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One Dollar

MUCH-LOVED RESIDENT TEACHER RETIRES

By KAREN NANI



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Judy DiMaio with some of her fourth-grade students (l. to r.): Hannah Glick, Kathleen Kramer, Alexis Candelaria, Scott Cruz and Emmett Shanley.

When the school year comes to an end at P.S. 175 on June 27, 2008, it will mark the last day of teaching for longtime Island resident Julia DiMaio. After 32 years with the New York City Board of Education, Judy feels that now is a good time to bring this "incredible journey" to an end.

Judy has been teaching at P.S. 175 on City Island Avenue for 26 years and has the distinction of being one of only a handful of teachers who has lived and taught for most of her career on City Island. The elite "club" includes such legendary Islanders as Ruby Dill, who taught kindergarten at P.S. 17 until the 1950s, and, more recently, Karen Collier Mazzella, who will return to P.S. 175 next year after a maternity leave.

"I never found it difficult to live and teach here," Judy told *The Current*. Although some parents over the years may have tried to have a conference with her at the IGA or at the Little League field, most were respectful of her wish to keep her personal life on City Island separate from her responsibilities at P.S. 175.

She credits her longtime principal, mentor and friend Ena Ellwanger with giving her good advice in this area. "There is a lot to be said for knowing the pulse of the community, and I learned that from Ena." Mrs. Ellwanger, now retired, also grew up on City Island, so she understood the pluses and minuses of working and living in the same place.

Judy has lived on City Island since the first grade, when her parents, Michael and Eileen Fitzmaurice, moved to City Island from Manhattan. Her father, now deceased, became the custodian of P.S. 17 on Fordham Street, so she was always under his watchful eye, as well as those of her teachers.

This situation led to one embarrassing moment during eighth grade, when Judy, along with this reporter and a number of other, usually well-behaved classmates, decided to take a little lunchtime detour. On a sunny spring day after hot dogs at the diner (the original one that was next to where the library now stands), this happy group decided to accept the offer of the ferry boat captain, who knew one of the students, to take a ride to and from Hart Island.

It sounds fairly tame, except for the fact that in 1965, Hart Island was still an active prison. There were no prisoners on the ferry that day, but even so, taking a group of 13-

year-olds to visit a prison island was not something most parents would have considered a proper school outing.

Underestimating the time it would take for this little nautical sojourn, the group was late returning to school. Mrs. Ellwanger, then a teacher, had already investigated and found out why the group of eighth-graders was missing.

Furious at the reckless behavior and the late return to school, she scolded each student one by one in the corridor outside the principal's office in what felt like a verbal "firing squad." For this reporter, being dressed down by Mrs. Ellwanger was punishment enough, but Judy had to also endure her father's scolding in the hallway.

A bright and well-liked student, Judy survived the ferry incident and graduated from P.S. 17 in 1965. She went on to attend Mother Butler High School on Pelham Parkway and Hunter College in Manhattan. She graduated with a B.A. in psychology and education and eventually obtained her master's degree in reading.

Her full-time career as an educator began at P.S. 112 on Baychester Avenue, where she taught sixth grade. She had also taught at vacation day camps and worked summers at P.S. 106 in Parkchester.

But her career path was not without some setbacks. Caught in the New York City budget crunch of the 1970s, she was "excessed" in 1975 (the Board of Education's euphemism at the time for being laid off). It was during this time that Judy and her husband, Frank, whom she married in 1974, began their family. She gave birth to two children, Michael and Eileen, and the family settled into their home on Ditmars Street.

Judy began teaching on City Island in 1982 as a substitute, filling in for Gloria Misiurski, who had taken ill. Mrs. Ellwanger offered her a full-time appointment in 1983 as a second-grade teacher, and she worked under the mentorship of another resident teacher, Miriam Kleinberg. Judy is grateful for Mrs. Kleinberg's tutelage and credits her with much of her future success in educating and nurturing children.

Mrs. Kleinberg remembers that first Christmas, when Judy was teaching second grade for Gloria Misiurski, whose cancer had returned. "The students brought Judy the usu-

al token holiday offerings, but everyone hoped for a miracle and that somehow Gloria would be back in her classroom. So they rewrote the labels on the gifts for Gloria, and Judy gave her the gifts, telling her that the children had given them to her for Gloria. I will always think of that as the essence of the Christmas spirit. It told all of us the kind of person with whom we would be privileged to work."

In 1984, Judy moved up to the fifth grade and began working with a new colleague, Ellen Funck. Judy and Ellen became much more than co-teachers; their close friendship continues even though Mrs. Funck retired six years ago and now lives in Connecticut.

As many Island students know, Judy and Ellen taught together for 18 years at P.S. 175, and they could be seen most mornings taking

their brisk walk together over the bridge before the school day started.

"Ellen would drive from Pelham and come to my house in the morning. We would walk and plan the teaching day for the fifth grades," Judy reminisces fondly.

There is no question but what Judy has positively influenced the lives of more than a thousand students in her career. Among her many accomplishments is the genealogy project she initiated in conjunction with the City Island Historical Society. Each year, the students would put together booklets with personal histories and donate them to the Historical Society, where they remain on file as part of the genealogical library.

"The students and their teachers would

Continued on page 7

Islanders Alarmed and Vocal Over Recent Crime Wave

By KAREN NANI

A rash of break-ins, vandalism and auto thefts on City Island during April and May 2008 angered and frustrated residents and business owners. Police responded with some arrests after numerous complaints were voiced to the 45th Precinct, elected officials and police brass.

A perceived sharp increase in auto crime along City Island Avenue during the first two weeks of May was particularly disturbing to Islanders (see Blotter next page). According to reports, while people were dining in Island restaurants, their cars were broken into (often by smashing windows) and portable GPS (Global Positioning System) navigation units and other property was stolen.

"It seems to be a challenge to see how fast thieves can remove the GPS units. They can move very quickly," Black Whale Restaurant owner Bill Kenny told *The Current*. Frustrated with the police response (or lack thereof), Bill knocked on the door of Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión's house on City Island Avenue.

"I told him I was sorry to invade his privacy, but something had to be done to stop this crime wave. These kids are out of control." Within a few days, Mr. Kenny noticed the presence of a community police van and officers checking the IDs of teenagers and others hanging out on City Island Avenue.

In addition to the auto break-ins, at least one house was robbed and some storefront windows were smashed during April and May. One such burglary resulted in an arrest by police from the 45th Precinct.

On April 26, Bryan Barry, 18, of City Island Avenue was arrested and charged with burglary, grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property. According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, the defendant allegedly broke into a house on Rochelle Street through a bedroom window. He stole jewelry and prescription drugs.

When the owner returned home and noticed several items missing, she called the 45th Precinct. Responding officers from the Bronx Evidence Collection Team recovered latent finger prints from prescription bottles, the jewelry box and a video game system.

The prints were identified as belonging to the defendant. When confronted, Mr. Barry reportedly told police that he had taken some rings and had them pawned. Police then recovered four rings from Westchester Square Pawnbrokers and they were subsequently



Islander Jackie Kall caught up with New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly at the Bronx Manhattan Realtors Banquet in May 2008. She asked for his help in curbing the recent crime wave on City Island.

identified as belonging to the home owner.

According to the district attorney, Mr. Barry was released on his own recognizance after his arraignment, and his next court appearance was scheduled for May 28.

During this period, there were also three cars stolen from City Island Avenue and others had their windows smashed in acts of vandalism and criminal mischief. Some Islanders reportedly left their cars running or left the keys in unattended cars, a practice the police discourage, for obvious reasons. "It would be nice to think we could leave our cars unattended for a few minutes while dropping off groceries, but unfortunately it is inviting trouble," one officer told *The Current*.

Another Islander pleaded for some additional support from police brass. Jackie Kall, owner of Port of Kall Realty, attended the Bronx Manhattan Realtors Banquet in May. In attendance was the NYPD commissioner Raymond Kelly, so Mrs. Kall seized the opportunity to tell the commissioner about the recent crime wave.

"This nice little Island that everyone thinks is a low crime district is not going to stay that way unless we get some help from police," she told the commissioner (see photo).

Police made other arrests for assault and driving while intoxicated (DWI) during April and May. They are also continuing to investigate the rash of auto break-ins, particularly when credit cards and checkbooks are stolen from the vehicles.

BRIEFLY...

OPEN HOUSE DAY CARE/PRESCHOOL PROGRAM for ages two and up. Parents and children are invited to an open house on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a fun-filled morning of activities. Organized by a teacher with 15 years of experience, the program will provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children, while responding to the needs of the families. Activities provided are both directed and non-directed and are designed to promote independence and self esteem. For more details, including location, call Maura at 718-885-9351.

THE BRONX FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA will take place on Friday, June 27, at 9 p.m. at Orchard Beach. The fireworks are sponsored by Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión and State Senator Jeffrey Klein. The gates open at 7 p.m. for an evening of family fun, including a musical salute to the American spirit by the Bronx Arts Ensemble orchestra, boardwalk performers and lots of fun activities for kids. The event is produced by the Bronx Tourism Council in association with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, the Police Department and the Fire Department.

CITY ISLAND ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will be held during the weekend of June 7 and 8. City Island businesses and local artists will participate. The fair will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will include music in Hawkins Park. For more information, call Paul Klein at Exotiga, 718-885-3090.

MARATHON YARD SALES: Centre Street residents will hold multifamily yard sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 4 to 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. They invite you to celebrate with them and to bring your shopping bags.

INDOOR TAG SALE! The City Island Community Center will hold tag sales on Sunday, June 8 and 22. There will be many vendors and opportunities for bargains. Tables are available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table.

THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET will take place on Sunday, June 22, beginning at 1 p.m. (1300 hours). Multidenominational clergy will bless vessels from the Fenton Marine Dock with the cooperation and support of the City Island Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post. Boats are to assemble at 12:30 p.m. at the Hart Island Ferry Dock in City Island Harbor. Communication on VHF Channel 71 begins at 12:30 p.m.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April and the first two weeks of May 2008. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.


- April and May**
5 – GRAND LARCENY
3 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
1 – ROBBERY
10 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
3 – ASSAULT
1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
3 – BURGLARY

Police report the following arrests and incidents for the months of April and May:

- 4/2 – The passenger-side window of an auto parked on City Island Avenue was smashed and credit and ATM cards were stolen.
 4/2 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 39, and charged him with assault after he allegedly punched a cashier at a restaurant on City Island Avenue.
 4/3 – An unknown male with a weapon robbed a store of cash on City Island Avenue. Police are investigating.
 4/6 – Police are investigating the burglary of a boat on Pilot Street. An unknown perpetrator broke into the boat through a window and removed property.

- 4/8 – Playground equipment was spray-painted in an act of criminal mischief.
 4/10-4/13 – The passenger front windows of three parked cars were smashed in acts of criminal mischief.
 4/17 - Police are investigating an Internet scam reported by an Islander who works at home.
 4/25 – A house on Rochelle Street was burglarized. Police arrested an Island male, 18, and charged him with burglary, grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property (see story this issue).
 5/3 – At City Island Avenue and Bridge Street, an off-Island male, 25, was arrested and charged with DWI.
 5/4 – A car parked at the rear of a restaurant on City Island Avenue was broken into and credit cards, a passport and checkbook were removed.
 5/4 – On City Island Avenue, the automobile of an off-Islander was stolen.
 5/5 – On Hunter Avenue, a yacht club was burglarized. An unknown perpetrator entered through the rear glass atrium and stole property.
 5/13 – On City Island Avenue, the van of an off-Islander was stolen. Police reported that the keys were left in the van.
 5/15 – Police responded to reports of a fight with punches on City Island Avenue and Fordham Street. No arrest was made.
 5/15 – The automobile of an Islander was stolen as the owner was unloading groceries on Fordham Street and City Island Avenue.

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Avenue Buildings Damaged in Holiday Weekend Blaze

By KAREN NANI

As Islanders were returning from church services on May 25, 2008, and meeting friends for Sunday brunch, a three-alarm fire broke out at 286 City Island Avenue, causing traffic chaos and seriously damaging two buildings. Neighbors on Hawkins Street heard at least one explosion before seeing thick black smoke and flames rise from the back of the buildings.

According to Deputy Chief Kevin Scanlon of the Fire Department, fire companies responded to a 911 call at 12:09 p.m. The fire began in the rear of Filomena's Pizzeria and quickly spread to 288 City Island Avenue, the former home of Rhodes and Six-Mile Cross restaurants.

"The fire spread up the wood siding to the space between the ceiling and the roof of 288 City Island Avenue," he told *The Current*. None of the tenants were home in the two apartments on the top floor of 288 City Island Avenue, so there were no civilian injuries. Chief Scanlon reported that five firefighters received minor injuries.

Response to the alarm was rapid and extensive. Hawkins Street resident Susan Rios may have been the first to call 911 just after noon. "We heard a hiss and then three explosions, two very close together," she told *The Current*. She said she heard sirens almost immediately after hanging up the phone.

City Island's Fire Truck 53 and Ladder 70 were the first on the scene, followed by 19 other engines, 14 ladder companies and 10 specialty service vehicles, according to Chief Scanlon. More than 200 firefighters, emergency service workers, police officers from the 45th Precinct and Department of Environmental Protection workers were involved in fighting the fire and controlling traffic. The blaze was declared under control by 1:19 p.m.

However, the intense fire caused a lot of damage. "The top floor [of 288 City Island Avenue] is lost," the chief reported. Neighbors on Hawkins Street and Brown's Lane watched as the canopy and back deck of the former restaurant was engulfed in flames. Luckily, the brick walls of the neighboring buildings, the City Island Pharmacy and 284 City Island Avenue, which houses apartments and DeDonato Accounting,

prevented the fire from spreading and causing further damage.

Tony from Filomena's Pizza was in the front part of the restaurant making pizza when the blaze started. He was stunned when someone came running in and said there was smoke coming from the back. "I have a fire door between the restaurant and the kitchen area, so I didn't see anything," he said.

Flames spread quickly, and the tin ceilings made it difficult to control. The cause of the fire was unknown and is under investigation, according to Chief Scanlon.

Islander George Gibbons, who owns both buildings, arrived at the scene and was frantic. He was worried about his tenants in the apartments and sad about the damage to the restaurant area. "There is a new tenant who was renovating the pub and was scheduled to open in two weeks," he told *The Current*.

The apartment residents were quickly accounted for and were safe, but shaken. Charlotte Mantey, who rents the back apartment, was out for the morning, and her husband and father were upstate. Marissa Stewart rents the front apartment with her husband, Norman. "Luckily, we were down at the beach," she told *The Current* as they sat in front of Lickety Split awaiting word from the Fire Department.

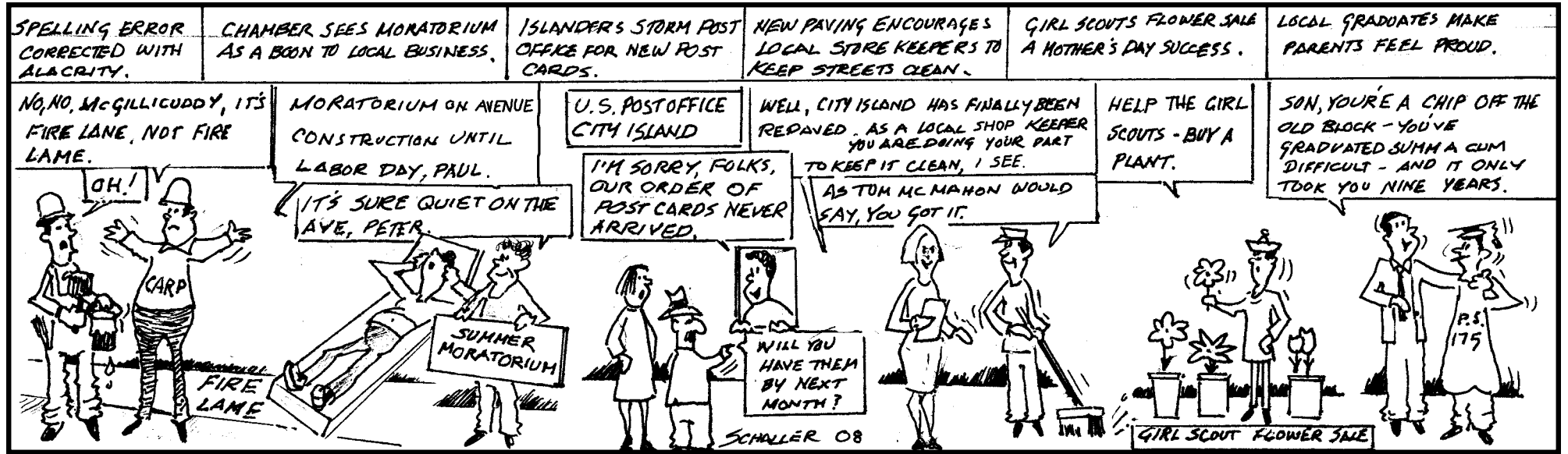
The firefighting effort was something of a City Island affair. Firefighter and Island resident Jimmy McGowan was among the first responders, followed by newer members of the FDNY Ed Stokes, Ralph Manfredonia and Tommy John McMahon. EMS Chief Booth and Fire Chaplain Stephen Harding rounded out the Islander contingency. This was Reverend Harding's first call to a City Island fire since he moved into the Grace Church rectory last year.

Traffic onto City Island was reportedly halted for about two hours, an unfortunate break, since it was the Memorial Day weekend and many graduation and other parties were planned for the day. The bridge was reopened about 2:30 p.m., and fire department officials allowed shops near the scene, including Exotiq and Lickety Split, to reopen their doors at that time.



Photos by RICK DeWITT, MICHELLE GALLO, JOHN GIRIAT & RON TERNER

An intense three-alarm blaze on City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Fordham Streets disrupted the holiday weekend on Sunday afternoon, May 25, 2008. The fire damaged 288 and 286 City Island Avenue (Filomena's Pizzeria), but none of the tenants were injured. Several Islanders were among the 200 FDNY firefighters who responded to the scene.



We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

The Heart of City Island

To the Editor:

Almost every day for almost 25 years, I came home from work, got my dog and walked down Horton Street to the beach. With each step, all of the stresses and challenges of the day would begin to disappear. Many days when I reached the end of the block, Alice, who had lived on this earth eight decades, would ask "How are you today, Joyce?" Those wise eyes always made me think on the bright side, and she would make me smile.

After my walk down the beach, taking in all the sounds and smells, I would lie at the water's edge, with the seawall as my bed, and wonder at the good fortune that had blessed me with living in this special place. Other days I would row my dinghy to my Rhodes 19 and sail on a soft breeze at sunset. I often felt I had found heaven on earth.

This was the block of Skippy Lane, who welcomed everyone, friends and strangers alike, and told old tales of City Island and its nautical history. It was home to Oliver Sacks, who would swim every day, knowing that the harmony of nature is the one true therapy.

Now this tale of serenity, good karma and welcome has changed. Like the rest of New York City, the waterfront has become a battleground between those who have much, yet desire more, and those who would challenge their hubris. Their quest is for nothing less than complete control and ownership. The victims are the property owners on Horton Street, who without proper beach rights could lose unhindered access to that which our hearts and bodies have taken for granted all these years.

When the sight of a rowboat at water's edge can spark a fight of epic proportion, then no one wins. How can one person do what no one else is allowed to do—use fill to make the beach the height of his own property, put a street runoff pipe four feet above the beach so the volume and velocity of water might expedite the erosion of the beach and the spawning ground for horseshoe crabs, and put a concrete wall where none was before? There are only 11 families on this block and not one was consulted or asked their opinion about the remodeling and restructuring of the beach, which must have been planned for many months. Why not?

Our stores have become just storefronts, our boatyards gated condominiums

and our bridge will soon be a monument to excess. Sometimes what is right is right, and the fight is worth fighting even when your advocate is powerful and retribution can swiftly pull up a chair at your table.

It is a sobering truth that once someone takes your rights away, you can NEVER get them back. I hope the many will triumph over the few who will never quite understand the true meaning of the freedom to walk along a beach and feel peace within.

Keeping a good thought,

Joyce Sloboda



Help Keep the Peace

To the Editor:

It's barely a month into the spring season, and the relentless and nearly deafening sounds of vehicles with blaring radios and the senseless honking of automobile horns are already assaulting our evening tranquility. And the noise continues well into the morning hours.

We've probably all become accustomed to what seems like an endless stream of slow-moving traffic, but surely it would behoove our borough president (and fellow resident), who recently initiated his "Team Up to Clean Up the Bronx" campaign, to require the police to respond to this offensive barrage by visitors to our community by enforcing New York City's laws regarding excessive noise pollution.

Franz Helmke

Support Insurance Bill 2269

A copy of the following letter was sent to The Current.

To Margaret B. McNulty:

I am writing this letter to address your concerns over homeowners insurance in the local area. As you may be aware, I have introduced legislation [Bill #2269] to amend existing insurance law to allow regulation over how many people can be dropped from their homeowners insurance and the rationale thereof.

My proposed legislation does the following: it would reduce by half the maximum amount of policy cancellations in a year from 4 percent to 2 percent. Furthermore, it would require an insurance company to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the NYS Department of Insurance a proper justification for widespread cancellations. It would also instruct the Insurance Department to conduct a study into these practices. My legislation will provide homeowners some protection from the abuses of insurance companies. I respectfully ask that you review my legislation with your fellow citizens who are concerned about this issue.

Should you require any additional information, please contact my office at 718-822-2049.

Jeffrey D. Klein, State Senator



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Armed Forces Appreciation Day



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, at the Orchard Beach Pavilion, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. hosted the second annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day event to honor the families of Bronx service members killed in Iraq. A group of City Island veterans and their families participated in the event. Top photo (l to r): American Legion Post 156 member Bill Clancy, unknown off-Islander, Bronx Veteran's Advisory Board member Mike Rauh, Adolfo Carrión Jr., and Legion Post

156 members Robert and Carol Mennona. Middle photo: American Legion Post 156 member Pat Branley, his son, John, and wife, Michelle; Post 156 members Bob and Carol Mennona; American Legion Post 156 Commander Dave Carman and his wife, Betty, Alexis Candelaria, Cynde Candelaria and Dava-Lee Candelaria (in front). Bottom photo: Mike Rauh and Captain Robert R. O'Brien, U.S. Coast Guard Commander of the New York Sector, which includes the Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, and the Hudson River.



Photo by TINA GISANTE

On May 21, 2008, the Student Council of P.S. 175 presented a check for \$800 to Barbara Dolensek of the City Island Historical Society to help purchase lamps as part of the restoration project at the Nautical Museum. The money was raised by the Penny Harvest program through which students collect pennies in order to raise funds for charitable causes. Front row (l. to r.): seventh-grade teacher Andrea Horowitz (the Penny Harvest coordinator), Barbara Dolensek, Treasure Loudermilk (eighth grade), Saul Soto (sixth grade), Benjamin Stinson-Hurwitz (sixth grade), Abigail Adams (seventh grade), Marcus Lopez (seventh grade), Elizabeth Vacca (eighth grade); back row: Principal Amy Lipson, Veronica Weyhrauch (seventh grade), Anna Manfredonia (sixth grade), Jenna Desgrosseilliers (sixth grade), Catherine Wang (eighth grade) and Adrian Pena (seventh grade).

Sewer Project Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Mother's Day usually marks the first day of heavy summer traffic on City Island, but even residents who complain about the traffic were happy that it was accompanied by the permanent repaving along City Island Avenue, which had been done by Carp Construction in order to complete the latest phase of the sewer-replacement project before the Mother's Day deadline.

At a task-force meeting held by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) on Tuesday, May 13, the contractor announced that all work on the avenue had ceased for the summer, as required by the moratorium established for the sake of businesses on City Island. Work will, however, continue this summer on Schofield Street, which is the last major phase of the project, and in Pelham Bay Park, where fenders have to be attached to the new fire hydrants.

The repaving and the curb reconstruction were completed between Hawkins Street and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, even though some of the avenue was not excavated for purposes of construction. Still to be repaved is City Island Avenue from Pilot Street south and the area around Schofield Street. These aspects of the project are scheduled to be completed starting the Monday after Labor Day and represent the final work to be done.

DDC estimates that 80 percent of the work has been finished and anticipate that the job will end on schedule, by December 2008. The contract includes financial incentives to encourage the contractor to finish on time or

earlier.

The work that is taking place on Schofield Street this summer includes the reconstruction of a 38-foot deep storm sewer, which will run from the outfall on the east end of the street to City Island Avenue, and a shallower sanitary sewer that connects to houses along the street.

During the 80 days or so that it will take to complete this part of the work, Schofield Street will be closed to traffic every day during the week but will be open at night and on weekends. This work must be done during the warm weather, so that the fire trucks may be stored outside the fire station on Schofield without running the risk of freezing.

There were a number of questions raised at the task force meeting on May 13. One resident asked to have more pedestrian walkways painted onto the street, and others asked if the curbs at Pilot Street could be finished before the summer sets in. The curbs have been repaired on a temporary basis, but permanent replacement must wait until after the summer moratorium, although no more excavation needs to be done on the avenue in that area.

Virginia Gallagher, chair of Community Board 10, has submitted a special request that the Department of Transportation (DOT) make an exception to the moratorium for the purpose of constructing permanent curbs, curb cuts and sidewalks on all four corners of City Island Avenue if it can be done within a period of four weeks. It is not known when or how DOT will respond to this request.

Fire Investigation Continues

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Nearly a full year has elapsed since the building at 190 Fordham Street, which houses several residential apartments, the City Island Community Center and the Nautical Museum, was damaged by fire on July 13, 2007. Although no suspects have been found, the Fire Department has kept the matter open, and the fire marshals continue to investigate the source of the fire.

Two fire marshals, John Watkins and Mark Thompson, addressed the April meeting of the City Island Civic Association to explain what directions their investigation had taken. They reported that no one has yet come forward with the identity of the individual or individuals who may have started the fire, likely to have been caused by fireworks or smoking materials, although a reward of \$3,000 has been posted and still stands.

They asked that residents concerned about arson during the coming months remain

in contact with the community officers at the 45th Police Precinct and that any suspicious incidents be called in to 911 and followed up with paperwork filled out at the precinct. A resident suggested that anyone observing suspicious activity take pictures with a cell phone, but the marshals cautioned against this because of possible reprisal. They also advocated the use of motion-sensitive lights and security cameras. Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, reported that the Civic had purchased cameras and would install them at some point in the near future.

If anyone has information about the fire or other suspected cases of arson, the fire marshals can be reached at 646-220-3928. They are based in Queens and Brooklyn but will come to the Bronx to follow up any leads. They suggested that residents support the establishment of a fire marshal base in the Bronx by writing to their elected officials.

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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.

On Sunday, June 29, Jo Heck is hosting a concert by Tom Pacheco in her apartment #16 at 190 Fordham Street to be preceded by a potluck lunch. Lunch at 1:30 p.m., concert at 3. To make reservations, call Jo Heck at 718-885-1494 or e-mail joheck@earthlink.net. Suggested contribution is \$15.

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) started the month that welcomes summer with an art reception for photographer Don Nester, "images from infinity." That show will run through June and July. The first full weekend in June features spiritual, inspirational songwriter Laura Berman Benelli on Friday, June 6, at 8 p.m., talented young singer-songwriter Anthony Da Costa on Saturday, June 7, at 8 p.m., and cellist Elizabeth Glushko (who has been a substitute teacher at P.S. 175) with her duo, Cellar, on Sunday, June 8, at 3 p.m. A "group of teachers" come together to bring all a "pack of fun" on Friday, June 13, as Midnight Jester takes the stage at 8 p.m. On Saturday, June 14, it's another young artist, Christine Dominguez, with her brand of R&B, hip hop and soul, starting at 8 p.m. Then travel to the sounds of Middle Eastern and Spanish music on Sunday, June 15, at 4 p.m. with Chris Wertenbaker's Port O' Monkeys. Fish Altieri, Bronx singer-songwriter and band promoter himself, plays the Artist on Friday, June 20, with songwriters filling the remainder of the weekend as well: Aaron Gilmartin (Saturday, June 21, 8 p.m.) and Theresa Sareo, the Starving Artist's "sweet-heart" (Sunday, June 22, 3 p.m.). On that Sunday afternoon, we'll be wishing "birthday happy" to a good friend of the Starving Artist, Debbie Martin! Finishing off June, we have our usual last-Friday-of-the-month "Take the Stage" open mike night for poets, songwriters, comics and actors, starting at 8 p.m. on June 27. On Saturday, June 28, it's the

harmony-drenched acoustic rock/modern folk sound of Project Mercury at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 29, brings us Chris Frawley, Bill Irvine and George Kelly—Thieves & Poets—and their instrumental magic, beginning at 3 p.m. For more, visit our Web site at www.starvingartistonline.com.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
633 King Avenue	1/25/08	\$168,783	1 Family
651 King Avenue	3/21/08	\$825,000	1 Family
212 Kirby Street	4/4/08	\$375,000	1 Family
165 Tier Street	4/24/08	\$430,000	1 Family
310 King Avenue	4/28/08	\$375,000	1 Family

Bartow-Pell News

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum will have an exciting opportunity this summer to bring their garden walkways back to the original design and condition. Two organizations, Heritage Conservation Network and Preservation Volunteers, will help to repair the masonry steps by bringing enthusiastic volunteers from as far away as France to join this hands-on effort.

The Bartow-Pell staff is also asking the local community to get involved as well by sponsoring volunteers for the project, which will take from August 3-9, 2008. Volunteers will work with a masonry specialist, Andy deGruchy of deGruchy Masonry Restoration, to clean up the effects of past repair work on the garden paths, which date to 1915, and to restore the flagstone steps to their original appearance. Volunteers

will travel back in time to learn lost techniques such as using a mini-guillotine to cut stone, among restoration methods.

The volunteer team will include a group from France, who will participate under the sponsorship of Preservation Volunteers, a New York City-based non-profit organization. Participants will stay at Le Refuge Inn and the cost per person is \$1,115, which will cover lodging for six nights, breakfast and lunch, workshop instruction and materials, and insurance. The workshop schedule will include time to sightsee in the vicinity. A reduced fee of \$600 is available for local residents who do not need lodging.

Heritage Conservation Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of architectural heritage around the world. HCN's workshops give volunteers the opportunity to give something back by helping to protect valuable cultural treasures. To learn more about HCN's international workshops, visit their Web site at www.heritageconservation.net.

The deadline to register for the workshop is July 3, 2008. To register, go to heritageconservation.net/wsbartow-pell-2008.htm. For more information, call Clarissa Cylich at 718-885-1461.

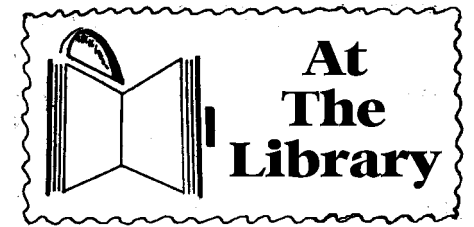
In the meantime, the month of June is full of activities.

Friday, June 6, is the date for the **First Friday Trolley** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The first stop of the free City Island Bronx Seaside Trolley after Pelham Bay Station is Bartow-Pell, where there will be guided tours and music, free with admission to museum. Live music will be performed by the Bronx Symphony Orchestra Woodwinds. Artists include: Richard Parately on the flute, Ellen Bardekoff on the oboe, Monte Morgenstern on the clarinet and Amy Fraser on the bassoon.

Botanical Illustration classes will be held on Mondays from June 9 through 30 with Janet Shearn from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Study in pencil tonal scales, texture, perspective, light source and composition working from the local flowers and plants on the beautiful grounds of the 19th-century mansion. Botanical illustration and drawing experience necessary. The fee is \$170 (\$153 for Pelham Art Center and Bartow-Pell members) for four sessions, June 9, 16, 23 and 30. Pre-registration is required to ensure there are enough people to have a class, please call 914-738-2525.

Although the Yankees will be in Houston

on Saturday, June 14, from 12 to 3 p.m., you can still watch baseball in the Bronx. Celebrate Father's Day by watching a real **19th-century-era baseball game** on the grounds of the Bartow-Pell Mansion. The New York Mutuals will play another local vintage team in an 1864 rules game. The game ball will be raffled off at the end of the game, and the players will stay to play a game of round-up with the kids. An exhibit of vintage baseball memorabilia will be on display in the mansion, and tours to the mansion will be free. Fees are \$20 per adult, \$10 per child 6-17; children under 6 are free. Members: \$15 per adult, \$5 per child 6-17. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpm.org.



From the Children's Room

Bugapalooza! A buggy extravaganza of music, stories and much more. This program features insect songs, folklore and create-a-buggy story. Tuesday, June 10, at 3:30 p.m.. Recommended for ages 4 to 12.

Summer Program: The kick-off for the New York State Summer Reading Program is Thursday, June 5, 2008. We encourage students pre-K to Grade 6 to sign up. The theme for this year is "Catch the Reading Bug." There will be prizes, certificates and an end-of-the-summer reading celebration.

Read Aloud: Every Thursday in at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 11.

Arts and Crafts: Monday, June 9, at 3:30 p.m. Father's Day crafts for ages 4 to 11.

Teen Time

Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Ages 11 to 17. We will be registering teens for tournaments during the summer.

Adult Programs

Laptop Workshop: Tuesday, June 17, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

For information about any of the above programs, call Mrs. Gerges or Mr. Corvino at the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

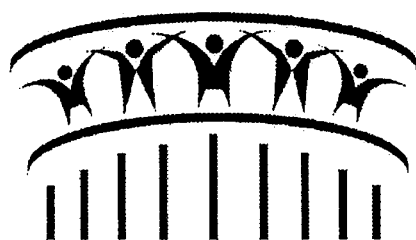
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P.S. 175 eighth-grader Catherine Wang (right) was the winner of the Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition for the Bronx (Grades 6 through 8). She is shown here with Amy Lipson, principal, and Elizabeth Vacca (eighth-grader) after the ceremony honoring the contest's city-wide and borough winners held on Friday, May 16, at the Donnell Library in Manhattan.

A Single Act of Kindness

By NANCY SCOTTO PRYOR

On a spring day on City Island several years ago, a little boy went missing. The ending was a happy one, since the parents found their child safe in his own home under a box, where he had fallen asleep while playing. What's important about the story, or at least what was important to me, is the amazing sense of community that City Island showed that day.

Within minutes of hearing about the youngster, dozens of neighbors came to-

gether with one purpose—to find this child. The story never made the papers and never received national attention. His parents never sat down with Oprah for a powerful hour of emotional television. They simply found their little boy, hugged him, thanked everyone and went about the rest of their day, undoubtedly a bit more appreciative of the place they live.

The friends and neighbors who helped that day also went on with their lives without any expectation of thanks or acknowledgment. Most of them felt that this was something you just do when you are part of a community. But that day changed how I looked at the place I have called home for most of my life. I felt then, and I believe now, that a community which responds in such a way deserves to be recognized.

Wouldn't it be nice if every now and then someone said "Great job!" for a favor you had done? We don't seek that kind of praise, but it feels good when we get it and also when we give it. It makes us, on some level, want to keep doing good. Why should we not commend those people who, in some small way, have made a big difference? Why should we not spotlight the good things that occur every day in our very own City Island community?

If you would like to share a positive story about our community, please e-mail me at NancyCityIsland@gmail.com.

As Amelia Earhart once said: "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves."

"Moon" Brings Out Laughter in the Rain

By PAUL NANI



Islanders who braved the northeast winds and driving rain on Friday, May 9, were rewarded with an evening of laughter at the City Island Theater Group's production of "Moon Over Buffalo."

Author Ken Ludwig's story revolves around some over-the-hill actors and a struggling repertory theater troupe on the road in Buffalo, New York in 1953. The principal actors, George and Charlotte Hay, lament that they have not been given any big movie roles and are especially jealous of Ronald Coleman and Greer Garson, who were selected to play the leads in "The Scarlet Pimpernel," which Frank Capra is about to start filming.

As luck would have it, Ronald Coleman breaks both legs the first day on the set, so Capra decides to fly up to Buffalo to see the Hays perform in order to consider them as replacements for Coleman and Garson. Needless to say, everything does not go very smoothly.

My usual interaction with the City Island Theater Group is as the Grace Church liaison, so I'm most often discussing rehearsal schedules, broken lights and heat. But I was asked to review the play by my wife, Karen, editor of *The Current*, and it turned out to be a fun, if not optional, assignment.

I found the interplay between the husband and wife team, played by William Kozy and Camille Kaiser, witty, convincing and always full of surprises. The two are often at odds with each other, especially about an affair George has had with a local Buffalo girl. Both stars are well-trained comedic actors, and the CITG is lucky to have them on stage for this production.

Sandra Prosnitz is hilarious as the hard-of-hearing grandmother character, Ethel, who delivers great quips about her son-in-law George, for whom she has no patience at all.

John Garcia plays Paul, the company's stage manager. He does a terrific job in the slapstick scenes where the actors chase each other around the stage à la the Three Stooges. He eventually "gets the girl," the Hays' daughter, Roz, who is charmingly played by Elizabeth Paldino.

On opening night, a case of mistaken

identity had the audience in stitches during the scene where Charlotte thinks that Roz's fiancé, Howard, well-played by Keith Trauce-niek, is actually Frank Capra.

Rounding out the excellent ensemble were Tara Brant, who returned to the Grace stage as Eileen in "Moon" after a break to start a family, and Frank Siciliano, another CITG veteran, who plays Richard, the lawyer.

There were great costumes and props to go with the different roles being played by the actors in the company, including Cyrano de Bergerac and General George Patton. Kudos to costume designers Carol McCabe and Norma Kerner, as well as prop master Barbara Dolensek.

As I am at Grace Church most Sundays, it was interesting to see the set evolving over the weeks leading up to opening night and then to see the final product. The hardworking set "carpenters" were Con Grondahl, John Byrne and Christopher McGowan, and their set was well designed to accommodate the slapstick bits, silly sword fights, and stage chases, complete with doors that kept opening and slamming shut.

All of the chaos indoors was brilliantly orchestrated by director Nick Sala, assisted by stage manager Eileen Fox and lighting director Susan Velcheck. And the chaos outside, the howling winds and the rain, couldn't drown out the laughter inside the theater.

During intermission, I talked with some audience members to get their reactions. Islander Diane Duryea declared, "I'm loving it and laughing my head off. The lines are funny and the cast is doing a great job." Barbara Harrison Kaye agreed. "I'm totally into the play and enjoying it tremendously—very funny."

City Island's own *grandes dames* Jackie Kall and Virginia Gallagher thought the show was "very professional and wonderful."

The show was dedicated to longtime CITG member Carole Sullivan, whom I had the pleasure of working with on the Grace Church Vestry. Carole had a great sense of humor, and I could picture myself sitting beside her as she would have laughed her throaty laugh more than once during this wonderful comedic farce.

would pursue education as a vocation.

Her daughter, Eileen, is also taking a page from her mother's lesson plan, so to speak. She is a Speech Language Pathologist at Middle School 180 in Co-op City. Judy's son, Michael, also learned from his mother's successful collaborations with friends, for he and a longtime friend, Islander Eric Neuner, own their own marketing company, SpireVision, which is based in Manhattan.

After 32 years of welcoming new students, what does Judy have on her schedule for September? "Ellen and I will walk and have breakfast on September 4, the first day of the new school year," she laughed, noting that it will feel funny not to be heading for the school afterward. Then she plans to help her husband with the gardening, if he will let her, at their home on Buckley Street. Frank is a retired U.S. Customs Agent, who continues to consult for the department three days a week.

Judy was honored at a faculty sponsored dinner on May 30 along with another retiring teacher, Christine Belassario, and retiring assistant principal Josephine Rondi.

Teacher Retires

Continued from page 1

come to the Nautical Museum in the spring to present the booklets to us," Barbara Dolensek, museum vice president recalls. "They always loved visiting the museum and learning about City Island's past, something that Mrs. DiMaio always encouraged."

The respect and love of Judy DiMaio's students is easily spotted on City Island. During the interview for this profile, held at the Black Whale restaurant, one of her former students waited on our table and was glowing when she hugged "Mrs. DiMaio." She proudly told Judy of her college graduation and her future plans.

Another former student, Fred Ramftl, arrived at the restaurant with his grandmother to celebrate his graduation from Long Island University on May 20. Fred told Judy that he now has his M.S. in Education to add to his master's degree in history from Iona. Judy reminisced that he had been good in history when she taught him and was delighted that he

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Planting Day at P.S. 175

A Gardening Pilot Program was started in May 2008 at the City Island School by parents Han Yu Hung Sanderson, a professional horticulturist and educator at the New York Botanical Garden, and Lisa Fine. The program is for first- and second-grade students.



Han Yu Hung Sanderson, parent of second-grader Everett Sanderson, meets with Mrs. Stelman's first-grade class to make plans.



First-grade students James McGaughan, Conner Ninivaggi, Rebecca Lubelli, James Mettler and Vincent Manasseri show off their plants.



First-grade parent volunteer Pete Wiehler assists first-grade students with their planting.

Getting into Shape: The Importance of Exercise

By BUTCH NIEVES

As you can imagine, I hear a ton of excuses from people on why they don't exercise. Sometimes the reason is self inflicted: "I don't have the time." Other times the reason is procrastination: "I'm going to start as soon as tax season ends." And occasionally the reason is downright funny: "The dog ate my gym shorts."

I usually point out to these well-meaning folks that, no matter what their reasons, exercise is a very important activity that will dramatically improve their lives. I bring up the health benefits and describe how many of their physical ailments will improve. I talk about how great they will feel dropping excess weight and rediscovering a slender figure.

However, there is always one excuse that I couldn't answer: "Oh, I don't need to exercise in a gym. I'm very active. I play tennis and hike in the summer and I ski in the winter."

Well, they have a point, right? Tennis, hiking and skiing are all active sports that burn calories. Maybe these people can be fit without doing any other exercise, especially if they are at a reasonable weight.

But then I started to notice a trend. The "active" people couldn't touch their toes in a simple flexibility test. The "tennis players" couldn't jump rope for 60 seconds. The "hikers" needed a week to recover from a one-mile jog. The "skiers" encountered injury after injury. And then it hit me.

You don't become fit by simply being

active. That's backward fitness. Only by being fit can you become more active. To become and maintain a level of fitness, there is no replacement for a consistent exercise program. It's the only way.

True fitness is when your body can do whatever you ask of it. This means having flexibility, strength and endurance.

Do you exercise? Or are you fooling yourself with the excuse of "being active"? How happy are you with your level of fitness? Are you able to meet all of the functional demands of life? Or do you find yourself opting out of experiences or situations that you know would be too challenging?

If you have used the excuse of "being active" in the past, it's time to reconsider your options. Don't practice backward fitness with the hope of true results. After all, there's no trial run in the game of life.

Be excellent. An important aspect of becoming and staying fit is to be persistent. You can exercise every day for a week, but if you follow that week with a month of no exercise, then you've lost all the ground you gained. Find an exercise program that you are able to do consistently, and then stick with it. In the words of Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Butch Nieves is a City Island resident who owns a personal fitness business. His Web site is www.mramericaspersonaltraining.com.



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Photos by RICK DeWITT and WALDO PERSTEINS

City Island Girl Scouts hosted a Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 10, the day before Mother's Day, outside Trinity Methodist Church. Shown above with their blooms are (top photos) leaders Jami Reilly and Brenda Prohaska and scouts: Brianna Reilly, Michelle Lombardo, Anastasia Lacina, Dusty Prohaska and Catherine Ficke. This follows the successful Boy Scout Sale before Easter (bottom photo, front row) David Mooney, Liam Flynn, Omar Garcia, Daniel Green, Alex Skokos. Back row: Troop committee members Edward Esposito and William Clancy Sr.

Bryce Kirk: "All the Good Timber Is Cut"

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by RICK DEWITT

Bryce Kirk.

Bryce Kirk is not happy with City Island's current incarnation. "City Island used to be the yachting capitol of the world," he declares. "Now it's the French fry capitol of the world." Even worse, he sees no hope for improvement, at least for the yachting business. "I can't see any way that this part of New York City is going to improve," he says, and then considers: "It may be improving for the restaurant business. This has become a mecca for people who want to dine, but there's very little yachting any more. It's all boating."

The son of a marine insurance broker, Bryce Kirk was born in Brooklyn and never, even for a second, considered following his father into the business. The child of William A. Kirk and Elizabeth Gload Kirk, Bryce attended Port Washington High School and then Cornell University. As to goals, Bryce doubts that he ever had any. "I enjoyed doing certain types of work", he says, "and I enjoyed doing what I was doing, whatever it may have been at the moment." He worked in Brooklyn shipyards and earned CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) licenses at Roosevelt Field and North Beech Airport (later to become LaGuardia) before World War II. After the war began, he left a protected position with American Export Airlines and served in the Navy as a flight engineer at a Washington-area base.

Bryce was reassigned to inspection shortly after putting his commanding officer on report ("He couldn't figure a fuel load and didn't know how to use the power settings, so I figured that sooner or later, we were going to crash somewhere."). Bryce made overseas flights into Europe and Africa for the remainder of the war and received his flight pay after all.

After the war, Bryce, who had been living in New Rochelle, came to City Island as a watchman for Rodstrom Shipyards (a precursor to Consolidated Yachts). He subsequently worked for a marine contractor whom he describes as a brilliant builder and an excellent teacher. Bryce and a fellow worker, Robert White, ultimately became partners of their own marine contracting company, determined to avoid certain mistakes of their construction mentor. "We didn't go into business to make money," he says. "We went into the business because we enjoyed working with and on the machinery. That was our joy, we really loved the machinery."

Bryce describes pre-condominium-era City Island as a tightly knit community of yacht-builders and boat-workers. "Staten Island, of course, was a boat-building and a ship-building area, as was Bayonne and all those places, but the people didn't live as close to the job as they did on City Island. A man could walk across the street and be at his job. There was no commutation expense. . . And the market let the people who worked

at the boatyards charge their groceries in the winter, when there was no work, because in the spring they went back to work and paid them off. They all lived here, or most of them lived here, and there were no marinas, just boatyards."

"There is a photograph of the men coming out of the Nevins yard with that mast, the largest wooden mast in the world. Everything stopped for boats on the Island. Traffic always stopped for boats. The police stopped traffic. If one yard couldn't handle a boat, another yard would." The Consolidated yard, for instance, had the biggest railway, with a 1,200-ton capacity. If the Minneford yard got a boat they couldn't haul out of the water, Consolidated would haul the boat on their railway. "Consolidated had a gate in their fence, and workers would tramp from Minneford into Consolidated, do the work and go back at night. "Arrangements like that kept the place alive."

The gradual decline of City Island's yacht-building industry is laid variously at the doorstep of condominium development, an ill-conceived rezoning in the early 1960s, or fiberglass, but Bryce believes the true cause is much simpler: "The real money is gone." By way of example, he cites a recent television program describing the Dodge family's Great Lakes yacht. The ship had just been sold to a Belgium merchant, and its engine room was being redone at a cost of \$3 million dollars. "The ship was just magnificent, 200-some-odd feet long. That's yachting."

In those days, engineers would sit down with various people to design a yacht's engine room, and if there was going to be oiling done, for instance, the oilcan had to be in a certain place. Maybe in a corner, so that what looked like an ordinary oilcan would have two straight surfaces and a round surface on the outside, because it would fit only in that place. That oilcan would probably have cost about \$75 dollars, which a man would have to work a month and a half for. Money was no object. And it all ran out in the Depression. "Shortly after the Depression, there was a little spurt, but after that. . . now you buy a Chevrolet."

Bryce describes his business partner, Bob White, "a good man who doesn't talk much but just does," as the most memorable character he ever knew. Robert White grew up in Garrison, New York, where he "sort of" fished. Shad fisherman of that period in Garrison would fish with a 2,000-foot drift net, pulled by rowboats for 10 hours a day, stretched out tight. "Robert White wasn't given to much conversation," says Bryce, "but as you got to know him, you respected him more and more. He would never lie, describing it as a waste of time."

Bryce Kirk plans to keep working, but he sees a shrinking demand for marine contracting. "The governments are taking the waterfront away from people," he says. "Little by little, it's insidious. People are getting grants from the State of New York to improve; they call it, the waterfront." All they do is put rocks in front of it. Now you can't swim from it, you shouldn't let kids fish from the slippery rocks and you can't tie your boat up to it. . . It's destruction of the waterfront. Likewise, "all the good timber is cut. You used to be able to get 80-foot spruce poles for masts, 24 inches in diameter, stuff like that. You can't get them anymore. There's a market and our market is diminishing."

Bryce Kirk keeps a regular table at The Treehouse on City Island and can be found there most nights. If you ever have a question about City Island, you know where to look.

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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

JUNE

Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8, **Arts and Crafts Fair** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sunday, June 8 and 22, **Community Center Tag Sales**, 190 Fordham Street.

Thursday, June 19, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., to be scheduled. Call 718-892-1161 for details.

Sunday, June 22, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Friday, June 27, **Bronx Fireworks Spectacular**, Orchard Beach, 9 p.m. sponsored by Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and State Senator Jeff Klein.

Saturday, June 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chef's salad (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, cubes of ham, turkey, etc.).

Temple Beth-El

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

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew. Reb Aliza Erber will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. and the Shabbat service on June 7 at 10:30 a.m.

During these two services, adult students of her B'nai Bina class will be called to the Torah. On Friday, Cheryl Berent and Barbara Greco will become Bat Mitzvah. On Saturday, Joe Stern, Jaime Pat Cuesta and Mike Eiron will become Bar Mitzvah. Reciting the Torah blessings is symbolic of the person's acceptance of Jewish responsibilities as a participating member of the community with basic beliefs, values and a shared history.

(On other Friday nights, Mort Ellis and Bob Berent, with his accordion, lead the Sabbath service.)

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

"Dancing with Elaine," a series of lessons in ballroom and Latin dance continues for three more Wednesdays in June (through the 18th). Open to the public, no partner required. The lessons are from 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10 per session for non-members. (Temple Beth-El members free). Call 718-885-2154 for more information.

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

Bob Berent

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly schedule: Grace Church will celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday in June at 10 a.m., with Church School. During July and August (through Labor Day weekend), our Sunday worship moves to 9 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Here is an overview of special events at Grace Church during June:

Sunday, June 15, 11:30 a.m.: Third Annual Father's Day Picnic, sponsored by the Children's Church School. All are welcomed!

Sunday, June 22, 1 a.m.: The Blessing

of the Fleet. Mother Patty will be on hand along with the other faith leaders of City Island to bless the fleet from the dock of Fenton's Marine, 225 Fordham Street.

Sunday, June 29, 10 a.m.: Episcopal Visitation by the Rt. Rev. Catherine S. Roskam, Suffragan Bishop of New York. Please plan to be present, as our friend Bishop Roskam returns to Grace to administer the rites of baptism, confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

For more information about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, www.gracecity-island.org.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Friday, June 6, we will have our monthly Holy Hour from 4 to 5 p.m. This will be our last scheduled Holy Hour before the summer months. Come and join us for this period of adoration.

On this same day, June 6, the graduates of St. Mary's School will have their Graduation Mass at 7 p.m. and will follow this with a party in the school gym.

We congratulate all our graduates, both those in St. Mary's School and those in our Religious Education program who attend other schools, and we wish them all well in their high school careers.

On Fathers Day, Sunday, June 15, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all the Masses.

Our Parish Council will bring the year's activities to a close by gathering for a celebration dinner at the Black Whale.

At the end of the month, we will once again welcome Father Alexander Iheonunekwu, who will be returning to us for the summer months.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Sr. Bernadette, OSU

Trinity United Methodist Church

Greetings to all! Spring is upon us, and summer is quickly approaching. Trinity holds its weekly service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday school is held at the same time.

A reminder that we are holding a square dance and dinner here at Trinity on June 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 10. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please call Rev. Sue at 718-885-1218 or Ellie Hebard at 718-518-7241. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to having a great time!

Budget Shop is open on June 3, 14 and 17. If you would like to volunteer, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049.

Anne Sill

Cub Scout Pack 211

The pack capped off its season with the Blue and Gold Family Dinner on May 2, 2008, at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. All the scouts were honored for their achievements throughout the year. Needless to say, they achieved a great deal. They made all their parents and adult leaders proud.

Congratulations goes to Jak Popovic, Conner Saulnier and John Branley for earning their Arrow of Light and for "Crossing the Bridge" into Boy Scouts, where they were met and welcomed by Scoutmaster Waldo Perstien and their fellow Boy Scouts. Sorry to see you go, young men; we will miss you.

The pack is already looking forward to an exciting new year. Registration will be in early September. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Angelo Bellocchio



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

The Cub Scout Pack 11 honored its scouts at the Blue and Gold Family Dinner on May 2, 2008, at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. Congratulations goes to Jak Popovic, Conner Saulnier and John Branley for earning their Arrow of Light and for "Crossing the Bridge" into Boy Scouts.

GRACE'S "HAPPY HOOKERS"



Photo by KAREN NANI

Ann McGuire leads a group at Grace Episcopal Church called Hugs 'n' Stitches. They knit, crochet and sew blankets all year long for children in Bronx homeless shelters. Shown with their wonderful collection ready for delivery to the needy are the "happy hookers," as they are also known (l. to r.): Evyonne Baker, Elizabeth Brant, Ann McGuire, Marilyn Martin and Mother Patty Alexander.

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

The only news that we have to report is that our membership rolls keep climbing. We are always looking for some good members. Any male who is the descendant of a veteran is eligible to join the squadron. If you are interested, please call co-vice commanders of membership Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695 or Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000.

If any member has not paid dues, be reminded to drop them off at the Post. Dues for the year are \$30.

Fred Ramftl

Healthy Senior Exercise Program

The PSS City Island Healthy Senior Exercise Program is growing. In a partnership with the Arthritis Foundation, we are pleased to offer a series of eight Arthritis Foundation Exercise sessions on Fridays at 10 a.m. at Grace Parish Hall beginning May 30 and continuing through July 25 (no session July 4). These free classes, with instructor Patty Grondahl, are designed to provide gentle exercise for anyone of any age with arthritis. All are welcome. Transportation to and from all sessions at Grace Parish Hall is available.

Additional plans for expansion include a yoga class for older people on Thursdays at 1 p.m. to be taught by City Islander and New Rochelle YMCA instructor Tracy Tomsen;

this will begin in June. A \$2 contribution is suggested for yoga and for ongoing classes including Sittercise on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and tai chi/yoga at 12 noon, and fitness on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.. Remember, our van leaves Pilot Street every sunny Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. for the Orchard Beach walks. For further information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club of City Island will be on Monday, June 2, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

We had a record turnout for our Spring Luncheon at the City Island Yacht Club with everyone enjoying the raffle of beautiful gift baskets donated by our members and gift certificates donated by our local restaurants, beauty and nail salons. We would like to thank the following dignitaries for attending the luncheon: Bronx Commissioner of Arts Hector Aponte, State Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Council Member James Vacca, Congressional district leader Fran Mahoney and Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10.

In time for Memorial Day the Garden Club has planted flowers and other plants at the Memorial Triangle and the City Island sign, in the planters at the Legion, the Public Library and Hawkins Street Park.

Phyllis Goodman



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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Indoor Tag Sale: It's the return of the Springtime Indoor Tag Sale! June 8 and 22. Tables available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares, or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table or e-mail brendaprohaska@aol.com.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

ADULT PROGRAM

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

Belly Dancing: "Shimmy by The Sea" is a group of women learning and dancing together. Mondays at 7:30 p.m. For information about classes, call 718-885-1145 or 845-358-0260 and leave a message.

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

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m.; Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Fri-

day from 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. New class added: Saturday at 9 a.m.

Yoga: City Island's Marc Kaplan is teaching Yoga—a class for beginners to intermediates, which will include Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). He hopes to include tai-chi as well, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Depending on the class size the cost will be \$10 or if a small class \$15. Please contact Susan for inquiries at: riossj@aol.com or call 885-9145.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

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

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

Art Lessons: Drawing and painting lessons by Laury Hopkins. Private and semiprivate (1 to 3 students). Weekday evenings 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$30 for 1 1/2 hours. Three classes must be paid for up front. Acrylic paints only (no oils). Your choice of subject: still life, from photographs or your imagination. Call Laury to schedule and for information about materials at 718-885-3202.

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

Legion News

Tempus fugit. It seems like only yesterday that I sat down, quill in hand, to write the May Post newsletter. Our commander, Dave Carman, has been busy whipping the troops into shape for the annual Memorial Day parade, no easy task. He has observed that a number of Post members' stomachs now peek out from beneath what were once mighty chests. He consulted Islander Butch Nieves, a former Mr. America, who wrote an article on fitness just last month for *The Island Current* to see if members' mid-sections could be turned into washboards instead of potbellies. Butch said that there is no quick fix and that the secret to great abs is fat-burning cardio-resistance training and proper eating. By following a strict regimen, great strides can be made by Memorial Day 2009!

If you have looked in your mailbox lately, you may have noticed that, like the phoenix, the Post Dispatch has risen from the dead. William Clancy and Jack Katz are the staff members and can be contacted on the Post's number, x0639. The edition included a scintillating message from our commander, in which he elaborated on the myriad accomplishments at the Post. He was very appreciative of those who have volunteered their time and talent to make his tenure in office most productive.

Membership: Mike Treat stated that 2008 dues are due, even overdue. Call Mike on x1130 if you know of someone eligible for membership, and Mike will give them his sales pitch.

Americanism: Ed Shipp reports that everything is shipshape. Residents are using our decorative drop-off box, just inside the main gate, to deposit worn flags. We're still looking for 5x7-foot serviceable flags to honor deceased veterans. These flags will be flown until they are deemed to be ready for retirement. In recognition of a donation, the veteran's name will be affixed to the flag pole located at the Bridge Memorial. The flag that graced the coffin of Dr. Fred Hess was donated by his widow, Eileen, and his son, Fred Jr. Ed said that volunteers are still needed as flag stewards. Call him at the Post at x0639.

The Post Memorial Service was held at the Temple Beth-El on Friday, May 16. Despite a miserable evening, the service



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The officers of the Garden Club of City Island were delighted with the large turnout at the annual luncheon on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at the City Island Yacht Club. Here (l. to r.) are Susan Strazzera, president; Barbara Hoffman, vice president; Phyllis Goodman, secretary; Joan Lyons, treasurer.

State Senator Jeff Klein stands with Carol McCabe and Virginia Gallagher at the annual luncheon of the Garden Club of City Island at the City Island Yacht Club.



was very well attended. The service was conducted by rabbinic intern David Daniel Klipper, who explained the tradition of the Sabbath Service. The ceremony ended with the congregation and guests partaking of wine and bread.

I attended the second annual Bronx Armed Forces Day Celebration at Orchard Beach on Saturday, May 17. The event is the brainchild of our neighbor and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., his Veterans Advisory Council and Bronx elected officials. I met and shook hands with a number of our present servicemen and one officer who were bound for Iraq. These men and women are all volunteers and certainly deserve our support. As the Allstate ads say, we are in good hands.

Several families who had a member killed in action were honored, among them Staff Sgt. Christian Engledrum from Throggs Neck. Following brief speeches by distinguished guests, the multitudes sat down to a gourmet luncheon provided by the Borough President.

Meetings for the month of June are as follows; regular meetings Monday, June 2 and 16; executive board meeting Monday, June 9.

On Thursday, June 12, the outgoing Bronx County Commanders Dinner will be held at the Lobster House. On Friday, June 13, the Bronx County Convention will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Sam Young Post.

Friday, June 6, will be the 64th anniversary of D-Day. The following excerpts were taken from our squadron history. "On June 4th everyone was restricted to the base... On June 5th all planes were painted with special markings, invasion stripes. That evening and following morning the sky horizon to horizon was stacked with droning aircraft. . . The atmosphere was electric. . . Cpl. Witkin entered the Nissen barracks and said: "We're landing on the beaches of Normandy. . . It's D-Day." On June 6, the 33rd logged 11 combat missions. Six of the 11 pilots would not survive the war.

Sick call: Comrade Joseph DeLuca is in the United Hebrew Geriatric Center, 60 Willow Lane, New Rochelle, recuperating from a fall at home. Joe is a veteran of the Big Deuce, recipient of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and, of course, the prestigious Good Conduct Medal.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

Boy Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 211 is nearing the end of a busy year of scouting. First, and most importantly, the troop organization would like to thank the outstanding support shown by City Islanders and visitors to our spring Easter flower sale. Thanks to your continued support, we will be able to send nearly 10 scouts to a week-long Boy Scout summer camp in upstate New York. In April eight scouts braved the elements, built their own shelters and slept outdoors during an overnight camping trip. The scouts also enjoyed a six-mile hike over beautiful, rugged terrain, reaching a height of 1,000 feet above sea level.

During my second full year as Troop Scoutmaster, I learned more about the people who volunteered time to the troop before I assumed the helm. While it is impossible to thank everyone who has helped the troop in the past, I will do my best to acknowledge recent volunteer efforts when I can. This year, it came to my attention that City Island's Regina Kreig has helped with Troop 211's flower sale for nearly 10 years. Regina, thank you for all you did to keep Troop 211 going! City Island owes many thanks to all those who have ever volunteered time to scouting.

Please keep an eye out for more Troop 211 news in a future edition of the *Current*, especially regarding the names of scouts who receive the highest awards during the May Court of Honor. For information about helping or joining Troop 211, e-mail Troop-211ideas@yahoo.com.

Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins

City Island Republicans

June will be a busy month for the City Island Republicans. This is petition month, and we have a full slate of candidates this year. In order to get the candidates on the ballot, we have to collect signatures from registered Republicans on the Island. We ask all registered Republicans to please sign the petitions when they come around, so that we can get all of the candidates on the ballot.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue. We hope to see everyone there.





Fred Ramftl



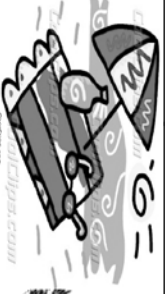

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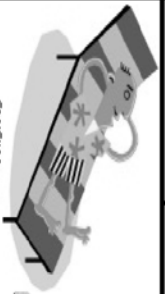
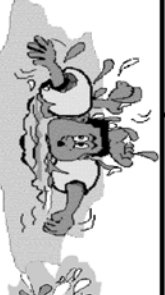

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Island Current						June 2008						Tide Calendar											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
L 3:50A H 9:32A L 3:40P H 9:48P	L 4:54A H 10:33A L 4:41P H 10:44P	L 5:53A H 11:33A L 5:42P H 11:41P	L 6:50A H 12:32P L 6:44P	H 12:38A L 7:46A H 1:31P L 7:46P	H 1:37A L 8:43A H 2:32P L 8:50P	H 2:42A L 9:40A H 3:36P L 9:56P	L 3:50A H 9:32A L 3:40P H 9:48P	L 4:54A H 10:33A L 4:41P H 10:44P	L 5:53A H 11:33A L 5:42P H 11:41P	L 6:50A H 12:32P L 6:44P	H 12:38A L 7:46A H 1:31P L 7:46P	H 1:37A L 8:43A H 2:32P L 8:50P	H 2:42A L 9:40A H 3:36P L 9:56P	L 3:50A H 9:32A L 3:40P H 9:48P	L 4:54A H 10:33A L 4:41P H 10:44P	L 5:53A H 11:33A L 5:42P H 11:41P	L 6:50A H 12:32P L 6:44P	H 12:38A L 7:46A H 1:31P L 7:46P	H 1:37A L 8:43A H 2:32P L 8:50P	H 2:42A L 9:40A H 3:36P L 9:56P			
																							

Tide Calendar						July 2008						Island Current											
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
L 2:22A H 8:04A L 2:10P H 8:27P	L 3:44A H 9:18A L 3:23P H 9:33P	L 4:51A H 10:29A L 4:39P H 10:39P	L 5:49A H 11:33A L 5:47P H 11:41P	L 6:44A H 12:31P L 6:48P	H 12:41A L 7:36A H 1:26P L 7:45P	H 1:38A L 8:27A H 2:20P L 8:41P	L 2:22A H 8:04A L 2:10P H 8:27P	L 3:44A H 9:18A L 3:23P H 9:33P	L 4:51A H 10:29A L 4:39P H 10:39P	L 5:49A H 11:33A L 5:47P H 11:41P	L 6:44A H 12:31P L 6:48P	H 12:41A L 7:36A H 1:26P L 7:45P	H 1:38A L 8:27A H 2:20P L 8:41P	L 2:22A H 8:04A L 2:10P H 8:27P	L 3:44A H 9:18A L 3:23P H 9:33P	L 4:51A H 10:29A L 4:39P H 10:39P	L 5:49A H 11:33A L 5:47P H 11:41P	L 6:44A H 12:31P L 6:48P	H 12:41A L 7:36A H 1:26P L 7:45P	H 1:38A L 8:27A H 2:20P L 8:41P			
																							

Island Current						August 2008						Tide Calendar								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
L = Low Tide H = High Tide	H 1:29A L 8:04A H 1:57P L 8:22P	H 2:17A L 8:47A H 2:42P L 9:10P	H 3:05A L 9:29A H 3:28P L 9:59P	H 3:54A L 10:10A H 4:16P L 10:50P	H 4:47A L 10:52A H 5:09P L 11:46P	H 5:45A L 11:37A H 6:08P L 12:40A	L = Low Tide H = High Tide	H 1:29A L 8:04A H 1:57P L 8:22P	H 2:17A L 8:47A H 2:42P L 9:10P	H 3:05A L 9:29A H 3:28P L 9:59P	H 3:54A L 10:10A H 4:16P L 10:50P	H 4:47A L 10:52A H 5:09P L 11:46P	H 5:45A L 11:37A H 6:08P L 12:40A	L = Low Tide H = High Tide	H 1:29A L 8:04A H 1:57P L 8:22P	H 2:17A L 8:47A H 2:42P L 9:10P	H 3:05A L 9:29A H 3:28P L 9:59P	H 3:54A L 10:10A H 4:16P L 10:50P	H 4:47A L 10:52A H 5:09P L 11:46P	H 5:45A L 11:37A H 6:08P L 12:40A
																				

Tide Calendar						September 2008						Island Current								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUG L 12:29A H 6:55A L 12:49P H 7:16P	H 1:12A L 7:36A H 1:30P L 7:59P	H 1:53A L 8:13A H 2:08P L 8:41P	H 2:33A L 8:46A H 2:44P L 9:21P	H 3:13A L 9:09A H 3:20P L 10:01P	H 3:56A L 9:33A H 3:58P L 10:44P	H 4:47A L 10:10A H 4:45P L 11:41P	L 5:49A H 11:45A L 6:13P	H 1:12A L 7:36A H 1:30P L 7:59P	H 1:53A L 8:13A H 2:08P L 8:41P	H 2:33A L 8:46A H 2:44P L 9:21P	H 3:13A L 9:09A H 3:20P L 10:01P	H 3:56A L 9:33A H 3:58P L 10:44P	H 4:47A L 10:10A H 4:45P L 11:41P	L 5:49A H 11:45A L 6:13P	H 1:12A L 7:36A H 1:30P L 7:59P	H 1:53A L 8:13A H 2:08P L 8:41P	H 2:33A L 8:46A H 2:44P L 9:21P	H 3:13A L 9:09A H 3:20P L 10:01P	H 3:56A L 9:33A H 3:58P L 10:44P	H 4:47A L 10:10A H 4:45P L 11:41P
																				

MEMORIAL DAY 2008: RED, WHITE AND BLUE SKIES



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The rain finally let up, providing Islanders with a sunny Memorial Day weekend. On Monday, May 26, the traditional Memorial Day parade marched up City Island Avenue with some special military and musical guests. Sponsored by American Legion Post 156, the march included marines from the USS Kearsarge and sailors from the USS Nitze, both in port for Fleet Weekend. The Northeast Navy Brass Band and Monaghan Pipe Band provided the marching beat. The Ladies Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, City Island Little League and St. Mary's Softball followed dignitaries, including Bronc Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Council Member Jimmy Vacca, State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. In the middle was *Island Current* cartoonist and World War II veteran Russell Schaller, who hitched a ride in resident Jacqueline Kall's patriotically decorated car.

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Photo by WALDO PERSTEINS

In April 2008 eight Boy Scouts of Troop 211 braved the elements of upstate New York for an overnight camping trip, which included a six-mile hike over rugged terrain.



Young Lawyers

Beginning with the opening strains of John Barry's wonderfully steamy music, **Body Heat** (1981) is a masterpiece of classical imagery and mood, reminiscent of the film noir genre of the 1940s. William Hurt, as sleazy young lawyer Ned Racine, teams with Kathleen Turner as sex-crazed Mattie Walker. They eventually plot against her husband, played by Richard Crenna, a businessman who is "willing to do whatever is necessary."

True Believer (1989) stars James Wood as once-famous 1960s radical attorney Edward J. Dodd, now a pot-head who uses the Constitution to defend drug dealers. When Roger Baron (Robert Downey Jr.) comes to be his law clerk fresh out of law school, the two get involved in the case of a Korean charged with the street assassination of a Chinese gang member. Dodd finally has a cause in which he can believe in this gritty action/drama.

Class Action (1991) stars Gene Hackman as Jedidiah Tucker, a lawyer for the "underdog," and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as his daughter, Maggie, a young but highly ambitious and respected corporate attorney. When they are not locking horns as opposing counsel in a class action suit about cars that blow up, they wage an emotional battle outside the courtroom, in this excellent drama/thriller with highly intelligent performances by its stars.

In **A Few Good Men** (1992), Tom Cruise plays Lt. Daniel Kaffee, a young naval lawyer who is assigned to defend the accused in a murder case. He is assisted by Lt. Cdr. JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore) and Lt. Sam Weinberg (Kevin Pollack) working against prosecutor Capt. Jack Ross (Kevin Bacon). A highlight of the film is an unforgettable classic confrontation scene between Kaffee and Col. Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson).

In **The Firm** (1993), Tom Cruise is Mitch McDeere, a recent Harvard law school graduate hired by Oliver Lambert (Hal Holbrook) to work at a prestigious Memphis law firm under the mentorship of Avery Tolar (Gene Hackman). When Mitch becomes simultaneously blackmailed by Wayne Terrance (Ed Harris) of the FBI and "the Firm's" director of security, William Devasher (Wilford Brimley), he is assisted in his survival efforts by his his wife, Abby (Jeanne Tripplehorn), his brother Ray (David Strathairn) and a secretary in jeopardy, Tammy Hemphill (Holly Hunter).

The Pelican Brief (1993) stars Julia Rob-

erts as Darby Shaw, a Tulane University law student who has developed a theory about why two Supreme Court Judges have been murdered. When her lover, law professor Thomas Callahan (Sam Shepard), shares her thesis with his best friend, Gavin Verheek (John Heard), in Washington, murder and mayhem ensue. Eventually Darby hooks up with reporter Gray Grantham (Denzel Washington) in an attempt to survive and expose the conspiracy. Stanley Tucci is excellent as the assassin Khamel who has a different persona in every scene.

In a **A Time to Kill** (1996), when the 10-year-old daughter (Raeven Larymore Kelley) of Carl Lee Hailey (Samuel L. Jackson) is brutally raped by two drunk rednecks, he kills them. Young lawyer Jake Brigance (Matthew McConaughey) defends him with the assistance of a rich Northern volunteer lawyer Ellen Roark (Sandra Bullock) and alcoholic lawyer friend Harry Rex Vonner (Oliver Platt). Also on hand are prosecuting attorney Rufus Buckley (Kevin Spacey) and Jake's wife (Ashley Judd).

The Client (1994) stars Susan Sarandon as Reggie Love, a young lawyer who battles with "Reverend" Roy (Tommy Lee Jones), a federal prosecutor with high ambition. When young Mark Sway (Brad Renfro) and his little brother Ricky (David Speck) witness the suicide of a gangland lawyer, they are picked up by Sgt. Hardy (Bill Patton). Because their mother (Mary-Louise Parker) doesn't know what to do, Mark hires Reggie to represent him.

Alcatraz is depicted with gut-wrenching violence, in **Murder in the First** (1995), which stars Kevin Bacon as Henri Young, who is sent to prison for stealing \$5 to buy food to feed his sister. There he is subjected to unspeakable brutality at the hands of a sadistic warden (Gary Oldman). His case is taken up by a young lawyer named James Stamphill (Christian Slater), who proceeds to put the prison itself on trial. This is a compelling drama whose opening half hour of violence will offend many.

The Chamber (1996) is the story of Sam Cayhall (Gene Hackman), a Ku Klux Klan member who was involved in a bombing that left the two children of a civil rights lawyer dead. As he awaits his death sentence, his case is reopened by his lawyer grandson Adam (Chris O'Donnell). The supporting cast includes Faye Dunaway as Adam's Aunt Lee and Millie Perkins as the grieving mother.

The Rainmaker (1997) is the story of the Donny Ray Black (Johnny Whitworth), who is dying of leukemia. His mother, Dot Black (Mary Kay Place), wants to sue Great Benefits Insurance Company for denying payment for a treatment that could save Donny Ray's life. Young lawyer Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon) takes his case, with the assistance of Deck Schiffler (Danny DeVito), a man who has failed to pass the bar exam six times. Their formidable opponent is Leo K. Drummond (John Voight). Claire Danes is on hand as Kelly Rucker, an abused wife who becomes Rudy's love interest.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .



Public School 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders who, pending successful completion of graduation requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: **Beacon H.S.:** Daniel Masterson. **Belmont Preparatory H.S.:** Jessica Carino. **Blessed Sacrament/St. Gabriel:** Angela Acocella, Steven Owens, Larisa Pirraglia. **Bronx Engineering and Tech Academy:** Jonathan Caamano. **Bronx H.S. for the Visual Arts:** Sharon Huerta, Jonathan Marrero. **Bronx H.S. of Science:** Rosemary Gibson, Catherine Wang, Kyle Williams. **Cardinal Spellman:** Danielle Conie, Gabrielle Pirraglia, Amanda Sowa, Hayley Walker, Samantha Weyhrach. **Collegiate Institute for Math and Science:** Aaron Delgado. **Danbury H.S.:** Andrew Davis. **Felisa Rincon de Gautier Institute for Law/Public Policy:** Samuel Nesbitt, Quantasia Scarborough. **Fordham Prep:** Kevin Whalen. **Global Enterprise H.S.:** Estela Carino-Santos. **H.S. for Math, Science and Engineering at City College:** Onaje Hope-Felix, Day-Von Walker. **Lehman:** Alexander Hackman, Jonathan Rachiele, Jasmine Rivera, Luz Salas-Orea. **Maria Regina:** Theanna Green, Kaitlin Masiello, Erica Miccoli, Rebecca Rodstrom. **Monroe Academy:** Nersyloreeny Delorbe. **Monsignor Scanlan H.S.:** Joseph Accomando. **Mount St. Michael:** Augustus Berger. **New Rochelle H.S.:** Wolfranz Xhokaxhiu. **Preston:** Taylor Cole, Julia Hayes, Antoinette Legnini (partial scholarship), Elizabeth Vacca. **Renaissance H.S. of Musical Theater and Technology:** Matthew Roman. **St. Catharine Academy:** Fabjola Rama. **St. Raymond Academy:** Janessa Desjardin (partial scholarship), Raquel Olivo. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** Daniel Doati. **Salesian:** Paul Dinome. **Samuel Gompers**

Career and Technical Education H.S.: Donovan Carrera. **The Fieldston School:** Camille Pruvost (partial scholarship). **Ursuline:** Treasure Loudermilk (partial scholarship). **Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction:** Alexander Giaccon, Edwin Lopez, Kaylynn Lopez. **Vanguard H.S.:** Natalia Famous. **Wallkill H.S.:** Mitchell Santiago. **Wings Academy:** Qwadasia Lovett.

In addition, Augustus Berger was accepted to Brooklyn Latin H.S.; Jonathan Caamano received a partial scholarship to Mount St. Michael Academy; Antoinette Legnini was accepted to Brooklyn Technical H.S.; Treasure Loudermilk received a partial scholarship to Preston H.S.; Camille Pruvost was accepted to Fiorello LaGuardia H.S. of the Performing Arts; Kyle Williams received a partial scholarship to Salesian H.S.

Congratulations and good luck to everyone in September!

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade graduates, who will attend the following high schools in September: **All Hallows:** Kofi Arhin. **Blessed Sacrament/St. Gabriel:** Demme Akins, Jasmine Andrade, Kaelyn Braxton, Joseph Moore, Onyia Smith, Chervante Thomas. **Bronx H.S. of Science:** Xaver Nicholas, Aimee Zambrana. **Cardinal Spellman:** Jillian Grayson, Pedro Martinez, Michael McDonald, Jocelyn Proietti. **Kent Hill H.S. (Maine):** O'Shea Bell. **Lehman:** Malena Allbright, Genea Tomlinson. **Monsignor Scanlan:** Avery Haley. **Mount St. Michael:** Daniel Ancrum. **Pelham Prep Academy:** Stephen Bert. **Preston:** Farah Nesbeth. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** Michael Dilucca, Kadeem Holmes, John Lichti. **Salesian:** Nicholas Maniotis, Nicholas Ruggiero. **Young Women's Leadership Academy:** Jasmine Gray. Still undecided is JaVon Ridley.

In addition, Farah Nesbeth received a partial scholarship to Monsignor Scanlan H.S.; Xaver Nicholas received a partial scholarship to Mount St. Michael; Aimee Zambrana received a full scholarship to Monsignor Scanlan H.S. and to the Montfort Academy.

Congratulations and good luck to all!

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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

Mosholu Parkway - Fashion Avenue

Of all the 61 neighborhoods in the Bronx, none is as dear to my heart as Bedford Park. This is primarily because I lived there for the first 25 years of my life, and many of the most important people in my life hail from this very distinct Bronx neighborhood. The neighborhood was planned in the 1880s and named after Bedford, England, which inspired its design as a suburban park and whose original homes inspired its Queen Anne residential architecture. The Bedford Park neighborhood is bound by the New York Botanical Garden to the east, Jerome Park Reservoir to the west, Bedford Park Boulevard to the south and Mosholu Parkway to the north.

With the opening of the Jerome Avenue subway in 1917 and the Third Avenue elevated line in 1920, the neighborhood became more accessible and heavily built up. In spite of the Great Depression, a large number of very fashionable Art Deco buildings were erected in the 1930s. After World War II, Bedford Park remained solidly middle class with a large population of Irish and Jewish families.

Some of the many interesting and successful people who resided in Bedford Park include William Fox, founder of 20th Century Fox and two of the biggest and most enduring names in the fashion industry. Not only were they both from the same Bedford

Park neighborhood, but they both grew up on the same block; the elegant Mosholu Parkway.

Born on Oct. 14, 1939, to Jewish parents from Belarus, Ralph Rueben Lifshitz was born and raised on Mosholu Parkway; the tree-lined boulevard originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to connect Bronx Park with Van Cortlandt Park. The Lifshitz family eventually changed their last name to Lauren, and Ralph Rueben Lifshitz forever became known as Ralph Lauren.

Ralph Lauren had an interest in fashion from a very early age. He worked at many after-school jobs and saved his earnings to buy suits. As a student at DeWitt Clinton High School, Lauren was known by his classmates for selling neckties that he designed himself. Under his picture in the 1957 Clinton yearbook, the young Lauren wrote that he hoped to be a millionaire. After high school, he went on to CUNY-Baruch College where he studied business, although he dropped out after completing only two years.

After his discharge from the United States Army in 1964, Ralph Lauren took a job as a salesman at Brooks Brothers, the upscale men's clothier. In 1968 he married Ricky Low-Beer; the couple has three children; two sons and one daughter.

Although he never attended a fashion school, Ralph Lauren had a serious interest in the fashion industry, and in 1967 he opened his own shop, where he sold neckties of his own design under the Polo label. For more than 30 years now, Lauren has cultivated and developed the Polo reputation and distinctive image. He has expanded his product line to include men and women's apparel, home furnishings, accessories and fragrances.

In 1984, Ralph Lauren transformed the Rhinelander mansion on 72nd Street and Madison Avenue into his flagship store. Today Polo-Ralph Lauren has over 35 boutiques across the United States, and his leading product line is carried in every upscale department store in the country. Certainly his is one of the most marketable names in the international market, and his fashion empire has grown into a multibillion dollar business. What started with a young Bronx

teenager selling his neckties to classmates at DeWitt Clinton High School is today a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RL.

Calvin Klein was born just four years after Ralph Lauren, on Nov. 19, 1942, on the same Bronx boulevard. He too had an interest in fashion from an early age, which he attributes to the tremendous amount of time he spent with his mother in Loehmann's Department Store on Fordham Road. The young Calvin would spend hours on end sketching women in the suits, dresses and coats he saw in Loehmann's. He also became very familiar with high-quality fabrics and materials from his Fordham Road shopping excursions, and eventually he taught himself how to sew. Following his graduation from the High School of Art and Design, Klein studied apparel design at Manhattan's preeminent Fashion Institute of Technology.

In 1968 Calvin Klein and his childhood friend Barry Schwartz launched an apparel line of men's and women's coats. With Klein's talent for design and Schwartz's business savvy, these two Bronx entrepreneurs founded Calvin Klein Ltd. and set out on a journey to redefine the fashion industry.

The first big break for the young company came with a \$50,000 order from the upscale New York department store Bonwit Teller. The order was for a line of men's and women's coats that were simple yet sophisticated, a combination that became the Calvin Klein trademark. During the early 1970s Calvin Klein expanded his line of women's apparel with a basic, minimalist style.

Later in that decade Klein introduced a whole new concept in fashion; designer jeans. This new fashion staple was simply a standard jean, cut tight, with "Calvin Klein" branded on the back pocket. In the first week on the market, Calvin Klein Jeans sold more than 200,000 pairs. Many marketing analysts attribute this phenomenon to the controversial ad campaign that featured 15-year-old Brooke Shields, clad in her tight Calvin Klein Jeans, purring that "nothing comes between me and my Calvin's."

Calvin Klein's cutting-edge skills didn't stop there. In 1982 he introduced Calvin Klein Underwear, which changed the perception of men's underwear from a basic necessity to a fashionable item that suggested sex

appeal.

He then set out to change the designer fragrance industry. He was the first to release unisex fragrances, CK One and Contradiction, both of which were very successful. In all, Calvin Klein launched nine different fragrances that linked sex and sexuality to scents.

When it comes to advertising, Calvin Klein has never been shy about pushing the envelope. In fact, he has often been accused of pushing it too far. Starting with the Brooke Shield's ad campaign to giant billboards in Times Square featuring chiseled male models wearing only stark white briefs, Calvin Klein has never failed to get attention. Controversial though his advertising campaigns may be, they are invariably successful. In 1995, however, he may have gone too far, for he was forced to withdraw an ad for his jeans using pubescent models in provocative poses. The condemnation was ferocious, and Klein was accused of crossing the line between fashion and pornography. He was even criticized by the president of the United States, Bill Clinton.

Calvin Klein has received many accolades for his work and contributions to fashion, and Calvin Klein Inc. exceeds \$6 billion in annual sales. He was the youngest designer to win the Coty Award, the highest acclaim in the fashion industry, an award that he won for three consecutive years: 1973, 1974 and 1975. He also received awards from the Council of Fashion Designers of America in 1982, 1983 and 1986, and he was crowned America's Best Designer by the same organization in 1993.

Although these two international giants in the world of fashion are only four years apart in age and grew up so close to each other on Mosholu Parkway that they could be considered neighbors, it is not known if they ever knew each other. One thing is sure, however: these two Bronx-born kids changed the fashion industry forever, and when it comes to talent, they are cut from the same cloth.

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

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CORRECTION

The total amount of the sum received by Bronx Parks for the filtration plant in Van Cortlandt Park was \$220 million, not \$2 million, as printed in the May issue of *The Current*.

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André Galerne

André Galerne, who was a pioneer in the commercial deep-sea diving industry and founder in 1962 of International Underwater Contractors, which is still based on City Island, died on May 6, 2008, of natural causes in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the age of 81.

Born in 1926, in Paris, France, Mr. Galerne was recruited into the French underground to fight against the German forces occupying France during World War II. He took his first dive in 1943 using Le Prieur apparatus and later worked closely with Jacques Cousteau and Philippe Taillez in the development of the Aqualung.

In 1952 Mr. Galerne founded one of the world's first international firms providing professional diving services in industrial work. Using the Aqualung and light diving helmets, his firm revolutionized the underwater industry. In 1959 he left France to start International Underwater Contractors (IUC) in Montreal, Canada, and in 1962 he moved to the United States,

where he formed the IUC Group, which was composed of several diving companies and professional diving schools and became the world's largest privately owned deep-sea construction company. He served as president until his retirement in 1996.

In 1981, when Mr. Galerne was interviewed by the *New York Times*, he explained that his firm, which then employed almost 100 divers, was the last private entrepreneur in the business. Most of his divers worked on offshore oil rigs around the world, using their expertise to solve underwater problems by diving as deep as 1,000 feet in a cage or diving bell.

Mr. Galerne's concern for his divers led him to develop a hyperbaric transport system for injured divers who would have to spend time in a decompression chamber after long dives. His system, for which he received a U.S. patent, became the industry standard. It involved the use of two chambers filled with breathing gas, one small chamber for transporting one or two people to a larger chamber, which could then be flown by helicopter to a hospital or station on land.

Mr. Galerne received many honors during his career, including the French Legion of Honor for his service in World War II, the Lockheed Award from the Marine Technology Society in 1981, the New York Academy of Science Sea Award for Achievement in Science and Technology in 1989, a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 from Beneath the Sea, and many others. In 2006 he was named to the Commercial Diving Hall of Fame and in 2008 he was recognized for notable service for Homeland Security by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mr. Galerne, who lived in Larchmont for 30 years, was chairman of the City Island Chamber of Commerce for many years. His son Lionel continues to operate IUC on City Island, although the firm is much smaller now and the land on which it is located is being considered for residential development.

In addition to his son Lionel, Mr. Galerne is survived by his wife of 57 years, the former Jeanine Renaud, and two other sons, Eric and Olivier, of Houston, Texas, and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Friday, May 16, and his ashes were interred at Pelham Cemetery.



Photo courtesy of JACKIE KALL

Andre Galerne, founder of International Underwater Contractors, which is still based on City Island, died on May 6, 2008. Shown above at the IUC property on Fordham Street (circa 1970) after he purchased the land from Kall Realty are Mr. Galerne and Mrs. Kall (fourth and fifth from the left) with former U.S. Congressman Mario Biaggi (far left) and Mr. Galerne's son Olivier Galerne (far right).

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

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

HH = hours; MM = minutes

Tide chart by Tom Smith

June 2008

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0350	-0.16	0932	7.18	1540	0.17	2148	8.56	Sun 01
02 Mon	0454	-0.53	1033	7.31	1641	0.04	2244	8.72	Mon 02
03 Tue	0553	-0.79	1133	7.43	1742	-0.03	2341	8.76	Tue 03
04 Wed	0650	-0.90	1232	7.51	1844	-0.02			Wed 04
05 Thu	0038	8.66	0746	-0.86	1331	7.55	1946	0.08	Thu 05
06 Fri	0137	8.44	0843	-0.69	1432	7.55	2050	0.23	Fri 06
07 Sat	0242	8.12	0940	-0.42	1536	7.52	2156	0.39	Sat 07
08 Sun	0351	7.77	1037	-0.11	1639	7.50	2301	0.53	Sun 08
09 Mon	0502	7.46	1135	0.20	1741	7.51			Mon 09
10 Tue	0005	0.59	0608	7.21	1232	0.45	1840	7.55	Tue 10
11 Wed	0107	0.58	0710	7.05	1328	0.64	1936	7.62	Wed 11
12 Thu	0206	0.51	0807	6.96	1422	0.77	2030	7.69	Thu 12
13 Fri	0300	0.40	0900	6.92	1512	0.85	2119	7.75	Fri 13
14 Sat	0351	0.30	0950	6.93	1559	0.91	2206	7.79	Sat 14
15 Sun	0438	0.24	1037	6.95	1642	0.97	2250	7.80	Sun 15
16 Mon	0522	0.21	1121	6.97	1721	1.03	2329	7.78	Mon 16
17 Tue	0602	0.24	1201	6.99	1754	1.09			Tue 17
18 Wed	0003	7.74	0637	0.31	1238	7.00	1817	1.12	Wed 18
19 Thu	0025	7.71	0707	0.38	1306	7.02	1837	1.09	Thu 19
20 Fri	0040	7.73	0727	0.43	1322	7.09	1908	1.01	Fri 20
21 Sat	0108	7.79	0746	0.41	1344	7.24	1945	0.92	Sat 21
22 Sun	0144	7.82	0817	0.37	1418	7.41	2027	0.84	Sun 22
23 Mon	0225	7.79	0854	0.34	1457	7.58	2112	0.77	Mon 23
24 Tue	0310	7.67	0936	0.34	1542	7.72	2202	0.72	Tue 24
25 Wed	0359	7.48	1022	0.37	1631	7.82	2255	0.68	Wed 25
26 Thu	0453	7.24	1112	0.44	1724	7.89	2354	0.64	Thu 26
27 Fri	0551	7.00	1206	0.51	1821	7.96			Fri 27
28 Sat	0101	0.56	0655	6.82	1305	0.58	1922	8.05	Sat 28
29 Sun	0222	0.38	0804	6.76	1410	0.59	2027	8.17	Sun 29
30 Mon	0344	0.07	0918	6.68	1523	0.52	2133	8.32	Mon 30
July 2008									
01 Tue	0451	-0.29	1029	7.07	1639	0.35	2239	8.46	Tue 01
02 Wed	0549	-0.58	1133	7.34	1747	0.16	2341	8.54	Wed 02
03 Thu	0644	-0.76	1231	7.58	1848	0.00			Thu 03
04 Fri	0041	8.52	0736	-0.80	1326	7.75	1945	-0.06	Fri 04
05 Sat	0138	8.38	0827	-0.68	1420	7.83	2041	-0.03	Sat 05
06 Sun	0235	8.13	0917	-0.44	1513	7.82	2137	0.10	Sun 06
07 Mon	0333	7.78	1007	-0.11	1607	7.74	2233	0.30	Mon 07



WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE

It's official: City Island is world famous. A German magazine called *German Vogue* is planning to do a spread about our Island. We understand that they have contacted *The Island Current* for more information. Just in time, too, we say, for summer is nearly upon us; and if what it takes to wake too many of us up to the wondrous surroundings we have here is the genuine interest of a people thousands of miles away, then so be it. *Sprechen sie Deutsch?*

It was with great joy and relief that we read of Madison the cat's homecoming in last month's issue of *The Current*. We know that many readers of this column shared our emotion, too. Some of them wrote to us, expressing their concern about the stray cat population on City Island. Lisa favors the kind of trap-and-release program where the idea is to gain control of the population by limiting the number of breedable males and females. To be a success, though, volunteer trap-and-releasers have to stay committed throughout

the process. Unfortunately, we have heard from other readers about traps that have been left unattended. What's a trapped stray cat to do in such a situation?

Some readers have wondered what the wild turkeys do for the winter. Take our neighbor Mary Joe, for example. For the answer, we went straight to the experts, Birding Bob and Jack Rothman. Both birders agreed that turkeys are year-round residents of Pelham Bay Park. Jack writes that in winter "they tend to look for seed- or nut-bearing trees ... and scratch for food. They eat insects, too," he says, "along with small invertebrates." The time is still ripe to hook up with Bob or Jack for one of their regular birdwalks; spring migrants are everywhere, they say. In our own backyard we've spotted a few orioles and various warblers, including a common yellowthroat and what we think was a yellow warbler.

Mike did not encounter the hawk he told us about in his backyard, although he did get surprisingly close. So close, in fact, that he thought it best to give the tree the bird was resting in a gentle push just to make sure it wasn't sick or injured. It wasn't!

Have you noticed? It's Wednesday night at the races time again in Eastchester Bay. Sailboat races, that is. It can be quite the spectacle, too. Check it out. And if you happen to catch a glimpse of a dolphin or two as you do, let us know about it, please, at jdsstrat@msn.com. We're still waiting to hear back from the Park Rangers on that one. In the meantime, we have learned of a family of raccoons fishing off the end of a nearby jetty. Will wonders never cease?

We hope not!



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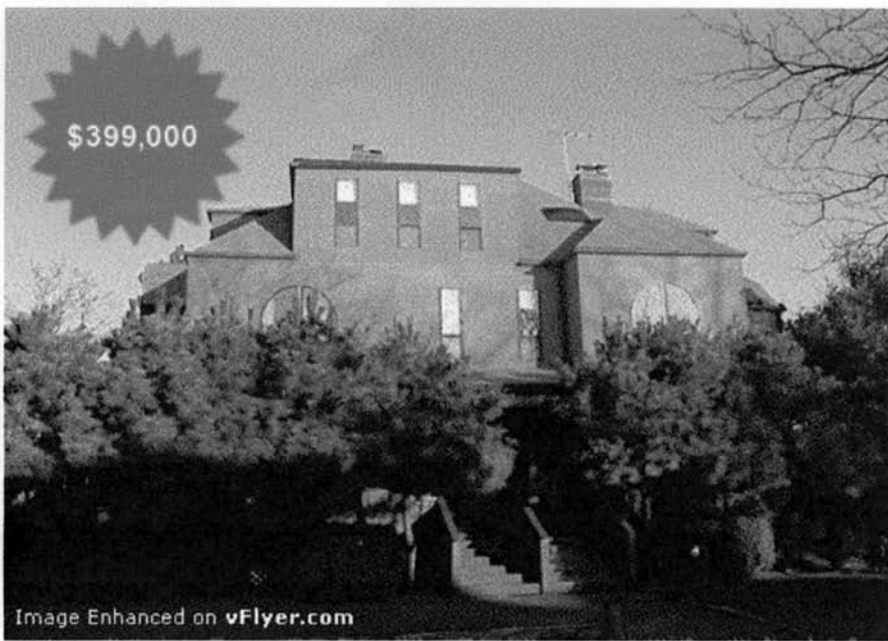


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Blake Cottam behind the plate and Robert Pirraglia poised to hit.

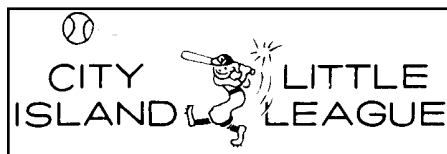


Photos by LIZ LYONS

American Legion Pitcher Dylan Cullen with Anthony Orzo playing second base.



Jon Nagy at third base waits for a play.



The 2008 season is in full swing on the newly renovated Ambrosini Field. Our opening day on April 26, 2008, was well attended with players and spectators and honored guests. Other than a few rain-outs, the field has been in use every night of the week with practices and regular season baseball and softball games.

Juniors: This year's Juniors team, New Yorker Contractors, is being coached by Franco Fino. They are almost halfway through the season with a 4-6 record. Players Kevin Whelan, Danny Masterson and Franco Fino Jr. have been selected for the All-Star Game to be played Saturday, May 24, at Astor Field.

Majors: Jack's Bait & Tackle played the American Legion in the opening day game on April 26. It was a close game until the fifth inning, when Jack's scored six runs, led off by Nick Connolly's triple, followed by an RBI single from Chris DiMarco, and base hits from Blake Cottam, Jimmie Kunz and Rob Connolly. Jack's went on to win 10 to 5.

Sammy's Fishbox, coached by Larry Saulnier, is slamming their way through the season. Their red-hot bats crushed Jack's on May 8 with their double/double-trouble hitting squad of Nicholas and Michael Bellocchio and Michael and Nicholas LaBriola. Their pitching aces, Kevin Saulnier and Danny Pirraglia, won the game 8 to 2.

Joshua Garcia of Ruggiero & Sons, coached by Johnny Valenti, had hit sev-

eral home runs in practice, and on May 6 finally went yard in an interleague game against North Bronx. In their next game against Sammy's, Kyle Kreig pitched a complete game for the win.

In the Jack's and Legion rematch on May 10, it was a tight game. The turning point came when Legion went ahead in the top of the sixth inning. Anthony Gonzalez stepped up to the plate and hit a long fly ball into center field; it was deftly snagged by center fielder Emmett Foxe, who made a perfect throw to second base for the double play. Jack's took advantage of last licks and ended the game in a 10-10 tie. It was an exciting game with excellent pitching performances by Robert and Michael Pirraglia; Dylan Cullen was behind the plate for the Legion, and Nick Connolly and Chris DiMarco pitched for Jack's, with Blake Cottam doing the catching.

Minors: The Minors teams (ages 6-8) play weekday evenings (Tuesday or Wednesday) at the field. IGA team is coached by John Manna and JP's Restaurant is coached by Maria Piri, who reports that JP's is off to a good start. The team is building on last year's success by working on the fundamentals of hitting, fielding and throwing. Players who are having a good start include first baseman Nicholas Texidor, who is terrific at bat. Connor Hanley-Piri has roped a long triple and several doubles, not to mention settling in behind the plate. Second baseman John Thompson is having an excellent season, and third baseman Drew Cottam is solid in the field and at bat. Michael Bauso in his rookie season is showing real promise, and Joseph Mancuso has displayed real agility in the field. There has been some timely hitting from Joseph Cordero. The team is rounded out by Michael Moore, Michael DeSantis, Chris DeSantis, Michael Mancuso and Jimmy Metzler.

T-ball has begun with a record roster of more than 40 players! The program is being run by Tony Massella on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 at Ambrosini Field. Come out and watch the future of City Island Little League. Majors games begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. each Saturday on the main field. As always, City Island Little League would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support!

Elizabeth Lyons



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.

Happy birthday on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld, with best wishes from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Congratulations to Bay Street's Stephen Swieciki, who graduated on May 11 from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, with a B.A. in History. We are very proud of you! Good luck as you pursue your Master's at SBU!

Happy June 23 birthday greetings to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from your family.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2008, many of whom were members of the P.S. 175 Class of 2000. Justin Rodstrom graduated from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and Mark Nani from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. The boys have made their parents proud and deserve many good wishes for happiness and success.

Confirmation blessings! On Friday, May 16, 2008, Nicholas Scott Connolly of Horton Street received the sacrament of Confirmation at the Church of Saint Thomas More in Manhattan. Nicholas was sponsored by his aunt, Cindy Auth of Greenwich, Connecticut and he took the name of Francis, after his favorite saint, Francis of Assisi.

Barbara Callahan, daughter of Brian and Irene Callahan and granddaughter of James Callahan of Earley Street and Russell Schaller of King Avenue, made the Greenwich Connecticut High School Varsity softball team. Barbara is the lone freshman on the team and the starting shortstop. Brother Dylan was on the Greenwich Little League team that reached the finals in 2007 in the Cal Ripkin World Series. Among his myriad hits was an out-of-the-park home run. This year he was the number three pick for the Greenwich Babe Ruth League team. Both Barbara and Dylan owe their athletic prowess to their grandfather Jim, who played ball for the New York State Merchant Marine Academy and the New York Yankee farm system.

God bless Minneford Avenue's Matthew Cioffi, who made his First Communion at St. Mary's on May 3. We are so proud of you and love you very much! Mom and Dad.

Kudos to Bay Street's Alanna McIntyre, who was inducted into the National Honor Society on May 13. Alanna is a junior at the Renaissance High School for Musical



Virginia Nye graduated from SUNY Maritime College as an engineer.

Theater and Technology.

Best of luck to Marine Street's Christopher Butterworth, who will graduate from Archbishop Stepinac High School on June 7. Your family is so proud of you. Keep up the good work as you continue your education at Westchester Community College.

Happy Father's Day to Jack Doyle and Chuck Butterworth with lots of love from your family.

Birthday greetings on June 6 across the miles in sunny Florida to Jill Doyle, with love from your family.

Happy birthday wishes to Ann Butterworth, who celebrates her big day on June 29.

Congratulations to Janessa Desjardin of Pilot Street on her graduation from P.S. 175. Good luck in high school. We love you! Mom, Kelly, Gram, Mima, Marissa, Stephen, your brother David and your cousin Grace.

Congratulations to Gerry McCormick, who will graduate the Sports Profession High School on June 26. Love from Mom, Dad and Katie.

Happy birthday on June 6 to Tina Schaefer, with love from your family.

A very happy Father's Day to all our dads and grandfathers.

Maria Swieciki

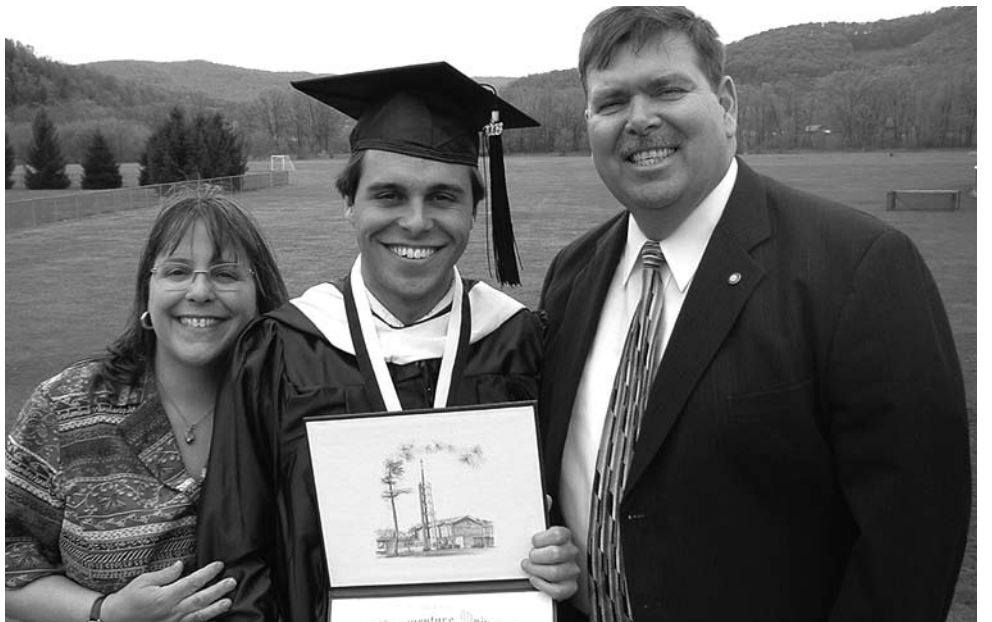


Alanna McIntyre was recently inducted into the National Honor Society on May 13. Alanna is a junior at the Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology.



Photos by BARBARA HARRISON KAYE

Bishop Dominick J. Lagonegro, along with St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church candidates for the sacrament of confirmation, preparing for the ceremony where they reaffirm their acceptance of the Catholic Church as their faith in May 2008 (top photo). Rev. Michael Challinor, pastor, and parochial vicar Rev. Augustus Onwubiko lead the young candidates for First Holy Communion into the church (bottom photo).



Stephen Swieciki, son of Maria and Bob Swieciki, graduated from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, on May 11, 2008, with a B.A. in History. He will continue on at St. Bonaventure to pursue his masters degree in secondary education

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