lucky all his life, and his winning the lottery is no exception. However, his father's gambling problem threatens to burst all of Frank's hopes and dreams for the future. This film is a very nice character study of family relationships.

**It Could Happen to You** (1996) is a delightful love story. Yvonne Bisci (Bridget Fonda) is a waitress who feels she is the unluckiest person in the world. She is forced to declare bankruptcy because her estranged spouse, Eddie (Stanley Tucci), has charged thousands of dollars to her credit card. Along comes an honest cop, Charlie Lang (Nicolas Cage), who doesn't have enough money to leave her a tip, so

he promises her half of the prize money if his lottery ticket wins. When the inevitable happens, Charlie's wife, Muriel (Rosie Perez), is enraged and truly hates Charlie for his charity, honesty and generosity. This fairy tale comes equipped with a guardian angel of sorts (Isaac Hayes), who ensures a happy ending to this funny and very sweet story of the triumph of decency in the modern age.

Actor William H. Macy kept himself in shape through the years in the hope that one day he would get to play a love scene on the screen. His wish finally paid off in his outstanding portrayal of Bernie Lootz in **The Cooler** (2003). Bernie is so unlucky that he is hired by Las Vegas casino boss Shelly Kaplow (Alec Baldwin) to walk near big winners to cool down their winning streaks, and the ploy actually works! However, when Bernie meets a beautiful waitress, Natalie Belisario (Maria Bello), his luck totally changes. The love that grows between the two is warm and believable. Paul Sorvino is on hand as Buddy Stafford, an aging lounge singer whose old-fashioned act is going to be replaced by a sexy revue. Although the film has its share of violence and sleaze, there is an uplifting feeling of redemption as well, with characters about whom we really care and whose fate becomes important to the audience.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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**SCHOOL NEWS**  
2+2=4  
By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea School**

The following faculty members are being welcomed by Mrs. Jane Dennehy for the 2005-2006 academic year. The Pre-K/ Kindergarten teacher is Miss Beth Neshiewat, who is assisted by Mrs. Joyce Ocasio and Mrs. Lisa Moore. The first-graders will be taught by Sr. Joan Kinney, and the second grade will have Mrs. Janice Guarino. Mrs. Theresa Bivona and Mrs. Helen McMahon will teach grades 3 and 4, respectively. The fifth grade will have Mrs. Audrey Cabbell-Delgado; the sixth-graders will be taught by Mr. Robert Garrison, and Mr. Evan Beskin will teach the seventh grade. Mr. Peter Caddell will again teach eighth grade.

Mrs. Diane O'Halloran will head the

computer program; the art instructor is Mrs. Joyce Ocasio; Mrs. Elizabeth Tedesco will teach music and Mr. Corey Scagliola will teach physical education.

**Public School 175**

Principal Amy Lipson and assistant principal Josephine Rondi would like to welcome back the children, parents and faculty for the 2005-2006 school year. Mrs. Carter-Spenser and Ms. Holzmann are teaching kindergarten, and Mrs. Stelman and Mrs. Cambria will be working with the first-graders. The second- and third-grades are fortunate to have Mrs. Miskimmon, Mrs. McManus, Mrs. Eisen and Mrs. Cuevas. Grade 4 teachers are Mrs. DiMaio and Mrs. Tighe, and the fifth grade will be taught by Ms. Minor and Ms. Crawford. The homeroom teachers for the sixth grade are Mr. Vouitsis and Ms. Loscalzo. The seventh-grade teachers are Mr. Lafreniere and Mrs. Horowitz. Grade 8 will have Mrs. Jensen and Ms. Heil.

Mr. Breen will guide the computer/technology program, and Mr. Fecht will teach physical education. The marine wildlife program will be taught by Mrs. Bottjer, and the art program will be headed by Ms. Hajjar. The seventh- and eighth- graders will have Mr. McConnell for social studies, Ms. Ramos for math and Ms. Figueroa for Spanish. The guidance counselor is Mrs. McDonald.



City Island's Cub Scout Pack 211 and their families joined the U.S. Navy for a weekend on the battleship *Massachusetts*. They are shown above manning the big guns onboard. Pack 211 has many activities planned for this scouting season (see *Organization News*).



**Why You Need a Will**

By LINDA L. KORDES, Esq.

"Do I need a will?" is one of the most common questions I am asked as an attorney. It is a common misconception that wills are only for the wealthy. In fact, the primary reason to have a will is to ensure that your property is distributed to your loved ones as you, and not the state, would want.

If you die without a will, your property will pass under what is known as the laws of intestacy. Under these laws, if you are survived by a spouse and descendants, the first \$50,000 and one-half of the remainder passes to your spouse, and the balance passes to your descendants. If you are sur-

vived by a spouse and no descendants, your whole estate passes to your spouse. If you have descendants, but no spouse, everything goes to your descendants. And if your parents survive but you have no spouse or descendants, all of your estate will go to the surviving parent or parents. Additional rules apply where only distant relatives survive you.

If these laws are not consistent with your wishes, you must draw up a will that expresses what you want, not what the law requires if you die without a will.

Another important reason to have a will is to protect your minor children. If you and your spouse die at about the same time, you can name a guardian for your children. This ensures that your children are raised and cared for by someone whom you trust and who shares your values. If you die without a will, the guardian for your children will be selected by the court and may not be someone you would have chosen. In addition, you can provide in a will that any assets pass to your children, in trust, and give specific directions to the guardian as to how you want those assets to be spent.

Now that you know you need a will, how do you go about making one? Should you buy a preprinted form or a software program to write one? You could do so, but your will might not be legal. If you attempt to draft a will yourself, you may overlook many important rules. For example, proper execution of the will must be proven. A matter now pending in New York involves a will that was prepared by the decedent on a preprinted form but for which the witnesses cannot be located. Because the decedent did not realize that she needed those witnesses to sign an affidavit, the will is likely to be rejected by the court. An experienced lawyer will know these rules and will help you develop the best plan for you.

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## Obituaries

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

### Jeanne Kolb

Jeanne (Dunlop) Kolb, a resident of City Island for many years, passed away suddenly on May 14, 2005, at the age of 75.

Her family moved to Rochelle Street in 1933 and she attended P.S. 17. In 1941 her family moved to Burnside Avenue, where Jeanne attended Cathedral High School. While living there, Jeanne developed a love for roller skating at the Fordham Roller Rink and spent several years touring with a dance troupe and performing roller-skating dance routines.

In 1948, the family returned to City Island, where they lived on Schofield Street. Jeanne worked for many years at City Island Seafood and Anna's Harbor. She moved to Pilot Cove in 1996, where she enjoyed organizing activities and parties for the residents and playing bingo and cards. She was a member of the Leonard Hawkins Ladies Auxiliary, the AARP and the Pilot Cove Book Club.

Jeanne is survived by her sons Donald of City Island and his wife, Rose; James of Lindenhurst, Long Island; Robert Kolb of Stormville, New York, and his wife, Donna; and her adopted daughter Geri Seiter of City Island and her husband, Ennis. She also leaves nine grandchildren: Donald of Buffalo, New York; Christopher and Lily Kolb of City Island; Jessica Cormier of Babylon, New York; Alexandra, Justine and Nicolas Kolb of Stormville, New York; Nicole Seiter Kennedy and her husband, Christopher, of Lake Worth, Florida; and William Seiter and his wife, Sondra, of Sunnyside, New York.

## Help Family and Friends Save on Medicare Drug Costs

By **DIANA VALDES**,  
Social Security Manager,  
East Bronx Office

Chances are you or someone you know could benefit greatly from the new Medicare prescription drug program that goes into effect in January 2006. If certain income and resource criteria are met, you or they might even qualify for extra financial help to pay for part of the monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments under the new prescription drug program.

Beneficiaries can enroll in the new Medicare prescription drug program from November 15, 2005, to May 15, 2006. But now is the time for Medicare beneficiaries with limited incomes and limited resources to apply for the extra help, which could save them an average of \$2,100 per year in prescription drug costs.

What you need to know:

- To qualify for the extra help, a person or married couple living together must have limited income and resources. For an individual, total annual income must be below \$14,355 and resources limited to \$10,000. The limits for a married couple living together are higher: \$19,245 in combined annual income and \$20,000 in resources. These resources can be slightly higher—an additional \$1,500 per person—if some of the money will be used for burial expenses.

- Some beneficiaries will automatically qualify for the extra financial help. Anyone who has both Medicare and Medicaid, or Medicare and Supplemental Security Income, or anyone whose state pays his or her Medicare premiums, will automatically qualify and will not have to complete an eligibility application.

- Also, it is important for all beneficiaries to understand that even if they qualify

for the extra help, they still need to enroll in a Medicare-approved prescription drug plan to obtain both coverage and the extra help.

People who think that they might qualify for the extra help can complete an online application at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Or they can call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for an application in the mail, or request more information.

If you know a Medicare beneficiary—perhaps one of your relatives, a neighbor, a friend or even yourself—who could use some extra help with prescription drug costs, find out more about the program and to apply for the extra help that is available.

### Telephone Speech-Recognition Service

Social Security technology will now allow people to actually speak with computers. A beneficiary who calls the program's national 800 number (800-772-1213) can speak to an operator or could use advanced speech-recognition technology to conduct important Social Security business over the phone.

The speech-recognition technology allows a computer to understand what callers are saying and to conduct an automated "dialogue" with them. Using this technology, callers to Social Security's national 800 number will be able to:

- change address/telephone numbers;
- change direct deposit information;
- request a Medicare replacement card;
- request a Social Security benefit verification.

At this time, the new service is able to handle only English-speaking callers, and it is not available for Supplemental Security Income record changes.

Callers can use either a pin or a password to identify themselves, or they may use a knowledge-based authentication system, in which they verify their identity by answering a series of questions. We expect several million callers to take advantage of this new service option in the coming year.

As always, the standard for Social Security's public service is our commitment to provide speedy and accurate service, and to give the American public choices about how they want to do business with us, in our local offices, over the Internet or by telephone. This new technology provides one more way for the public to conduct business with Social Security.

### Proof of Social Security Income

Unfortunately, the paperwork requirements of life do not suddenly disappear when you stop working. There still may be times when you will need proof of income, such as when you apply for a car loan or a mortgage, or if you want to apply for assisted housing or other state or local benefits.

For older Americans, and for many Americans with disabilities, this proof of income would probably include proof of their Social Security benefits.

Because it is such a common need, we try to make getting proof that you are receiving income from Social Security as easy as possible. You can visit the Social Security Web site at [www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices) and request a "proof of income" letter. This letter is sometimes called a "budget letter," a "benefits letter" or a "proof of award letter."

At the Web site you will be asked a series of simple questions designed to verify your identity and to protect your personal information. You can select the information you would like on your proof of income letter. This means that you can also use it as proof of a disability, of your current Medicare health insurance coverage, of your retirement status or of your age.

Your proof-of-income letter will arrive in the mail in about 10 days after you request it. It is important to remember, however, that you can request a letter only for yourself. If your spouse also receives benefits, he or she must request a separate letter.

If you need proof sooner, call or visit your local Social Security office.

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**Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Savings Time)**

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are 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*

**SEPTEMBER 2005**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Thu	0516	0.7	1116	7.5	1725	1.0	2332	7.9	Thu 01
02 Fri	0553	0.6	1153	7.7	1759	0.8			Fri 02
03 Sat	0006	7.9	0622	0.6	1222	7.7	1825	0.7	Sat 03
04 Sun	0029	7.8	0640	0.6	1236	7.8	1844	0.5	Sun 04
05 Mon	0042	7.7	0652	0.5	1250	7.9	1907	0.4	Mon 05
06 Tue	0105	7.7	0717	0.4	1317	8.0	1940	0.3	Tue 06
07 Wed	0137	7.6	0750	0.4	1352	8.1	2018	0.3	Wed 07
08 Thu	0216	7.5	0828	0.5	1432	8.2	2100	0.4	Thu 08
09 Fri	0300	7.3	0911	0.7	1517	8.1	2149	0.7	Fri 09
10 Sat	0349	7.0	1000	1.0	1608	7.9	2244	0.9	Sat 10
11 Sun	0446	6.8	1055	1.3	1706	7.7	2350	1.2	Sun 11
12 Mon	0551	6.6	1200	1.5	1813	7.6			Mon 12
13 Tue	0123	1.2	0711	6.6	1321	1.5	1932	7.6	Tue 13
14 Wed	0300	0.9	0845	7.0	1506	1.1	2102	7.8	Wed 14
15 Thu	0403	0.4	0954	7.6	1618	0.5	2214	8.1	Thu 15
16 Fri	0457	-0.1	1049	8.1	1716	-0.2	2311	8.4	Fri 16
17 Sat	0546	-0.5	1137	8.5	1808	-0.7			Sat 17
18 Sun	0001	8.5	0632	-0.7	1223	8.8	1857	-0.9	Sun 18
19 Mon	0050	8.5	0716	-0.7	1307	8.8	1946	-1.0	Mon 19
20 Tue	0137	8.2	0759	-0.5	1352	8.7	2035	-0.8	Tue 20
21 Wed	0225	7.9	0842	-0.1	1438	8.4	2125	-0.4	Wed 21
22 Thu	0316	7.4	0926	0.4	1527	8.0	2220	0.2	Thu 22
23 Fri	0412	7.0	1015	0.9	1625	7.6	2319	0.7	Fri 23
24 Sat	0517	6.7	1118	1.4	1736	7.3			Sat 24
25 Sun	0022	1.1	0624	6.6	1230	1.8	1847	7.1	Sun 25
26 Mon	0124	1.3	0727	6.7	1337	1.9	1951	7.1	Mon 26
27 Tue	0221	1.3	0824	6.9	1436	1.8	2048	7.3	Tue 27
28 Wed	0313	1.3	0916	7.2	1528	1.5	2138	7.5	Wed 28
29 Thu	0358	1.1	1001	7.5	1613	1.2	2222	7.6	Thu 29
30 Fri	0438	1.0	1042	7.7	1653	0.9	2300	7.7	Fri 30

**OCTOBER 2005**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0512	0.8	1115	7.8	1726	0.7	2332	7.7	Sat 01
02 Sun	0537	0.7	1138	7.9	1753	0.4	2353	7.6	Sun 02
03 Mon	0553	0.6	1151	8.0	1815	0.2			Mon 03
04 Tue	0010	7.6	0614	0.4	1213	8.2	1842	0.0	Tue 04
05 Wed	0037	7.6	0645	0.4	1245	8.3	1916	0.0	Wed 05
06 Thu	0113	7.5	0721	0.4	1323	8.4	1956	0.1	Thu 06
07 Fri	0154	7.4	0802	0.6	1406	8.3	2040	0.3	Fri 07
08 Sat	0240	7.2	0848	0.8	1453	8.1	2131	0.6	Sat 08



**A Summer of Hummers**

Our apologies to readers who paid a visit to the Bridge Street construction site because of our recommendation last month. No sooner had we observed that the concrete pillars at the site had a "Stonehenge-like" feel than the work there was resumed. Just poor timing on our part, and we're sorry.

As to the new fences for the bridge that we also wrote about last month, Barbara informs us that a request was made by the Civic Association over five years ago that the fencing be replaced and the barbed wire removed, but the barbed wire remains. Have you noticed how effective it has been at keeping fishermen away from the bridge? No? Neither have we. The fact is that is where the fish are, always have been, always will be. The currents below the bridge draw plant food and bait fish, which in turn bring the predators. Keeping the fishermen away from the bridge is as hopeless an exercise as keeping away the seagulls, which frequently hover above the bridge seeking the same fish as the fishermen below.

At the Harlem Yacht Club, they have adapted nicely to new restrictions on the traditional firing of the evening gun. We were there for dinner recently and witnessed the still-solemn occasion at sunset. Instead of a gun, they use a bell now. The first time it is rung, members and their guests stand in silence as the colors are hauled down. A second bell marks the end of the ceremony. It's all over in a few

moments, and although we were sorry to read in *The Current* a few months back about what seems to us like a selective enforcement of the law, they've got themselves the makings of a new tradition at the Harlem that promises to be every bit as meaningful as the evening gun.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds have been spotted all over City Island—by Elena on Sutherland Street and John and Georgine on Buckley Street. Maria was watering her garden on Bay Street when one little hummer flapped up to her (and the bright orange sun dress she was wearing) and just hovered there a bit, as if in a daze. Do you have a summer hummer story you'd like to share? Or any other City Island sight or sound? If so, we'd love to hear from you at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

Some City Islanders may have noticed the fishy smell emanating from the beaches last month. Dozens of dead mossbunker (menhaden) were turning up everywhere. It seems safe to say that these fish died a natural death, but whether that was due to red tides (and, yes, a red tide is a natural occurrence!), bluefish or old age is unclear. Any thoughts on the subject can be forwarded to the address above.

Finally, for anyone interested in pitching in at the Botanical Garden this month, they are offering a program to help "the garden get ready for the winter by harvesting, raking, and mulching." It will be happening all month long (Oct. 4 to 30) in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden. Happy fall!

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City Island Brownie Troop 1175 and their mothers survived their summer camping trip to Camp Kaufman in July 2005.

## Remember When...



Photos courtesy of the City Island Historical Society  
The first schoolhouse on City Island was built about 1840 on City Island Avenue where the small playground next to P.S. 175 is located. In 1865 a new school building was constructed where Hawkins Park is now and served until the turn of the 20th century, when P.S. 17 was built at 190 Fordham Street. The Hawkins (then Orchard) Street building was added on to and became the local police headquarters. When the police station was no longer needed, the building was razed, but part of the original front section was moved to Center Street, where it is still standing.



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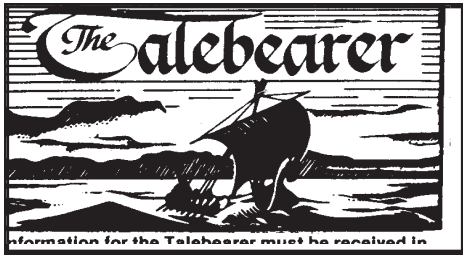
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations to Earley Street's Josh Treiber and his bride, Casey Brown, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The happy couple was married on Aug. 5 on the island of St. Lucia. Their families and friends wish them a lifetime of happiness.

Happy 50th birthday to St. Mary's Father Michael Challinor, who celebrated his big day on Sept. 30 and also to Father Alex, who had a Sept. 15 birthday.

Anniversary greetings on Oct. 22 across the miles to former Laurels residents Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld and Georg Weyand, who now reside in St. Louis, Missouri. Your friends at the Bronx Zoo and City Island miss you.

Happy 50th birthday to Pilot Cove's Raymond Reyes.

Happy October birthdays to the Carmody kids—Kelly, little Bob and Mikey—with love from Grandma Terry.

Happy third birthday to Faith Zapata on Oct. 15, with love and kisses from the Cebek and Carmody families.

Happy birthday on Oct. 27 to Chris Kolb at SUNY Albany with love from your family.

Welcome back to Bobby Swieciki, who just returned from a two-week vacation in Japan, where he visited former Bay Street neighbor Michael Torres. Mike will be living for the next two years in Japan, where he is teaching English to Japanese students. The highlight of their visit was a day at the Tokyo Game Show, where the guys checked out the latest video game technology.

If you're running in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6, or in any marathon this fall, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. We'd like to set up a photo for *The Current*.

Happy anniversary to Judy and Mike Rauh, John and Linda Wright and their cousins Mike and Roseann Bunyan. John and Linda are so busy in their retirement in Tucson that they need a social secretary!

Birthday wishes and prayers go out to Sunjay Sebastian, who turns 19 on Oct. 29. May the "force" be with you. All our love, Bob and Maria, Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina Swieciki.

It was a joyous celebration in September for Earley Street resident Evelyn Gauss, who celebrated her 95th birthday with family and friends at Grace Episco-

pal Church. She was surrounded by her daughters, Carol and Melinda; her sister, Lorraine Rauhauser; and most of her 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Gauss has attended Grace Church for over 70 years, so it was fitting that her birthday celebration began there. Mother Patty Alexander gave her a special birthday blessing.

Happy Birthday to Mark Nani who turns 19 on Oct. 22. All our love, Mimi and Poppy.

Happy Birthday to Carroll Street's Tony Grimaldi on Sept. 19. A surprise celebration was held at the Lobster Box honoring his birthday and retirement. Tony can often be seen walking on City Island or Orchard Beach, as he logs in an average of eight miles a day. Keep on truckin', Pop!

Horton Street resident Dorothy Docherty is pleased to announce the engagement of her granddaughter Heather Ann Docherty to Kevin A. Anderson of Portland, Maine. Heather's parents are former Island residents Glenn and Roxanne Docherty. A Connecticut wedding is planned for October.

Congratulations from Grandpa and Grandma Elliot and Monica Glick—and Aunt Hannah—to Josh and Jamie on the birth of their son, Jaden Samuel, on Sept. 16, 2005.

Sympathies to Bob Kall for putting up with Jackie for 57 years (Jackie said this!). The Talebearer wishes them happy anniversary on Oct. 2. According to Jackie, they met at the Rauhausers' home on Winter Street when they were teenagers playing Glenn Miller records.

Happy Halloween to all. See you at the parade!

Maria Swieciki



Jackie and Bob Kall on their wedding day, Oct. 2, 1948.



Photos by GALE GRENNAN

Earley Street resident Evelyn Gauss celebrated her 95th birthday in September. She was surrounded by 30 members of her family, including 10 of her 11 great grandchildren who showed they could spell out her name.

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