

The Island Current

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One Dollar

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Photo by RON TERNER

Bay Street circa 1980.

BEST WISHES FROM THE STAFF OF THE ISLAND CURRENT

BRIEFLY...

IDEA MEETING: All City Island organizations are invited to attend IDEA's next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, to discuss the development of an educational/recreational center on city park land next to Public School 175.

LEHMAN COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHORUS will perform major excerpts from Handel's Messiah during its annual Winter Concert on Sunday, Dec. 7. The event will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the Lehman Concert Hall and is free and open to the public. Complimentary tickets will be available at the box office beginning at 1 p.m. on the day of the performance. Directed by Lehman Professor Diana Mittler-Battipaglia and accompanied by the Lehman Symphony Orchestra, the 130-member chorus will also perform shorter multicultural works. For more information, call the college's Music Department at 718-960-8247 or 960-8833.

KNIT WITS: 'Tis the season to make scarves, mittens and sweaters. Bring your needles, yarn and patterns to Sugar & Spice Bakery at 536 City Island Avenue every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All levels of knitters are welcome and you can get help from their resident expert. Come knit, eat cake, drink tea, and have fun. Sign up inside the bakery. For information, call 718-885-9229.

TOYS FOR TOTS: This program is being sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, which has distributed millions of toys to needy children throughout the nation over the past 53 years. Please contribute a new, unwrapped toy to the program. Donated toys may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, until Dec. 22, at either State Senator Guy Veleva's district office, at 2019 Williamsbridge Road, or at Councilwoman Provenzano's district office, at 2931 Westchester Avenue.

HOLIDAY ISLAND RAFFLE: Participating businesses and restaurants on City Island and the City Island Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a free raffle during the month of December. Check out the large raffle poster displayed in windows of the businesses advertising prizes and register inside. The Chamber will call the winners in January 2004. Participating businesses, including new Chamber members Sugar & Spice Bake Shop and Gallagher's, will continue their tradition of remaining open until midnight on Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20. So we encourage you to take a leisurely walk along the Avenue, see what the stores have to offer and register for the free raffle.

HAWKINS PARK AGLOW: Don't forget to visit the Menorah lighting in Hawkins Street Park on Friday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. Also check out the City Island Christmas Tree, which was lighted on Nov. 29 in the park and admire the decorations made by the first- and fifth-graders from City Island schools. Also, look for the new snowflake decoration at Fordham and City Island Avenue. Happy holidays to everyone from the board of directors of the City Island Chamber of Commerce.

45 BLOTTER

Crime statistics were not available from the 45th precinct at press time. We plan to update the blotter next month.



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BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Congressman Joseph Crowley

ISLAND PHYSICIAN HONORED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A longtime resident of City Island, Dr. Herbert Schaumberg, has been named Physician Honoree of Celebrate Montefiore 2003, an annual award made by the Montefiore Medical Center.

Dr. Schaumberg has been chairman of neurology at Montefiore and at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine since 1984 and a member of the Montefiore-Einstein community for over 30 years.

He has been an Islander for even longer, according to realtor Jacqueline Kyle Kall, who rented him a house in 1963 and sold him his current house on King Avenue in 1976.

A graduate of Harvard College and the medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Schaumberg interned at Vanderbilt University Hospital and completed his residency at Einstein. In 1964 he joined the Einstein faculty and worked as an attending physician at Jacobi Hospital. He then completed a two-year fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1971, when he returned to Einstein to work in the departments of neurology and pathology.

Since 1975 Dr. Schaumberg's research and clinical efforts have been on the effects of toxic chemicals on the nervous system. He has contributed to more than 100 publications and co-authored two textbooks published by Oxford University Press. He has also conducted field studies of toxic diseases in Egypt, India, Israel, Italy and Central America. He has received support from the National Institutes of Health, the



Photo by RENA HANSEN

Dr. Herbert Schaumberg

March of Dimes, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control.

In addition to his professional work, Dr. Schaumberg has been active in the community, serving on the board of directors of Pilot Cove Senior Citizens Residence on City Island and the Morningside House on Pelham Parkway. He has also served on the vestry and was senior warden at Grace Episcopal Church.

Dr. Schaumberg and his wife, Joanna, have been married for 36 years and have two children, the late Barnabus Paul Schaumberg and Kristen Elizabeth Schaumberg, a graduate student in biology at Fordham University.

Mammography Van Visits the Island

The Be Smart Mammography Screening Program will hold a breast-cancer screening day on City Island on Friday, Dec. 19, sponsored by Assemblyman Stephen B. Kaufman and Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. The van will be located at Pilot Cove, 160 Pilot Street. The hours will be scheduled according to appointments.

"Breast cancer is the leading killer of women between the ages of 35 and 45 and strikes one out of nine women," Mr. Kaufman says. Memorial Sloan Kettering states that most cases can be successfully treated if they are detected early. The tragedy is that many women and even some physi-

cians are not aware that recent technological developments make early detection possible without significant radiation exposure. Although a physician's examination and self-examination are important, doctors agree that a periodic mammogram is the best assurance of early detection.

Pre-registration is required for the program, which is open to women 35 and over who are symptom free and have no history of breast cancer. Call 800-8SMART8 (or 800-876-2788) for an appointment. You will be screened for eligibility and asked to provide basic personal data for registration purposes. The Be Smart staff will then send a combination registration and consent form to be completed in advance of the appointment. Be sure to identify yourself as a participant in the van program sponsored by Assemblyman Kaufman.

Women who are covered by Medicare should be aware that mammograms will be covered once a year. Please bring your Medicare card. You will be covered only if you have not had a mammography within the past 365 days. Women with private insurance may pay the \$150 fee by major credit card or personal check and will be reimbursed by their insurance company.

Please call for registration as soon as possible.

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The Bank Now Owns the Bank!

By KAREN NANI



Photos courtesy of GAETON ESPOSITO and JACQUELINE KYLE KALL

On Oct. 30, 2003, JPMorgan Chase purchased the property on City Island Avenue that has housed a City Island branch bank for almost 40 years. Before it was a bank, the building was Columbia Market (top photo), owned by the Esposito family of City Island.



It is not unusual for a rental tenant to purchase the building he lives in, but when it's the only bank on City Island, it's news. After years of leasing the building on City Island Avenue between Centre and Winter Streets and operating it as a branch bank, JPMorgan Chase purchased the property on Oct. 30, 2003.

The brick building and adjacent parking lot has been the City Island bank for almost 40 years. The lot was first leased to Manufacturers Hanover Trust, then to Chemical Bank and finally to Chase, whose latest five-year lease was to expire in 2004.

Over this period, the building survived several mergers: first, Manufacturers merged with Chemical and the name on the awning changed to Chemical. After Chase merged with Chemical, the name over the door changed again to Chase. The parent company merged again and is now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank.

According to realtor Jacqueline Kyle Kall, she alerted Chase's real estate department and informed them of the rising value of City Island property. Within a few months, Chase vice presidents and attorneys agreed that the opportunity to own the building in which the branch was housed

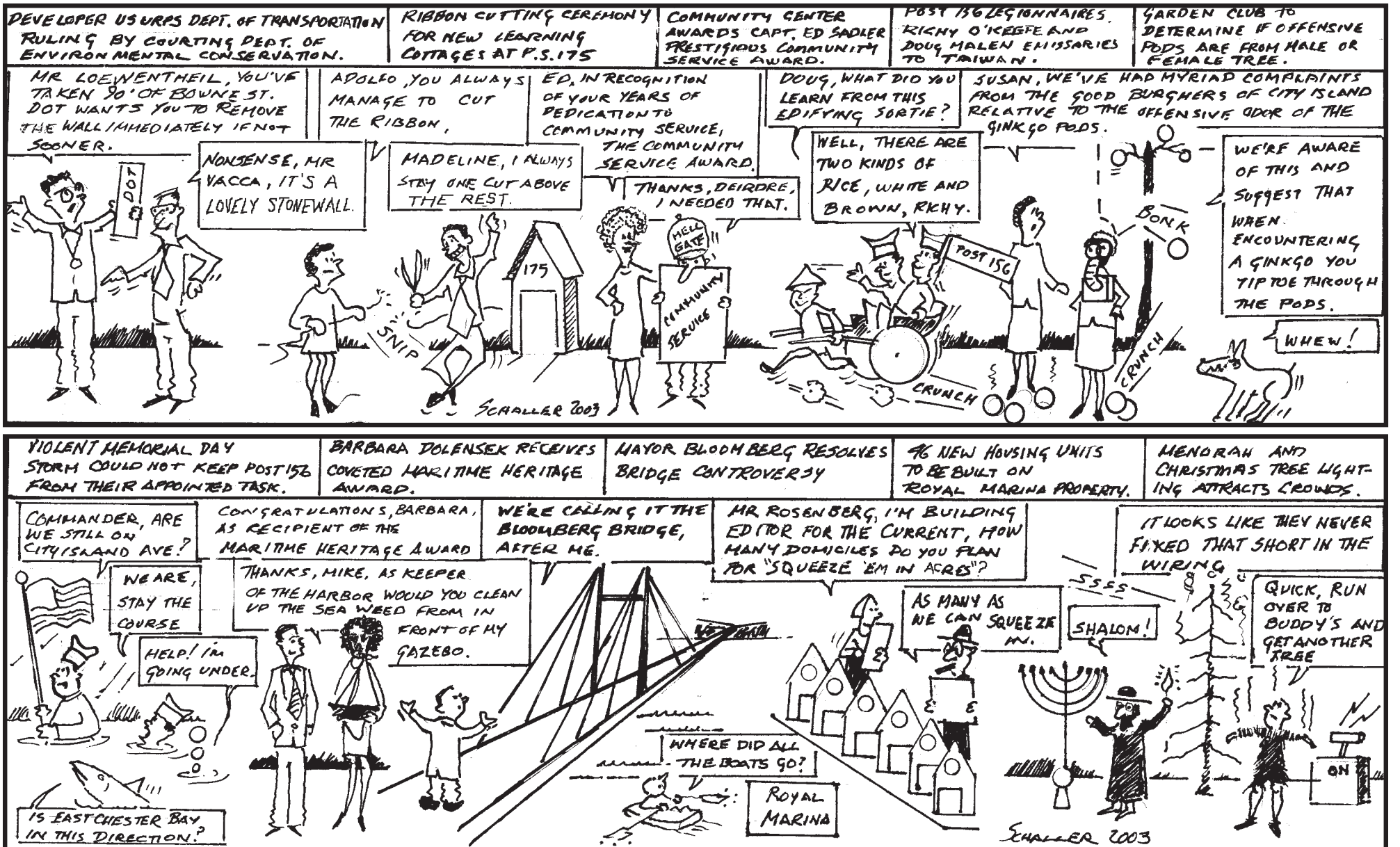
was too good to pass up. They finalized the sale at a price of \$1.8 million, according to Mrs. Kall.

The property is part of City Island history. Before it was used for a bank, the building housed the Columbia Market, built in 1930 by Gaetano Esposito, who worked there with his son, Martin, selling prime meats, vegetables, fruit and canned goods. Martin operated *Miss Columbia*, a launch that delivered groceries to yachts moored off City Island. When Martin Esposito died in 1963, the business was taken over by his son, Gaeton, who ran it for four years until he went into the Navy. Then the family closed the business and rented the building to Manufacturers Trust.

Now that Chase has purchased the property, the bank looks forward to continuing to serve Islanders' financial needs, Mrs. Kall told *The Current*. She also said that Chase is considering a special mortgage department for the City Island branch. It is a mystery to many Islanders that they can apply for a home mortgage from Chase, but not at the City Island branch. Mrs. Kall hopes that this will change in the future, "thereby ushering in a new era of banking on City Island."

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RUSSELL REFLECTS ON 2003



Fair Winds or Foul: A column of editorial commentary on local items.

This year has been such a dramatic one for City Island that most of us are probably relieved to see it come to an end. It began with the tragic drowning of four teen-aged boys who apparently tried to row to Hart Island on a freezing night in January, an accident that drew unwanted press attention to City Island and ongoing agony to the grieving families and friends who had to wait months before their loved ones were recovered.

But there were other losses this year as well, some of which will create a permanent vacuum in the community. The Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop closed after over 20 years of service to City Island, and the chamber music concerts at Le Refuge Inn came to an end after 12 beautiful years. Royal Marina gave up its boats for a cluster of new houses, and Consolidated may soon follow suit, as the Island loses its maritime heritage to overdevelopment. Bowne Street neighbors lost a valiant fight to stop the overbearing row houses being constructed on the east side by an un-neighborly developer, who also moved utility poles and minimized the access of Bowne Street residents to the water's edge.

City Island also lost several beloved individuals this year, at least five of them longtime residents who gave much of themselves to the community they loved. Life here will simply not be the same without Jack Bryant, Lisa Dunton, Leo Keane, Emrie Steiniger and Bill Stuttig Sr. And we are beginning a mourning period for our bridge, which is slated for demolition in another couple of years.

But not everything is dark and gloomy as we move into winter. The new zoning changes finally made their way through a cumbersome political process to help preserve some of City Island's small-town character. Some say "too little, too late," but others say "better late than never." It proved that a group of active Islanders with an agenda can make things happen in this tiny part of a great city, and this achievement alone should give courage to those who have a vision for City Island. We also have an active theater group and an artistic community to give expression to the Island's creative spirit, and our youth organizations are strong and full of energy. Although we feel sadness and grief for the loss of our past, many of our residents are deeply engaged in City Island's present, and this will insure our quality of life for the future.



Sewer Concerns

(A copy of the following letter to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection was received by The Current.)

Today I convened a meeting of City Island community leaders and representatives of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) re: HED549B.

We had major concerns that the project does not include streets where flooding and drainage issues have persisted for years. These streets included:

- East Bay Street from City Island Avenue to King Avenue
- Intersection of Tier Street and William Avenue
- Minneford Avenue between Bridge Street and Terrace Street
- City Island Avenue between Beach Street and Bowne Street

Before the design is finalized, I am asking that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) review all unresolved maintenance issues on City Island so that HED-549B can be all inclusive. We are specifically concerned about sewer adequacy in light of new construction on Bowne Street.

We look forward to your early response and suggest a joint DEP-DDC meeting with Community Board 10 when your review is completed.

James Vacca
District Manager, Community Board 10

Halloween Thanks

To the Editor,
The City Island community would like to thank the following for their generous donations to our annual Halloween parade: Lickety Split, the Black Whale, Pizza Place and City Island Diner for their gift certificates and the City Island Community Center for a \$50 donation and the City Island Civic Association for a \$100 donation. Your donations helped make our parade one of the biggest and best ever.

We would also like to thank the Police Department and all of the volunteers who escorted the parade, as well as all of those that participated.

Thank you for your support,
Bob Carmody, Parade Organizer

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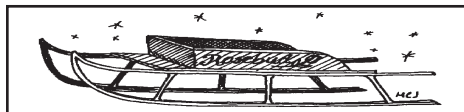
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Make the Holidays Merry for Local Kids

The United States Marine Corps Reserve has kicked off the annual Toys for Tots campaign, joined by State Senator Guy Velella and Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano. Those who wish to contribute a new, unwrapped toy may leave it in the lobby of Senator Velella's district office at 2019 Williamsbridge Road or at Councilwoman Provenzano's district office at 2931 Westchester Avenue, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Dec. 22.



"This is a season of joy and giving" Mr. Velella said. "There are too many children who are not going to have a happy holiday in our own neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to give back to our community. For most of the year, we take our neighborhoods for granted. This is a wonderful program, which will give many local children a happy holiday who may not otherwise be receiving any gifts."

"During this season of giving, I encourage anyone with the means to donate a toy to this organization," said Councilwoman Provenzano.

ISLANDERS EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOUT SEWER PROJECT

By KAREN NANI

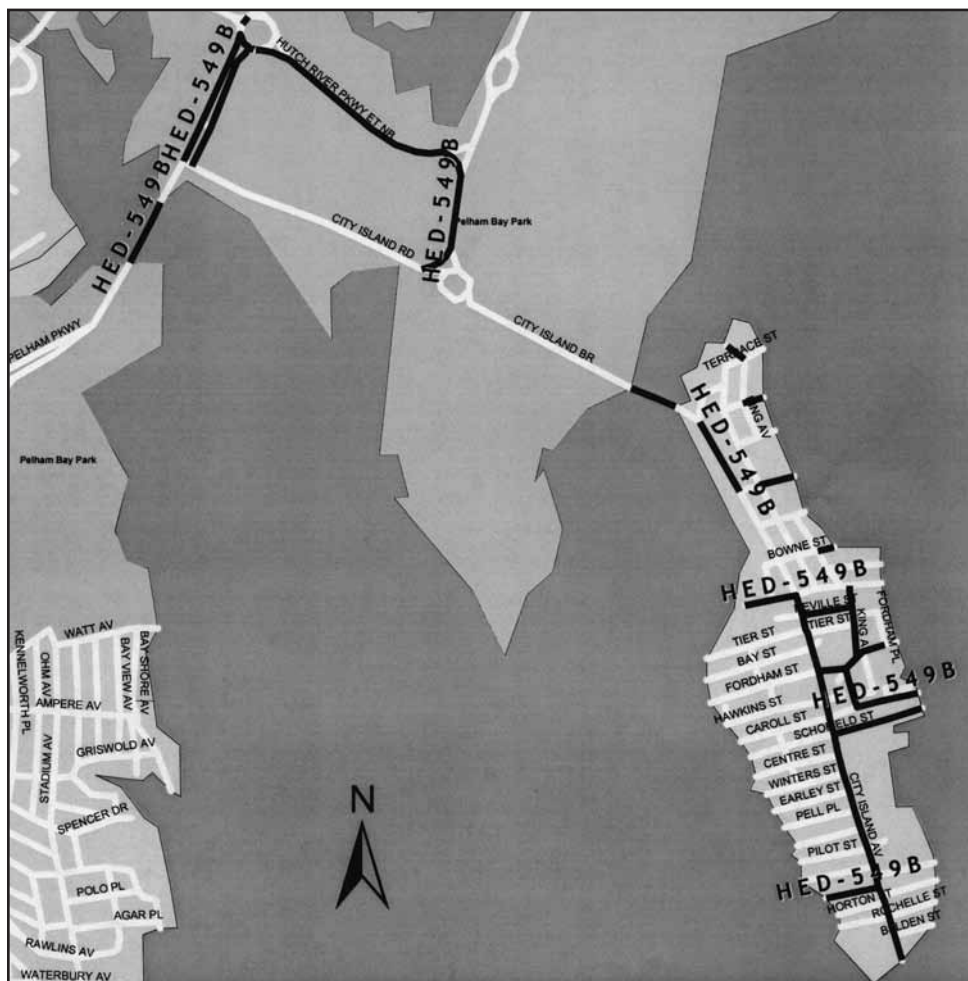


Photo courtesy of DDC

The dark lines on the map above show the proposed sites earmarked by the Department of Design and Construction for water-main and sewer replacement on City Island, scheduled to begin after Labor Day 2004.

Community representatives met with the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) to review the massive sewer and water-main project scheduled to start on City Island after Labor Day 2004. They voiced concerns about traffic control, flood zones and road resurfacing.

James Vacca, manager of Community Board 10, called the meeting on Nov. 13, 2003, to enable community representatives to respond to the three-year, \$8.3 million project outlined by DDC to replace the water mains, sanitary sewers and storm sewers at many locations on the Island (see dark lines on map).

According to Anthony Nieves of DDC, the replacements are necessary because most of the Island's water mains pre-date 1945 and many of the sewers are cracked, corroded or misaligned. DDC engineers outlined the planned replacements beginning with City Island Avenue and then the side streets:

- City Island Avenue from Kilroe to Cross Street: replace water main and sanitary sewer.
- City Island Avenue from Belden Point to Schofield Street: replace water main, sanitary and storm sewers.
- End of City Island Avenue at Belden Point: new storm sewer outlet, including catch basins.
- City Island Avenue from Schofield to Ditmars Street: replace storm and sanitary sewers and a portion of the water main (another portion was replaced during last 10 years and will not be redone).
- East Schofield Street: replace storm sewer.
- West Ditmars Street: new storm sewer and sewer outlet.

Water-Main Replacement Only

- East Carroll Street from Minneford Avenue to end.
- East Pilot Street.
- West Buckley Street.
- Reville Street from City Island Avenue to King Avenue.
- East Bowne from King Avenue to Long Island Sound.
- King Avenue from Ditmars to Ford-

ham Street.

- Cross Street east of Minneford Avenue to end.
- King Avenue from Terrace Street to northern point of City Island.
- East Fordham Street from City Island Avenue to Fordham Place.
- Fordham Place from Fordham to Tier Street.
- Minneford Avenue (lane) from Fordham to Carroll Street.

In response to a question from Marion Rosenfeld of the Chamber of Commerce, a DDC engineer said that four new catch basins will be installed at the corners of City Island Avenue and Fordham Street. Ms. Rosenfeld emphasized the importance of this as the major intersection is plagued by flooding and sludge runoff from garbage containers.

Other Islanders objected to absence of plans to alleviate certain trouble spots on the Island. Specifically, Virginia Gallagher of Community Board 10 pointed out that Tier Street and William Avenue floods every time there is a heavy rain, and Minneford Avenue between Bridge and Terrace Street also lacks proper storm sewers.

Mr. Vacca drafted a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which determines where water main and sewers need replacing, to ask that these areas be included in the three-year project (see *Letters to the Editor*, page 4). Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, also raised the question of the adequacy of the sewers on east Bowne Street now that 18 new homes are being added in the Mariner's Pointe development.

This new sewer project is the second phase of a larger restoration that began with the water-main replacement on City Island Road between the traffic circle and the bridge. The previous project led to traffic jams and poor road conditions during the winter of 2003, aggravating Islanders by causing flat tires, lost hubcaps and disrupted schedules.

Mr. Fitts reminded DDC of the problems

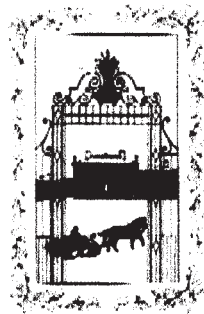
Continued on page 11

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HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2003



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Friday, December 5

- Opening Brunch:** 9:30 - 11 a.m.
Admission: \$30 per person. Limited Seating.
Enjoy a delicious brunch before shopping.
- Holiday Boutique:** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Admission: \$5 per person, children under 12 free.
Holiday Goods, Seasonal Decorations & Baked Goods for Sale.
- Holiday Wine Tasting Reception:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Patron \$125 ~ Sponsor \$100 ~ Friend \$75
Carol Singing, Fine Wines, Hors D'oeuvres, Silent Auction & Boutique.

Saturday, December 6

- Family Continental Breakfast:** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Admission: \$20 per family or \$8 per person. Limited Seating.
Enjoy a light breakfast with the whole family before shopping.
- Holiday Boutique:** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Admission: \$5 per person, children under 12 free.
Holiday Goods, Seasonal Decorations & Baked Goods for Sale.
- Photos with Santa:** 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Charge: \$5 per photo.
- Children's Holiday Craft Program:** 1 - 3 p.m. Charge: \$15 per person.
Decorate a 12" Victorian Christmas tree. Materials included.

Reservations Required for Opening Brunch, Holiday Wine Tasting, Continental Breakfast & Children's Craft Program.

For Reservations, call 718/885-1461 or email bartowpell@aol.com.



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

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery**, located at 327 City Island Avenue, will host an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, 2003. On display will be recent works by Nadiya and Glenn Goldstein, Lois Weingarten, Nancy Knowles and Joseph Giongetti.

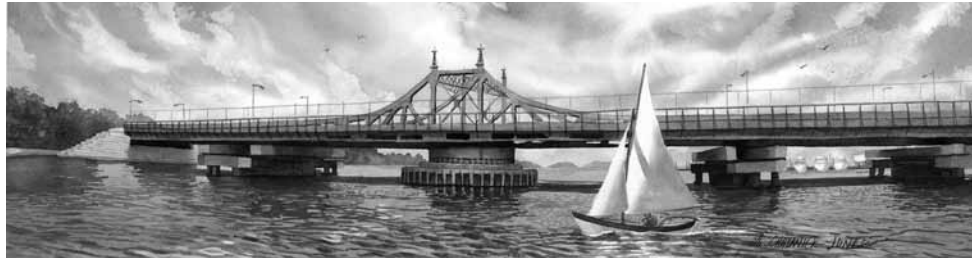
Artist **Toby Z. Liederman** invites you to a housewarming on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 30 Pilot Street, Apt. 6K, The Pickwick. Come view her pottery, jewelry and sculpture collection, for sale at reduced prices, while sharing wine, cheese, traditional hot cider and the beautiful view. Call 718-885-3423. You will also have the opportunity to leave a contribution for needy women in the Displaced Homemaker Program.

Focal Point Gallery at 321 City Island Avenue, presents the 16th City Island Art Exhibition from Dec. 5 to 31. The opening reception is on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call 718-885-1403 or visit www.focalpointgallery.com.



Photo by **RENA HANSEN**

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and Ron Turner at the opening of her exhibition at **Focal Point Gallery** on Nov. 7, 2003. Many nostalgic Islanders purchased prints of the artist's paintings of the City Island Bridge after the announcement earlier this year that the city plans to replace the historic structure with a cable bridge.



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
500 Minneford Ave.	11/27/02	\$450,000	1 Family
69 Centre Street	3/19/03	\$355,000	1 Family
373 City Island Ave.	3/28/03	\$290,000	1 Family
115 Rochelle Street	4/14/03	\$150,000	1 Family
11 Deepwater Way	5/22/03	\$500,000	Condo
696 Minneford Ave.	7/29/03	\$230,000	1 Family
97 Schofield Street	8/15/03	\$250,500	1 Family
15 Winters Street	8/15/03	\$700,000	2 Family
155 Hawkins Street	8/22/03	\$375,000	1 Family

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HOLIDAY ISLAND 2003

By MONICA GLICK

Are you looking for just the right gift for everyone on your list this holiday season? Maybe you want a spot to sit and chat or to sit and eat after shopping? Perhaps the perfect holiday party is your number-one priority, or getting in tip-top shape for the New Year? Is it a hometown holiday you're looking for?

Well, look no further than your own backyard on City Island, or Holiday Island as it is fast becoming once again. There are lots of reasons to celebrate this holiday season right here on City Island:

In order to make your holidays even brighter than usual are a menorah and tree lighting, two nights of candle-light shopping until midnight in the Island's unique galleries and shops, and a chance to win more than 20 different prizes, all contributed by City Island businesses.

The festivities officially began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, with the annual Christmas tree lighting in Hawkins Park, with carols courtesy of Ken Farnum and the choir from St. Mary Star of the Sea Church.

At 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, there will be the lighting of the menorah in Hawkins Street Park, marking the first night of Hanukkah.

Shops and restaurants on City Island Avenue will be open until midnight on two Saturdays—Dec. 13 and 20. Just follow the candlelight markers outside galleries and shops.

Organizing these events once again is City Island's Chamber of Commerce. This year the Chamber has also planned a free raffle. Visit these City Island locations to take a chance to win any of these prizes: Artie's Steak and Seafood (dinner for two), City Island Diner (breakfast for two), City Island Pharmacy (\$100 Mary Kay gift basket), Crab Shanty (gift certificate for two), Early Ruth Antiques (porcelain pitcher and bowl), Exotiq International Arts (\$100 gift basket), Focal Point Gallery (framed photograph of City Island bridge), Harbor Restaurant (gift certificate for two), Lazy Susan's Restaurant (brunch for two), Lido Restaurant (gift certificate for two), Lobster Box Restaurant (\$75 gift certificate), Midtown Antiques (\$100 gift certificate), Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon (facial, cut, manicure and pedicure), Seashore Restaurant (lunch for two), Sugar & Spice Bakery (fresh baked pie), The Pizza Place (gift certificate), The Tree House Restaurant (\$25 gift certificate), and Tony's Pier restaurant (\$25 gift certificate), and prizes from Corona's Hidden Treasures, Main Street Antiques, and Starving Artist Gallery.

Individual businesses are also planning holiday surprises and celebrations and offering special gifts in this season of giving:

- Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast (620 City Island Avenue) will hold its final two Sunday chamber music concerts on Dec. 14 and 21; Le Refuge will continue to serve dinner Wednesday through Sunday and brunch on Sundays.

- Stop by Corona's Hidden Treasures (329

City Island Avenue) to find unique gifts, as well as nautical and stained glass treasures.

- Take a trip for the holidays to 75 countries at Exotiq International Arts (280 City Island Avenue). Shoppers will feel like they're traveling as they wander through art, artifacts and other gift selections from around the world. Also featured are a complete line of aromatherapy products, candles and incense, jewelry and toys for the kids. There will be plenty of bargains for savvy shoppers, and free gift-wrap too!

- Drop in to Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery (276 City Island Avenue) during this holiday time for the art of Mary Colby and the spirit of the season.

- Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) will provide a free 8-by-10-inch aerial view of the City Island Bridge, by Ron Turner, with every purchase over \$150. Classes in darkroom photography, and now in digital photography as well, also make a great gift, as does a selection from the even greater variety this year of jewelry and crafts from around the world. The gallery will host a wine-and-cheese reception for its annual City Island Art Exhibition of more than 70 artists on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

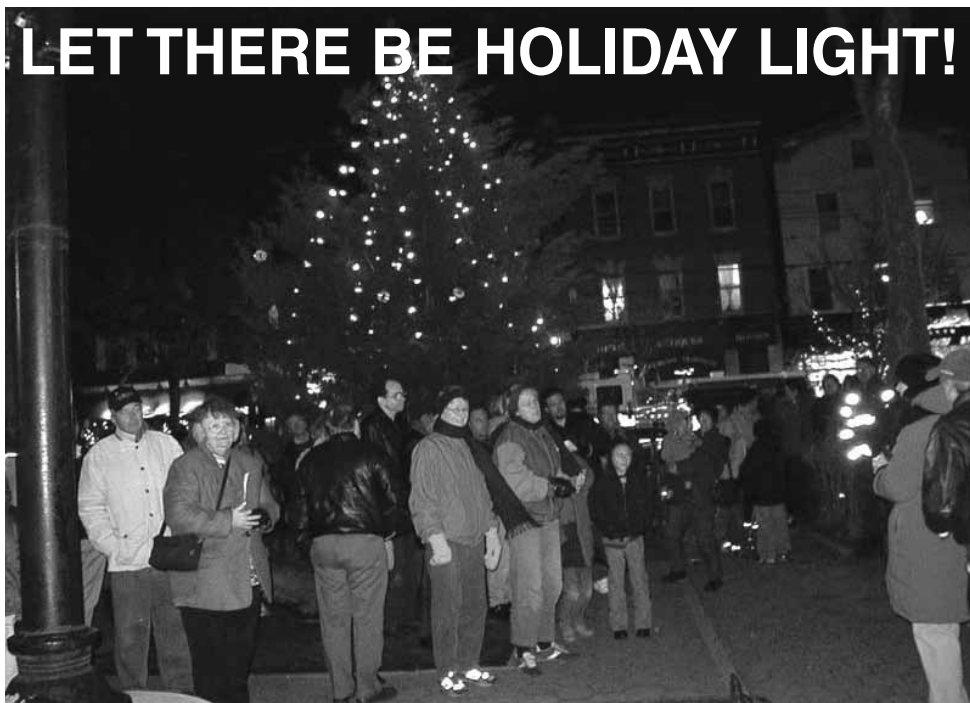
- The Kathlyn Moses Gallery (327 City Island Avenue) will open a new exhibition of artwork by Nadiya and Glenn Goldstein, Nancy Knowles, Lois Weingarten, Joseph Giongetti, and Mary Rappold with a reception on Friday, Dec. 12, from 7 to 10 p.m. While you're there, check out the ever-present hand-painted furniture creations of gallery owner Kathy Moses!

- Ask Starving Artist Studio & Gallery (269S City Island Avenue) proprietor-jeweler Elliott Glick what to give for the holidays and he's sure to suggest one of his own hand-made jewelry pieces or a selection from the gallery's fine art and fine craft. He'll even give a free split of champagne with every purchase of \$100 or more. And you can buy from the gallery on-line at www.starvingartistonline.com! Celebrate at the gallery either at the opening reception for new artwork, featuring, among others, City Island artists Mark Whitcombe and Donna Dietrich, on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 3 to 8 p.m., or at the holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 13, beginning at 3 p.m.

- To look your best for the holidays, stop by at Lina Petite Salon (474 City Island Avenue). Or drop in to Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon (413 City Island Avenue) for a facial or complete beauty "workout." And while you're there, perhaps pick up beauty product baskets or gift certificates for some lucky someone on your shopping list. Maybe just the nails (toes or fingers) are in need of attention as you move through the merry holiday season. Then schedule a visit to Nail Island (462 City Island Avenue).

- Got a half-hour between shopping sessions at City Island spots? Drop in and sign up at Curves (268 City Island Ave.), or get someone a gift certificate for membership as

LET THERE BE HOLIDAY LIGHT!



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island 2003 holiday festivities officially began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, with the annual Christmas tree lighting in Hawkins Park. The tree, provided by the Chamber of Commerce, is decorated with ornaments made by students from both City Island schools. Carolers from the St. Mary Star of the Sea Church choir, under the direction of Ken Farnum, musically welcomed in the season. At 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, there will be the lighting of the menorah in Hawkins Street Park, marking the first night of Hanukkah. Avenue businesses, like Lazy Susan's restaurant (above), are also getting "dressed" for the holidays and Islanders are wondering if 2003 will bring another white Christmas. Let the merriment begin!

a holiday gift. Curves's 30-minute workout and weight-loss program is sure to be the right fit for someone on your list. Your Life Part 2: Coaching & Personal Training (66 Hawkins Street) is also an option for the fitness conscious in your family circle.

- Going to Grandma's house for the holiday festivities? Why not bring her a pie or other delicious treat from Sugar & Spice (536 City Island Avenue). And don't worry about counting calories because you can always get back in shape at the bakery's next-door neighbor's place, A.J. Weight Loss Center (538 City Island Avenue), where they will put together a personal training program made just for you.

- How about a gift from the past of City Island and its rich nautical history? Check out the fine reproductions of old photographs at the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum (190 Fordham Street), open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

- Ruth Markowe of Early Ruth Antiques (319 City Island Avenue) invites all to

explore the treasures she has searched out that fill her shop and would be a fine gift for your family and friends. Years of great gifts can also be found at City Island Trading Company, Ltd. (282 City Island Avenue), Wild Goose Chase (314 City Island Avenue), Silver Arrow Antiques (275 City Island Avenue) or Calliope's (212 City Island Avenue).

- Enjoy a good breakfast at Calliope's other place on City Island, the Island Cafe (205 City Island Avenue), before starting your day's spending experience. Or if you're up in Early Ruth's neighborhood, try Papa John's Deli (325 City Island Avenue) for a quick bite or a cup of java.

- Last year's new shop for antiques, Midtown Antiques (310 City Island Avenue), now offers restoration and polishing services, in store or at your home. Of course there are still plenty of fine European antiques on hand, from the 17th to the early 20th century.

- This year there are two new shops for

Continued on page 11



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THE ISLAND GARDEN

By DORIS STRAUS

Winter Pruning

Now that the leaves are off the trees and shrubs, it's a good time to look them over carefully and perhaps consider some winter pruning. At times this can be a little intimidating for most people, so with that in mind I got some practical advice from area professionals Ralph Padilla and Jim McGee. Both Ralph and Jim are veterans of the New York Botanical Garden arboretum crew. Ralph (1996 N.Y. State Arborists Association climbing champ) is a climber/pruner, and Jim (with a B.S. in urban forestry from the University of Massachusetts) is a staff arborist. They now run their own businesses and generously offered the following tips on what homeowners can do themselves, when they should call in a pro and what to look for when hiring someone for tree work.

For overgrown and lanky shrubs, Ralph says that winter is a great time for rejuvenation pruning. This especially applies to shrubs such as privet, spirea, forsythia, mountain laurel and viburnum. These can be pruned practically to the ground if necessary, and in spring they will sprout heavily, resulting in a fuller and more compact, healthier-looking plant. Privets pruned hard respond exceptionally well and will put on two to three feet of growth within two months. However, this is *not* the technique to use on rhododendrons, azaleas and other evergreens. If you are not sure, call in a professional. Leave your roses till late spring after all frost has passed and when you can see what has died back and where the new growth is coming from better.

Jim points out that December is a good time to do some hand-pruning on your small ornamental trees, such as Japanese

maples and weeping cherries. Check underneath the canopy of the tree for dead branches and cut them back to a live stem. Dead branches appear discolored and, most importantly, have no buds at all; live branches are the ones with buds. This is useful to keep in mind when you are looking at larger trees for dead limbs; get out your binoculars and carefully look over the higher limbs for bud formation. If you don't see any buds, there is a strong possibility that the limb is dead. This is also a good time to put a ring of mulch around your trees for moisture retention, additional nutrients and a good weed barrier.

Ralph and Jim add that it is not just the lack of leaves that makes winter pruning desirable. Pruning now invigorates growth in spring, saves your trees and shrubs from the heat stress of summer pruning and, if you are removing substantial material, pruning now will prevent the sun from scalding surrounding perennials and smaller shrubs that were previously shaded.

When is it a good time to hire a professional? Ralph offers this simple advice: If you have to leave the ground, get a professional. No matter how physically fit you may be, ladders and chain saws are a dangerous combination. This, coupled with the fact that improper pruning can destroy your trees, make it worth calling in some help.

When you call in a professional, he or she should be a certified professional arborist licensed by the International Society of Arboriculture and have an individual I.D. number. This license is renewed and re-certified based on continuing education credits every three years so that they have the most up-to-date information on tech-


niques, diseases and pests. A tree professional must also be insured. This is very important. No one should do tree work on or around your property who is not insured. If any spraying for diseases or pests is necessary, you must ask to see a Pesticide Applicators License 3A (for trees

and shrubs), which should also be up to date. Tree work is a highly skilled area of horticulture, and it's worth working with a knowledgeable, professional arborist. Ralph Padilla can be reached at 718-562-1498; Jim McGee can be reached at 914-263-1188.



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FROM
Lina Petite

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Menorah Lighting

December 19, 4 PM
Hawkins Street Park

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December 13 & December 20
These Saturdays until Midnight
Follow the lights to special goodies, sales and specials at the Island's businesses.

Tree Lighting

Saturday, November 29, 7 PM
Hawkins Street Park
Caroling

Free Holiday Raffle

Visit City Island stores during December to enter to win these great prizes!

Artie's Steak and Seafood Dinner for 2 ♦ City Island Diner Breakfast for 2 ♦ City Island Pharmacy \$100 Mary Kay Gift Basket ♦ Connie's Market \$25.00 Gift Certificate ♦ Corona's Treasures Prize ♦ Crab Shanty Restaurant Gift Certificate for 2 ♦ Early Ruth Antiques Porcelain Pitcher & Bowl ♦ Exotiga International Arts \$100 gift basket ♦ Focal Point Gallery Framed Photo of City Island Bridge ♦ Harbor Restaurant Gift Certificate for 2 ♦ Kathyln Moses Gallery Prize ♦ Lazy Susan's Restaurant Brunch for 2 ♦ Lido Restaurant Gift Certificate for 2 ♦ Lobster Box Restaurant \$75 Gift Certificate ♦ Main Street Antiques Prize ♦ Midtown Antiques \$100 Gift Certificate ♦ Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon Facial, Cut, Manicure, & Pedicure ♦ Seashore Restaurant Lunch for 2 ♦ Starving Artist Gallery Prize ♦ Sugar & Spice Bakery Fresh Baked Pie ♦ The Pizza Place Gift Certificate ♦ The Tree House Restaurant \$25 Gift Certificate ♦ Tony's Pier Restaurant \$25 Gift Certificate ♦ MORE!!!

Avenue Holiday Lights made possible by the donations of participating members of the Chamber.

City Island Chamber of Commerce — P.O. Box 13, City Island, NY 10464 — Phone: 718-885-9100
For more information: www.cityislandchamber.org — Email: information@cityislandchamber.org

Holiday Island

Continued from page 7

antiques on City Island—one is actually a returning friend. Quality Antique Furniture (269N City Island Avenue), formerly located just to the left as you crossed the bridge onto City Island, has returned, "missing his City Island family of customers," says the proprietor and City Islander Leon Nuger. He is offering a 20 percent discount throughout the holiday season to City Island residents. Across the street the Island welcomes Main Street Antiques (278 City Island Avenue) and its warehouse location just two doors down. The shop is filled with amazing finds, including beautiful handmade pillows. The whole store is watched over by a giant zebra who positively glows as it gazes at Pancho Villa guarding Quality Antique Furniture across the street.

- Perhaps a gift of pottery is the favorite of someone on your shopping list? Visit Ceramics...and More (22R Centre Street) for selections by Toby Z. Liederman. There are also gift baskets available from Arabica Coffee & Gift Baskets (90 City Island Avenue).

- Several City Island artists, including painter/photographer and soap-and-bath-product maker Donna Dietrich, silversmith-jeweler Elliott Glick, stained-glass artist Doris Nicoletti and box-and-paper artist Cheryl Solomon, will showcase their work at a holiday craft boutique in the garden of the Black Whale (279 City Island Avenue) on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- For a taste of the sea this holiday season, stop by the newly renovated North Wind Museum (610 City Island Avenue).

- Or if the right sound is what your senses crave, stop in at Mooncurser Records and Antiques (229 City Island Avenue).

- If you're looking for the perfect live Christmas tree or wreath or the stand and lights and other accessories to go with it, try Buddy's Hardware (260 City Island Avenue). Visit the holiday gift shop at Lickety Split (295 City Island Avenue) and enjoy an ice cream treat (great in any season) or delicious hot chocolate (to warm things up) while you're there.

- At the City Island Pharmacy (290 City Island Avenue), you'll find a wide selection of holiday gifts for young and old, and for the home, and all you need to wrap it up in style! And there is always JGL Wines & Liquors (358 City Island Avenue) to find—and give—holiday spirits! Or maybe a fruit basket is the right fit? Island Produce (292 City Island Avenue), with fresh fruits and vegeta-

bles brought in daily, will make you a basket good enough to eat!

City Island's restaurants and cafes are also offering unique holiday celebrations and promise fun times for the New Year. Here are just a few highlights:

- Let the Black Whale (279 City Island Avenue) host your business or family holiday celebration. For just \$25 per person each guest will get a feast that includes a salad, an appetizer (perhaps a seasonal soup), an entrée (maybe grilled New York sirloin or pan-seared salmon) and holiday sweet treats like cookies or brownies, all served within a two-hour time slot that includes unlimited beer and wine. Holiday movies, including George C. Scott in "A Christmas Carol" (Dec. 16) and the original "Miracle on 34th Street" (Dec. 23), are part of dinner-and-a-movie Tuesdays in December. The Whale invites you to its Sunday brunch, where you can learn the details of its New Year's Eve festivities or pick up a gift certificate as a tasty treat for some or several on your shopping list.

- As we focus on family and home for the holidays, come in to the City Island Diner (304 City Island Avenue) for cooking just like your grandma used to serve.

- On Sunday, Dec. 14, starting at 4 p.m., a holiday party rocks the gingerbread house into which Lazy Susan's (316 City Island Avenue) has transformed. The fiesta at this eatery which features Mexican specialties will include pictures with the jolly man himself, Santa! Let Lazy Susan's be your personal caterer for Christmas and New Year's Eve parties, or join us to ring in 2004! There's plenty of music set for December: Pepe of Alive 'n Kickin' and Dr. Rick (Dec. 14, 6 p.m.); Dawn and Greg (Dec. 5 and 21, 6 to 10 p.m.). On Dec. 12 and 19, from 6:30 to 7 p.m., the tree will be singing for the holidays, that is, a chorus of singers shaped into a tree that will include members of the City Island Theater Group and Lazy Susan's regulars. All are welcome, and there will be complimentary hot cider to warm up chilled carolers.

- Celebrate at the recently-opened Gallagher's (288 City Island Avenue) this holiday season, perhaps by fueling up with a fine steak or prime rib dinner. Or just stop by for a hot toddy and check out what's on the menu here for holiday celebrations, including New Year's Eve.

- At Jimmy's of City Island (500 City Island Avenue) the word is "celebration" this holiday season. They are ready to host your holiday party or dinner with family and friends, or to be the place you'll be this New

Year's Eve!

- Explore the newest City Island eatery, Alice's (296 City Island Avenue), before you set out to walk City Island Avenue to shop, or after you've completed your spending mission.

- Perhaps spots close to City Island's lighthouse are where you'll want to enjoy a fine meal and a relaxing time. Try Fran's Trattoria (105 City Island Avenue), the newly renovated Lido Restaurant (101 City Island Avenue) or the Lobster Box (34 City Island Avenue). Or make your way to the middle and visit the Crab Shanty (361 City Island Avenue) or Artie's Steak & Seafood (394 City Island Avenue).

- Bet you'll find the signature indoor tree at The Tree House (273 City Island Avenue) decked out in holiday finery! While you're enjoying this eatery's new inside decor, you can also feast on delicious northern Mediterranean cuisine, and get the details for the Tree House's New Year's Eve plans. Or try a delicious pizza pie on your way home from visiting City Island Avenue shopkeepers, especially after late-night shopping! A gift certificate from the Tree House is one gift no one will exchange.

- After a long day of shopping, why not let someone else do the cooking, like Chef Rafael of To-Go Express (415 City Island Avenue) or the chefs at the Pizza Place (286 City Island Avenue). Or telephone City Island's very own City Island Chinese Restaurant (84-86 City Island Ave.) and enjoy your meal in your own home.

- To accompany your take-home food, try a video or DVD selection from JT's Island Event (294 City Island Avenue). While you're there, maybe a gift certificate will be the stocking stuffer you've been looking for. Or purchase a complete video game system, such as Play Station or Xbox.

- And on Christmas Day, you'll be able to pick up that last minute eggnog or clam dip at Connie's (307 City Island Avenue) or the IGA City Island Market (385 City Island Avenue), both of which will be open, for a time, that Thursday.

As City Island again becomes Holiday Island, all the businesses—shops, antique stores, galleries, restaurants and cafes—are working together to prove that there really is no place like home on City Island for the holidays.



Photo by ANNA FOSTER

At the New York Tennis Club's Annual Awards Dinner Dance on Oct. 25, 2003, Island resident Marina Kheyfets (above, right) and her doubles partner, Mitch Colby (left) from Throggs Neck, were presented with trophies for their victory at Club Calcutta against an all-male team. The ceremony was held at the American Turner's Club in the Bronx and the trophies were presented by the club president, Julie Mark (center).

Sewer Concerns

Continued from page 5

caused by the previous construction and asked how these would be avoided in this next phase. Mehdi Asharian from DDC said, "We know that this is a sensitive project, and we will coordinate with the Department of Transportation before construction begins to insure better traffic control."

Mr. Asharian explained that the contract for this latest phase of work has not yet been awarded, but that bids will be obtained shortly. He was asked if the same contractor used in the last phase could be awarded the job despite the many complaints by Islanders about their handling of traffic and road surfaces. He and Mr. Nieves explained that the city awards contracts to the lowest bidder and, "yes, it is possible that HHM (now known as Maspeth Supply) could be awarded the contract."

The construction will be done in segments, and the plan currently calls for no work between Mother's Day and Labor Day in recognition of the increased traffic

onto City Island during the summer months. When work is being done on City Island Avenue, traffic will be rerouted around the construction. When work is in progress on the side streets, they will be closed, according to DDC. However, access to and from the side streets will be scheduled according to the needs of residents. For example, work done on east Pilot Street will be scheduled to allow the Pilot Cove Manor van to move in and out at certain times of the day.

After construction is completed, City



Island Avenue will be "resurfaced from curb to curb where work was done," Mr. Nieves announced at the meeting. The side streets will be resurfaced only in the work areas ("the water main trench").

As with the previous project, DDC will have an office on City Island Avenue near Fordham Street with a community liaison to handle complaints during the construction. Pilot Street resident and Community Board 10 member Andy Giaccon acknowledged that DDC representatives at the office were responsive to Islander's complaints, but said that they should be able to exert more control over the actual construction site. For example, Islanders were reimbursed for their flat tires, but confusing traffic patterns often persisted for days.

Mr. Vacca ended the meeting by calling for a follow-up "all-agency meeting between DEP, DDC, DOT, Fire and Police Department representatives, and members of the City Island community" to further coordinate the project and prevent a traffic nightmare.



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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

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 5, and Sat., Dec. 6, **Trinity United Methodist Church Fair**, 2 to 8 p.m. and 11 to 3 p.m. 113 Bay Street, see *Organization News*.

Sat. and Sun., Dec. 6 to 7, and Dec. 13 to 14, **POTS Christmas Giving Program**, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church or AER Realty, 300 City Island Avenue. Donate new articles of clothing, including sweatshirts and pants, gloves, hats or socks. Call 718-885-2137 for information.

Fri., Dec. 19, **Hannukah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 4 p.m., sponsored by Temple Beth-El and the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat., Dec. 13 and 20, **Holiday Island Shopping**, 1 p.m. to midnight, City Island Avenue.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Thurs., Jan. 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., I.S. 192, 650 Hollywood Boulevard, Bronx.

Tues., Jan. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Chapter 3303 AARP

The New York State AARP office has notified us that on Oct. 7 Governor Pataki signed the AARP endorsed grandparenting bill S-4224/A8302 into law. This new law requires courts to consider the best interest of the children in custody hearings and requires social service districts to consider grandparents as a custodial option when a child is being removed from the home. We want to thank the AARP members who worked tirelessly fighting for grandparents and grandchildren in New York State.

At this particular time of the year, the chapter strongly urges all its members and elderly persons to get their flu shots as soon as they can before the flu season begins. Remember, Medicare will cover the cost of the flu shot.

On Thursday, Dec. 18, beginning at 12 noon, we will hold our annual Christmas Festival at the beautiful Davenport Beach Club in New Rochelle. It will include a cocktail hour, open bar, dinner, dancing, entertainment and much more.

The chapter is sponsoring a fabulous 12-day cruise to the Hawaiian Islands, including Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, plus a five-day land tour of San Francisco and San Diego from April 17 to May 7, 2004. The trip will include non-stop round trip airfare to California, all first-class accommodations, meals, daily land tours on deluxe motor transportation with professional tour guide and of course, the fabulous experience aboard the beautiful cruise ship, the *Carnival Spirit*, and much, much more. Non-members and guests are welcomed to join us on this beautiful trip. Prices and more details for these events will be discussed at our meeting or call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Garden Club News

We will have our Christmas meeting and luncheon for members on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street.

Thank you to the following participants in the October cleanup and planting of mums and spring bulbs at Hawkins Street and Bridge Parks: Ruth Collins, Susan Strazzera, Phyllis Goodman, Joan Lyons, Liz Lyons, Sean Lyons, Lily Bryant, Pat Murphy, Julia Gleeson, Doris Straus and Patti Grondahl.

In early December we will again distribute Christmas wreaths to public areas.

Gardening hint: When it snows, use a

broom to remove it from shrubs, evergreens and hedges. December is the month for holiday plants, including the ever-popular poinsettia and azaleas. When buying, look for those with healthy, lush and green foliage. Colored leaves should not have any browning on the edges.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Phyllis Goodman

Holiday Services

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Sunday, Dec. 14: Pastor Sue's Open House.

Sunday, Dec. 21: Children's Christmas Pageant.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas morning music from 9 to 11 a.m.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Friday, Dec. 19: Menorah lighting in Hawkins Park, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21: Hannukah Celebration, 1 to 4 p.m. with Rabbi Shohama Wiener and entertainment.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Sunday, Dec. 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve. Festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist with music and soloist under the direction of Mark Grant, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28: First Sunday after Christmas. Carol sing, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge

Saturday, Dec. 20: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21: Lessons and carols concert, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, carols at 7 p.m. and Masses at 8 p.m. and midnight.

Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Wednesday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Mass at 5:15 p.m. Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day Masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Feast of Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (480 City Island Avenue), an all-inclusive egalitarian congregation, conducts services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all and attendance is free. For information, call 718-885-3098.

December Events

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.: Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Wiener.

Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., third class of Shoham by Rabbi Wiener. Spiritual learning to help us find peace and joy in a time of anxiety. It is a series of sessions based on a unique Biblical approach to spiritual development. Through meditations, chants, energy work, and a study of selected texts form our Shabbat service, we will tap into the transformative power of Jewish mysticism.

Tuesday, Dec. 9: the 8th class in "Learn to Read Hebrew" led by Debbie Graber.

Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat



Photo by ROSE KOLB

The City Island Girl Scout Daisies are shown above at their first meeting (l. to r.): Shannon Faulkner, Lily Kolb, Francesca Strazzera, Amanda Devlin, Stephanie Yarusso, Nora Murphy, Gianna Volpe, Katherine Campos, and Andrea Berardo. Not shown: Mandy Piscatelli, Christen DeCuffa and Dayja Vytorio.

services led by the congregation.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: Shabbat morning prayer and Torah study group led by Jennifer Birk.

Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.: the 4th class of Shoham spiritual learning by Rabbi Wiener.

Friday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m.: Menorah lighting in Hawkins Street Park; 7:30 p.m. Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: Shabbat morning prayer and Torah study group led by Jennifer Birk.

Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 to 4 p.m., Hannukah celebration with Rabbi Shoham Wiener and entertainment.

Friday, Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Saturday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: Shabbat morning prayer and Torah study group led by Jennifer Birk.

January Events

Saturday, Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: Shabbat morning prayer and Torah study group led by Jennifer Birk.

Thursday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: first class in yoga and tai chi by Marc Kaplan; Eight sessions at \$5 a session for members; full series \$36. \$10 per session for non-members or \$72 for the full series.

Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Saturday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: Shabbat morning prayer and Torah study group led by Jennifer Birk.

Thursday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.: second class in yoga and tai chi by Marc Kaplan

Friday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 10 a.m.: Shabbat service and baby naming led by Rabbi Shoham Wiener, followed by a Kiddush sponsored by the Gottlieb-McElroy family.

Thursday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.: third class in yoga and tai chi by Marc Kaplan.

Friday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.: fourth

class in yoga and tai chi by Marc Kaplan.

Friday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services led by the congregation.

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.: fifth class in yoga and tai chi by Marc Kaplan.

Friday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.: Tu Bishvat service led by the congregation.

Bob Berent

Chapter 318 AARP

Just a reminder that we meet the first and third Wednesday of each month. Blood pressure readings are taken on the first Wednesday of the month. A notary is available to notarize, free of charge.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Dec. 9; the bus leaves at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. For reservations, please call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1879 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Thank you for making our Penny Social a success. The money from this helps us to make our donations to many charitable organizations.

Our annual Christmas luncheon is on Friday, Dec. 12, at the Marina del Rey with music by Johnny Del. Luncheon is from 12 to 5 p.m., with an open bar, cocktail hour and after-dinner cordials. Please try to attend; it is a wonderful afternoon to meet with your friends to celebrate the holiday season. Please see Gloria Salacan and Florence Quinn for reservations.

Flo Bonicoro has been busy planning our trips. We have our overnight in February 2004. In March 2004 we are going to the Westbury Music Hall for St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day.

In June we are going to Dolan's in Spring Lake, New Jersey, and in September we are going to Cape Cod. Please attend our meetings and see Flo or Marie to make reservations.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. Our Christmas party will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Bring a grab bag gift worth at least \$5 or more.

Marie Tirelli

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

Announcements

Holiday Craft Workshop, for kids and adults, with a bake sale and raffles will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 12 to 3 p.m.. Plan to bring some snapshots, because picture frames and frame ornaments will be the featured craft! Smocks will be provided, but wearing old clothes is a good idea. Suggested donation is \$6 per participant; help us raise money to improve the Community Center! This is a family event; children should be supervised by a responsible adult. Adults or teens that would like to volunteer to help out, please call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Bridge Club, starting Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Just show up, whether you're an expert or would just like to learn.

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

Senior Nutrition Program: Held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All senior citizens are welcome; the cost is only \$1.00 per meal. Call 718-885-0727 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for your monthly calendar with daily lunch menus and schedule of visits to shopping centers.

Irish Dance: Call Deirdre O'Mara at 201-947-8535.

Preschool Art and Playgroup: Early socialization and fun for two- to four-year-olds. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Sept. 9 to Dec. 11. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Kundalini Yoga: Saturdays at 9 a.m. Call Ann Ward at 718-885-1478.

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-885-2011.

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

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

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

Scrapbook Club: If you are interested in getting all those old photos out of the boxes and into attractive books without cluttering up your dining room table, call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713.

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

Laury Hopkins



City Island Theater Group

We are very excited about our upcoming season. In addition to two truly great classic plays and our annual children's variety show, this year we hope to venture into two new areas. In the summer of 2004, we will introduce our "CITG at the Black Whale" event at one of City Island's oldest and most loved restaurants, and a musical or comedy for the fall, which is yet to be determined.

Playwrights are invited to submit original manuscripts for the fall season and beyond. Anyone interested in these upcoming events may contact CITG at 718-885-3066, e-mail@citg.net or www.citg.net on the Web.

The City Island Theater Group welcomes participation in all our activities. Theater is an exciting, fulfilling and collaborative art form, and every production involves designers, costumers, lighting technicians, builders of scenery, painter, stage managers, script assistants and, of course, performers of all kinds. No experience is needed. Bring your imagination and enthusiasm to bear at one or all of these events.

On Feb. 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2004, we will present "Private Lives" by Noel Coward, a classic example of high comedy and scintillating wit. "Private Lives" will introduce audiences to the campy quickness of Coward's dialogue and his impulsive seizing-of-the-moment philosophy.

On April 23, 24, 25 and 30 and May 1 and 2, 2004, we will have "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" by Tennessee Williams, a winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. This is an American classic known for both its high drama and its blistering humor.

June 12 and 13 will be the "Kiddy Kabaret Clown School," our fourth annual Kiddy Kabaret, which will consist of choral, solo, duet, dance and comedy numbers with a circus theme. The 2004 production will be presented in collaboration with the City Island Community Center.

During the summer next year, dates to be announced, "CITG at the Black Whale" will be a celebration of baseball through readings, short plays, song, poetry and general creative fun. Performers and writers of every stripe are invited to submit proposals to CITG, P.O. Box 45, City Island, NY 10464.

In the fall of next year, dates to be announced, we will present a comedy or a musical to be determined. Submissions of original works are welcome. All original submissions should be mailed to Readers' Committee, City Island Theater Group, P.O. Box 45, City Island, NY 10464.

Miriam Nixon

Legion News

Our commander, the honorable Vincent Hecker, wishes all Islanders a happy holiday and thanks everyone for their support in 2003.

The Servicemen's Dance was a success thanks to all who attended and those who labored as chefs, cooks and waiters. Robert Mennona, a.k.a. The General, was the only casualty. Robert cut a finger and suffered singed forearms. Monies realized will fund the sending of gifts to those in service and other charitable endeavors.

Plaudits to all who folded, stuffed and delivered chances for the Turkey Raffle.

D. J. Ray provided music for the festivities. Ray is among the few who know how to deliver music without blasting you out of your seat.

Thanks to Ramon for waxing and buffing the bar and hall area.

Timothy Mullin, son of the Lenz family, former residents of Hawkins Street, was home for a short leave. He was stationed at Camp Wolf, Kuwait, prior to his furlough, and he will now be located at a U.S.A.F. base in Frankfurt, Germany. I'd be interested in getting more information about our servicemen who are coming home or being rotated overseas for our next newsletter.

Regular meetings for the month of December are: Monday, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15. The latter of the two is the best attended meeting of the year. The commander attributes this to our annual Christmas party, which follows an abbreviated meeting. An Executive Board meeting will be held Dec. 8. All meetings start 7:30 p.m.

Louis Probst, a member from Big Canoe, Georgia, took a tumble while visiting this writer and is ensconced in Sound Shore for treatment of a fractured hip. He should be released before this issue hits the streets.

Dicky Knapp is home following surgery on his leg. Dicky has resurrected one of the late Pat Breen's carts and feels that he is ready to challenge Billy McGee to a race.

It's the time of year to remember our homebound. A visit, call or card will do much to bring a little cheer.

Remember the annual Pearl Harbor service to be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the World War II Memorial at the City Island Bridge. We honor the 17 boys killed in action during the hostilities.

At our Nov. 2 meeting, we welcomed Raymond Gonzales as a new member. Ray is a new resident employed by Dave Carman.

On Nov. 13 at the Post, Bronx Legionnaires paid homage to Senator Guy Veleva for his support of the issuance of the Purple Heart stamp.

At last count, Comrade Treat reported that 196 regular members had paid their 2004 dues. For those delinquents, like myself, get those dues to Mike with alacrity.

It was Nov. 20, 1943, just 60 years ago, that the U.S. Marines landed on Tarawa. Needed as a bomber base, the tiny atoll was captured after a spirited assault.

Fall out for another month and have a happy and safe New Year.

Russell Schaller

City Island Chamber Music

Sadly, this wonderful concert series, which has been going strong for the past 12 years, will be drawing to a close with the year 2003. Those who have never taken the opportunity to hear first-rate chamber music before now should make an effort to attend one of the two remaining concerts.

On Dec. 14, the Mark Morris Dance Group string quartet, which includes violin-

ists Jonathan Dandelsman and Andrea Schulz, violist Jessica Troy and cellist Wolfram Koessel, will make its debut on City Island, performing quartets by Brahms and Bartok.

And on Dec. 21, the final concert will feature flautist Bart Feller, violinist Yosuka Kawasaki, cellist Wolfram Koessel and others in a beautiful holiday program with pieces by Bach, Mozart and many others.

Each concert will be presented at Le Refuge Inn, 820 City Island Avenue, at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$16 and there is a reception after each concert. For more information, call 212-724-4474.

Wolfram Koessel

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity hosted its annual dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you so very much to all who worked so hard and donated food and funds to support this event.

Our Christmas Fair will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec. 5 from 2 to 8 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets for the Friday dinner or the Saturday lunch can be obtained from Tina Schaefer at 914-636-6452. There will be oodles of homemade food, arts and crafts, gift items and fun for the children. We hope to see you all there.

We are again decorating our tree with mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Everyone is invited to join in this project with either handmade or store-bought items. After Christmas we will ship all the items to the Children's Home located in Binghamton, N.Y. This home is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and strives to assist troubled children and families. Please call Donna at 718-885-0931 for further information.

Pastor Sue will have her annual open house on Dec. 14, and our children's pageant will be on Dec. 21. All are welcome to attend; these events are always a delight!

The Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 10 p.m. on Dec. 24. Why not come and celebrate God's perfect gift to all mankind? You will be glad that you did.

Our church doors will be opened on Christmas morning from 9 to 11 a.m. for all who would like to come and listen to beautiful Christmas music provided by our organist, Connie Cooper.

The Outreach Committee is selling the Entertainment 2004 Books, which are now available for \$27. These books make excellent gifts. We are also able to help you order gift books for folks who live in other areas of the country. Trinity receives \$5 for each of these books that we sell. Thank you so very much for helping us in this project.

Donna LaValle



Girl Scout Daisy News

The kindergarten girls looked fantastic in their new uniforms at their first meeting on Friday, Nov. 7. The Daisies are busy learning the Girl Scout Promise and the flag ceremony that will begin each meeting.

The first Daisy project was to create placemats to be used each week for snack time. We also talked about the Daisy petals, which represent each of the qualities of an exceptional Daisy.

Meetings are held every other Friday at Trinity United Methodist Church from 3:30 to 5 p.m. December meetings will be held on the 5th and the 19th. For more information, call 718-885-1011.

All the Daisies and their parents and leaders extend best wishes to leader Rose. Get well soon!

Kathy Eberhart-Devlin

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High Blood Pressure a Factor In Some Senior Moments

Memory problems commonly associated with age that many of us call "senior moments" may be related to reduced blood flow to the brain caused by high blood pressure, according to a report at the American Heart Association's 57th Annual High Blood Pressure Research Conference.

Using tests to track the brain's activity in response to specific tasks, researchers have determined that people with high blood pressure get less blood to the brain than people with normal blood pressure. "The reduced blood supply reduces the brain's ability to perform needed tasks, such as remembering an unfamiliar phone number," said J. Richard Jennings, Ph.D., study author and professor of psychiatry and psychology at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

Since memory does lose its edge as a person ages, Dr. Jennings notes that one way to look at high blood pressure is to think of it as adding a few years to mental age.

"For several years," he wrote, "researchers have observed that people with high blood pressure seemed to perform a little differently on mental tasks. These were subtle differences, almost the sort of thing that would suggest the test subject was not paying good attention. But those reports were anecdotal observations with no physiological data to back them up."

When brain imaging technology advanced to the point where scans could detect the metabolic activity of the brain during certain tasks, Dr. Jennings's team decided to look for proof that high blood pressure did impair memory.

High blood pressure is defined as a systolic pressure (the top number in a blood pressure reading) of 140 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) or higher and a diastolic pressure (bottom number) of 90 mmHg or higher.

They recruited 59 volunteers with an average age of 60, whose blood pressure readings were below 140/90 mmHg, and 37 volunteers with an average age of 61, with hypertension, defined as systolic pressure of 140 mmHg or greater or diastolic pressure of 90 mmHg or greater. The volunteers with high blood pressure had an average pressure of 144/84 mmHg.

All volunteers underwent a number of neuropsychology tests to determine their baseline

memory and cognitive abilities. They also had ultrasound imaging of their carotid (neck) arteries to measure blood supply to the brain.

The volunteers then took a series of computer-based memory tests that were performed while a brain imaging technique called positron emission tomography (PET) recorded the response in different brain regions. The computer exercises tested the tape of memory skills involved in daily life, such as looking up a phone number then walking to another room to pick up the phone and dial the number.

This type of "running memory" function often begins to fail as people age, said Dr. Jennings. While the volunteers participated in the computer exercises such as remembering the location of flashing squares while tapping either right or left hand fingers, the functional scan tracked activity in the brain regions involved in memory tasks—anterior and posterior watershed areas, the posterior parietal, prefrontal thalamic, and amygdala/hippocampal areas.

The scans showed that "blood flow wasn't as rapidly or fully available among people with high blood pressure as it was in the non-hypertensive volunteers," said Dr. Jennings. He said the most notable differences in blood flow occurred in the posterior regions of the brain. The diminished blood flow correlated to slightly worse scores on the memory tests. But he cautioned that the differences were subtle: "the hypertensive patients only missed a percentage point or two."

When a person has high blood pressure, the brain protects itself by remodeling its blood vessels to compensate for the higher pressure. This vascular remodeling, according to Dr. Jennings, probably explains the blood flow differences observed with the brain scans. For that reason, blood pressure medicines that specifically address vascular changes, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), are most likely to increase brain blood flow.

The lifetime risk of developing hypertension is about 90 percent for men and women at age 55. About one in five Americans has high blood pressure and about a third of them don't know they have it. High blood pressure contributed to about 118,000 deaths in 2000.

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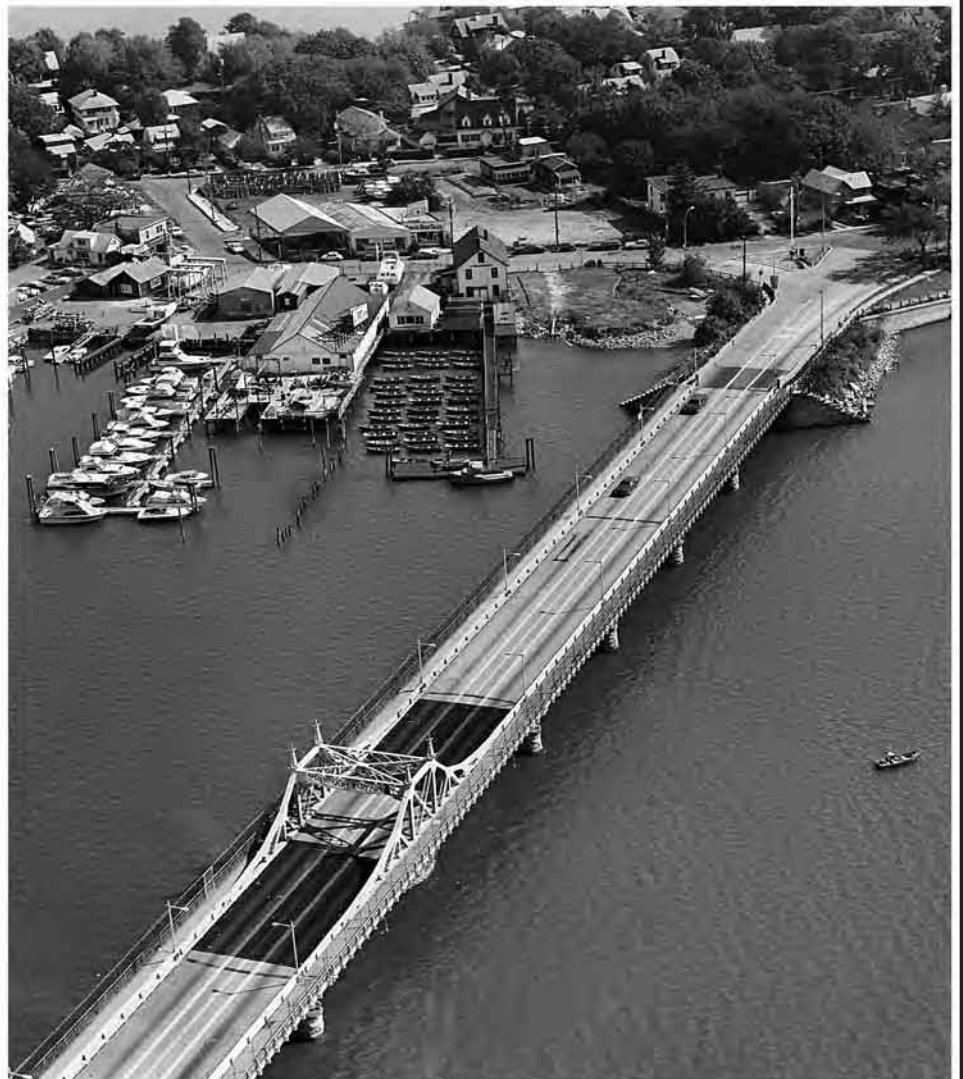
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St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The kindergarten children are finishing their discussion of hibernation and how animals and people adapt to the cold of winter. They are working on the concepts of between, after and before and are looking at solid objects, spheres and things that roll. The children are learning the letters N and P and the at, an, and ap word families. The cooking project for December is a marshmallow snowman.

The first-graders are focusing on Advent and preparation for Christmas. They are learning vowels and concentrating on the short i. Map reading is being introduced.

Grade 2 is putting up a Giving Tree, which they are decorating with hats, mittens and scarves that will be donated to needy children. The class will write a letter to Mrs. Claus inquiring as to how she is

doing this holiday season.

The third-graders are eagerly looking forward to a class trip to the Intrepid. The class will donate mittens and hats to the Giving Tree and will also have a food collection. Mrs. Guarino will read to the class the short story "The Magic Sled." Students will then imagine themselves as passengers on the sled and write stories about what they see and feel on their imaginary trip.

Grade 4 had a wonderful time on its recent trip to Gracie Mansion. The students will write a congratulatory note to Mary on the birth of her son, Jesus. They will continue with their monthly book reports, and work with graphs and charts in math class.

The fifth grade is preparing the liturgy for the First Friday Mass. Christmas poetry is on the agenda, as well as a study of the planets and working with fractions.

Grade 6 also plans to write some holiday poetry, and for social studies each student will tackle the task of wrapping an Egyptian mummy.

The seventh-graders are studying genetics and learning why they are the way they are, as well as the role that DNA plays in shaping life. For social studies, the students will write their own advertising campaigns to promote exploration. They are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The lower grades will present a musical

entitled "The Christmas Corral," a Western theme play that will include music and dancing. The show will be presented on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. The upper grades will present "A Night Before Christmas Caper," a musical who-done-it in a film noir style. This will be performed on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.

Special dates for St. Mary's are as follows: Dec. 1, school reopens after Thanksgiving recess; Dec. 5, First Friday Mass at 9 a.m. and end of the first trimester marking period for grades K through 3; Dec. 8, school closed for Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Dec. 11 and 12, Christmas shows in gym at 7 p.m.; Dec. 15, report cards distributed to parents of grade K through 3 students, 3: 30 to 5: 30 p.m. only; Dec. 19, Christmas recess begins; Jan. 5, school reopens.

Public School 175

The boys and girls in kindergarten are all excited about the upcoming holidays. They are looking forward to the annual festivities, especially the making of gingerbread houses. In class the focus this month has been on both letter and number recognition.

The first-graders are making big plans for the holidays, examining various traditions that families share every year at this time and looking at the reasons for the cel-

ebrations and discussing just what constitutes a celebration.

The children in Grade 2 are busy learning to choose "just right" books for their independent reading. They are writing about themselves in writer's workshop. Parents are going to be surprised with a wonderful holiday gift! In math, the children are practicing making change, working with coin exchanges and estimating total costs.

The third-graders are continuing to work toward International Day by completing their second project, which consists of a family tree. In reading, they are focusing on non-fiction books and working on research reports based on the child's favorite animal. This is their way of connecting reading to writing.

Grade 4 is working hard to get ready for the ELA test in early February. In December, the students will be sharing their science book reports in preparation for the research of their science fair topics. They will also be busy preparing holiday projects and are looking forward to creating nautical-style ornaments to decorate a tree at the New York Botanical Garden.

The fifth-graders are very excited to have cast their musical production. "The Pajama Game" is off to a wonderful start. The children wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday!

Grade 6 is busy in many areas. The students are studying fractions and decimals in math, atoms and molecules in science, the continent of Asia in social studies and are working on their writing in language arts. There is emphasis on memorable language, strong beginnings, setting moods and cliff-hanging endings. All this and more!

The seventh-graders will soon begin literature circles in which students will choose their own books focusing on their own personal interests. They will also read four short stories and then have the opportunity to see them performed at the Chamber Theater. These include "The Tell-tale Heart," "The Necklace," "The Monkey's Paw" and "The Most Dangerous Game."

The students in Grade 8 are learning in social studies all about reconstruction and reform. They are also focusing on inequalities and graphing in math, and on biographies and autobiographies in language arts. They will also be exposed to non-fiction and historical fiction.

Congratulations to Grade 6 for being selected to go down to the NYC Board of Education Tweed Building-City Hall Academy. Details to follow.

Happy holidays to one and all and best wishes for the New Year!

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---	--



Thanksgiving

A yearly classic staple is the original **Miracle on 34th Street** (1947), starring Edmund Gwenn, the last minute stand-in for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Santa, as a kindly old man with whiskers who believes he is Kris Kringle, the real Santa Claus. Kris was hired by the bitterly divorced Doris Walker (Maureen O'Hara), who has taught her daughter Susan (Natalie Wood) to be realistic about life, which includes the fact that there is no Santa Claus. Romantic interest is provided by neighbor Fred Gailey (John Payne), a lawyer who takes on the task of proving that Kris is Santa Claus in this perfect family film.

One of my favorite Woody Allen films is **Hannah and Her Sisters** (1986), which begins and ends at Thanksgiving. It is the story of Hannah (Mia Farrow), who is married to Elliott (Michael Caine), who lusts after her sister Lee (Barbara Hershey), who lives with the tormented artist Frederick (Max Von Sydow). It is also the story of Hannah's ex-husband, Mickey (Woody Allen), a hypochondriacal television executive overwhelmed with the fear of dying, and of Hannah's other sister, Holly (Dianne Wiest), who desperately wants to find a man to love. This is an extremely well-written film with a lovely mix of funny and poignant moments.

On a lighter note is John Hughes's **Planes, Trains and Automobiles** (1987), which stars Steve Martin as the fastidious Neal Page and John Candy as the slovenly Del Griffith. The two frantically want to get from LaGuardia to Chicago O'Hare airport on Thanksgiving, but their trip home goes awry as these strangers wind up spending two torturous days together.

Jodie Foster's **Home for the Holiday** (1995) has a stellar cast that begins with Holly Hunter as Claudia Larson, who goes to visit her parents (Anne Bancroft and Charles Durning) on Thanksgiving after she has lost her job in Chicago. Her parents make her crazy, but to her great surprise, her gay brother, Tommy (Robert Downey Jr.), arrives with his friend Leo (Dylan McDermott) and brings zaniness along with them. When Claudia's very straight-laced sister and brother-in-law (Cynthia Stevenson and Steve Guttenberg) show up, the madness escalates in a that film truly captures the chaos of emotions and activity of Thanksgiving.

The year 1997 brought us two serious films about family dysfunction. **The Ice Storm**, set in suburban America in the 1970s, is told from the point of view of Paul Hood (Tobey Maguire), who comes home from college for Thanksgiving. This is a dark film about the deterioration of social mores. Ben Hood (Kevin Kline) is married to Elena (Joan Allen) but is having a joyless affair with a neighbor, Janey Carver (Sigourney Weaver),

whose husband, Jim (Jamey Sheridan), is never around. **The Myth of Fingerprints** stars Noah Wyle as Warren, who left home because of a failed relationship with the beautiful Daphne (Ariga Bereikis), but who returns home for Thanksgiving. There is a family secret involving one of his parents (Roy Scheider and Blythe Danner) that is revealed slowly and devastatingly. The cast also boasts Julianne Moore as Mia, Warren's oversexed sister, and Michael Vartan as his brother Jake, who is unsure how he feels about his girlfriend, Margaret (Hope Davis).

What's Cooking? (2000) is a wonderment of cultural diversity that also shows the marked similarities in families from all walks of life. It is the story of four different households preparing for and celebrating Thanksgiving in their respective Los Angeles homes. They include the wealthy African-American Williams family, portrayed by Alfre Woodard and Dennis Haysbert with angst played to perfection while dinner is cooked under the watchful eye of the meddling, tactless mother-in-law, Grace (Ann Weldon). Then there is the Mexican-American Avila family, which gathers for a traditional Latino Thanksgiving feast. Mercedes Ruehl is spectacular as Elizabeth, the school teacher matriarch who has been abandoned by her philandering husband, Javier (Victor Rivers), but who is beginning to find happiness with her new friend (A Martinez).

A conventional middle-class Jewish family is represented by the Seeligs, with Lainie Kazan and Maury Chaykin as Ruth and Herb. Although they try to be accepting parents in a world they don't understand, they are mortified when their beloved daughter, Rachel (Kyra Sedgwick), brings home her lesbian lover Carla (Julianna Margulies). The fourth family, the Nguyens, include three generations of Vietnamese immigrants who live under one roof, trying to survive in the United States by running a multilingual video store. Trinh (Joan Chen) wants to prevent keep her family from being assimilated and sometimes bristles from the wisdom shared by her mother (Kieu Chinh).

What's Cooking? is a well written film of four mothers who try to keep their families together, all of their stories interwoven in a masterpiece of editing that keeps all the plots moving along and is somehow is easy to follow. The juxtaposition of all the family angst, as well as the similarity and diversity of the various traditions, are all familiar to the audience who learn to care a great deal about the fate of the characters. This is a wonderful film that should be a part of everyone's Thanksgiving this year.

The perfect Thanksgiving film this year is **Pieces of April**, with Katie Holmes in the title role as April Burns, a tattooed family outcast, who lives in a ghetto with her sweet and loving boyfriend, Bobby (Derek Luke, who played Antwone Fisher). When April invites her ailing mother (Patricia Clarkson) and father (Oliver Platt) to dinner, with her sister (Alison Pill), brother (John Gallagher Jr.) and Grandma (Alice Drummond), she spends half the day meeting the people who live in her building because she is on a quest for a working oven in which to cook the turkey. This is a very special film that makes you want to laugh and cry.

Be safe, and until next time, happy viewing....



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Obituaries

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

Charles Andrew Schmidt

Charles Schmidt, former City Islander, died in his home in Lakewood, New Jersey, on Nov. 12, 2003 after a brief illness. He was 67 years old.

Charley, as his friends knew him, was born on Sept. 19, 1936, in New York and grew up on City Island. Charlie worked for the S.S. Barber Line before enlisting in the Army. He served in Vietnam as a tail gunner.

Upon his return, he met and married his wife, Terry, in 1965. He worked for NYNEX Telephone Company for 30 years and retired in 1991. He continued to work part time for the state of New Jersey for the next 10 years, helping the handicapped.

Charlie was an avid reader and he enjoyed computers, fishing and golf. Flags



will be flown at half-staff for the remainder of the year at the Lakewood Golf course, where he played. Charlie is predeceased by his father, Charles Schmidt, and survived by his mother, Harriet Schmidt of City Island; Terry Schmidt Bauer, Edward Bauer of Brick, New Jersey; nephews, Michael and James; nieces, Loretta, Eileen and Tricia; and his beloved dog, Jesse.

His friends and family will dearly miss Charlie.



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The Hon. Stephen
Member of Assembly — 82nd District



Photo by RENA HANSEN

The 2003 ING New York City Marathon drew a record field of more than 34,000 runners for the annual five-borough race on November 2. Martin Lel of Kenya completed the 26.2 miles with a time of 2 hours 10 minutes 30 seconds. Margaret Okayo, also of Kenya, was the first woman across the finish line, in a course record 2:22:31.

Pictured above are the City Island marathon runners (l. to r.): Dave Kos, Marje Kos and Mike Rauh. Completing his 26th consecutive N.Y.C. Marathon was not so easy for Mike, who felt the effects of the day's balmy temperatures and finished in 5:11. Not pictured is Dr. Kerry Murphy of Minneford Avenue, who completed her seventh N.Y.C. Marathon in 4:03. Kerry took part in the New York race for the first time in 11 years.

Marje and Dave returned to volunteering at the New York City race, using their ham radio skills. Marje was in the small electric car that accompanied the lead woman, and got to see the top three women come across the finish line, all in record time. Dave was in the car accompanying the lead man. Dave and Marje then ran in the Philadelphia Marathon on Nov. 23, 2003. Marje finished in 4:26 and Dave in 4:30.

Russell Schaller 885-3089

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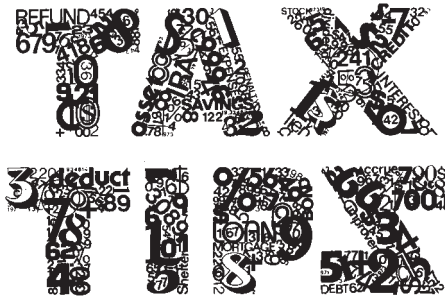
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

YEAR-END TAX PLANNING FOR 2003

There is always a plethora of ideas to make some last-month adjustments to reduce taxes at the end of a calendar year. The discussion below offers some food for thought based mostly on new developments for 2003. The efficacy of the following items for tax reduction will depend on individual facts and circumstances and estimates of future income levels and taxes.

Using Capital Losses: For sales of assets after May 5, 2003, there is a maximum tax rate of 15 percent applicable to long-term capital gains of individual taxpayers. For 2003, the maximum tax rate on ordinary income is 35 percent. If you have a net capital loss for the year or a net capital loss carryover, the capital loss can be used to offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income in a given year. Of course, capital gains are first netted against any capital losses before remaining losses can be deducted from ordinary income. So if you have a \$3,000 capital loss and a \$3,000 long-term capital gain for the year, the loss eliminates taxation on the gain, which otherwise would have produced a tax of \$450 ($\$3,000 \times 15$). However, if you have \$3,000 of capital loss and no capital gain for the year, the capital loss is deducted against ordinary income, taxable at rates up to 35 percent. At the maximum rate, the capital loss produces a tax savings of \$1,050 ($\$3,000 \times .35$). This is \$600 more than the savings that result if the capital loss is absorbed by long-term capital gains. Therefore, if you have capital losses or a loss carryover this year, try to limit your capital gains for the year, at least to the extent that you will have \$3,000 of capital losses left over to deduct against ordinary income taxable at higher rates. Deferring an asset sale that would produce taxable gain into 2004 might accomplish this result, depending on your overall situation.

Lower Tax Rates on Dividends: As you probably know, most corporate dividends are now taxable at a maximum rate of 15 percent for individual taxpayers. What you may not know is that for taxpayers whose marginal rate does not exceed 15 percent (that is, taxpayers whose taxable income does not exceed the 10 or 15 percent tax bracket amounts), the tax rate on dividends is now 5 percent! This presents an opportunity for income shifting by means of transferring dividend-paying stocks to lower-bracket family members who are not subject to the "kiddie" tax (that is, not under the age of 14). For 2003, single taxpayers with taxable income up to approximately \$28,000 will have a marginal tax rate of 15 percent and therefore will get the benefit of the 5 percent tax on dividend income. To effectively transfer taxation of income, however, the ownership of the asset itself must be transferred to the lower-bracket taxpayer (unless an appropriate form of trust is used), rather than just an income interest in the asset.

First-Year Cost Recovery Deductions for Business Autos and Other Vehicles: One component of the 2003 tax law changes was the introduction of 50 percent first-year "bonus" depreciation. This provision increases the 30 percent first-year bonus depreciation (which is still available in lieu of the 50 percent bonus if the taxpayer so elects) that was enacted last year. The bonus provisions enable taxpayers to add 50 percent of an asset's cost to the regular depreciation deduction that is available for the first year an asset is placed in service. For a business automobile the regular first-year deduction is 20 percent. This means that up to 70 percent of a car's cost can be depreciated in the first year without even using the Sec. 179 expensing election discussed below.

However, there are dollar amount limits on the annual cost recovery for business automobiles. These limits apply to total cost recovery deductions for a given vehicle, including Sec. 179 expensing, bonus depreciation, and regular depreciation. The first-year dollar amount limit for autos placed in service in 2003 is \$10,710 if the taxpayer uses the 50 percent bonus depreciation (\$7,660 if the taxpayer uses the 30 percent bonus). There is a somewhat higher limit for vans and light trucks.

Assuming the auto is used 100 percent for business and the 50 percent bonus is used, taxpayers can combine the expensing election, bonus depreciation, and regular depreciation to currently deduct virtually all of a new car's cost up to the \$10,710 limit. Cost in excess of that amount is deductible over the rest of the 5-year recovery period, subject to lower annual limitations for example, \$4,900 in the second year.

That's not too bad: Recent tax changes have liberalized the rules for writing off business cars. But there is a large loophole here that involves two different tax rules. The first rule is the increase in the annual amount of the first-year expensing election. The amount has been increased from the old limit of \$25,000 per taxpayer per year to \$100,000 per year for 2003, 2004, and 2005. Basically, the expensing election allows taxpayers to currently deduct the cost of tangible personal property (including autos) used for business rather than depreciating the cost over a longer recovery period. Any cost left over after the expensing election is used is then depreciated over the normal recovery period, which for cars is 5 years.

The second rule involves exceptions to the dollar amount limits for cost recovery of autos as discussed above. If the business vehicle is a light truck or van specially modified for business use, or if the vehicle weighs more than 6,000 pounds, the annual dollar amount limits on cost recovery do not apply. This means that taxpayers can expense up to \$100,000 of the cost of such a vehicle, then apply the 50 percent bonus depreciation, then add the regular 20 percent bonus depreciation to the total first-year cost recovery for the vehicle.

Example: You purchase a new model year 2004 SUV in December 2003 and you are subject to the marginal tax rate of 35 percent. The SUV weighs 6,500 pounds and it is placed into 100 percent business use and the cost of the vehicle is \$150,000. You may be able to use the expensing election to deduct \$100,000 of the cost. Next, you can claim the 50 percent bonus depreciation on the remaining \$50,000 of cost basis, for bonus deduction of \$25,000. Finally, you can also apply the regular 20 percent first-year depreciation to the remaining \$25,000 of the cost basis (\$5,000), for a total cost recovery amount of \$130,000 in the first year! The

total tax savings for the 35 percent tax bracket in this example is therefore \$45,500 ($\$130,000 \times .35$). This leaves you with only \$20,000 of the original \$150,000 cost not recovered for current year tax purposes.

Remember that the expensing election limit of \$100,000 applies cumulatively to all qualifying property that the taxpayer places into service for the year, not on a per property basis. Also, if the taxpayer places into service more than \$400,000 of property qualifying for expensing in one year, the \$100,000 limit is reduced dollar for dollar as the total amount of such property increases. So it is advisable to keep purchases of such property at or below \$100,000 per year if at all possible from a business tax standpoint.

Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums for Self-Employed Taxpayers: Sole proprietors, partners, and S-Corporation owner/employees may claim an above-the-line deduction for 100 percent of qualified long-term care premiums paid on behalf of themselves, their spouses, or dependents during 2003. That's right this item is no longer subject to a floor on itemized deductions limitation. Those eligible for the deduction include taxpayers who are full-time employees but who also have a moonlighting business for which they file a Schedule C along with their Form 1040, so long as the taxpayer or his or her spouse is not eligible for any employer-sponsored subsidized long-term care insurance plan. Note, however, that the deductible amount is subject to the same age-based premium limitations provided by statute.

Tax Timing with Checks and Credit Cards: For most income tax purposes, a deductible expense paid with a credit card is deemed made at the time of the transaction. For example, a charitable contribution or business expense made by a cash-basis taxpayer is deductible in the year the charge is made, regardless of whether the bill is actually paid in the same year. A payment by check is also deemed made when the check is physically delivered, or when it is post-marked if sent by mail. Be aware, however, that this rule does not apply for gift tax purposes. Gifts made by check must actually be presented for payment currently in order for the gift to be treated as having been made in the current year if you want the gift to qualify for the annual gift tax exclusion. The amount of the annual gift tax exclusion for 2003 is \$11,000 per donee and twice that amount if a married couple gives a joint gift.

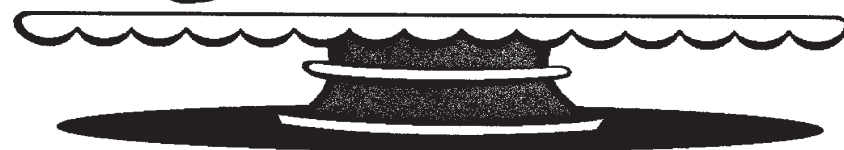
Social Security Wage Base: The wage base for 2003 was \$7,000. This amount for 2004 was recently announced as \$87,900. Taxpayers who have some control over how much money they make may wish to receive additional earned income in excess of \$87,000 this year rather than next, especially if the taxpayer expects that income will drop below the wage base next year. Earned income in excess of \$87,000 is not subject to the 12.4 percent FICA tax, which is 6.2 percent for employees. However, the 2.9 percent Medicare tax, which is 1.45 percent for employees, applies, regardless of your income level.

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 HH = hours; MM = minutes.
Tide chart by Tom Smith

DECEMBER 2003

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0604	7.1	1228	0.7	1832	7.0			Mon 01
02 Tue	0055	0.5	0701	7.3	1327	0.5	1930	7.0	Tue 02
03 Wed	0149	0.5	0754	7.5	1421	0.3	2022	7.0	Wed 03
04 Thu	0238	0.5	0842	7.6	1511	0.1	2110	7.0	Thu 04
05 Fri	0323	0.5	0927	7.7	1556	-0.1	2155	7.0	Fri 05
06 Sat	0404	0.6	1008	7.7	1638	-0.2	2237	7.0	Sat 06
07 Sun	0440	0.6	1044	7.6	1716	-0.1	2316	6.9	Sun 07
08 Mon	0508	0.7	1114	7.5	1749	0.0	2349	6.8	Mon 08
09 Tue	0524	0.8	1129	7.5	1816	0.1			Tue 09
10 Wed	0014	6.7	0542	0.8	1146	7.5	1832	0.2	Wed 10
11 Thu	0028	6.7	0614	0.8	1216	7.5	1855	0.2	Thu 11
12 Fri	0055	6.8	0653	0.9	1254	7.5	1929	0.3	Fri 12
13 Sat	0131	6.9	0737	0.9	1337	7.5	2010	0.3	Sat 13
14 Sun	0214	7.0	0825	0.9	1424	7.4	2056	0.4	Sun 14
15 Mon	0302	7.1	0918	0.9	1517	7.2	2146	0.4	Mon 15
16 Tue	0354	7.2	1016	0.8	1614	7.0	2240	0.4	Tue 16
17 Wed	0451	7.4	1120	0.6	1716	6.9	2337	0.3	Wed 17
18 Thu	0551	7.6	1232	0.3	1823	6.8			Thu 18
19 Fri	0039	0.2	0652	7.8	1351	-0.1	1931	6.8	Fri 19
20 Sat	0143	0.0	0753	8.1	1500	-0.6	2038	7.0	Sat 20
21 Sun	0248	-0.2	0853	8.4	1600	-1.0	2140	7.1	Sun 21
22 Mon	0350	-0.4	0950	8.5	1657	-1.3	2238	7.3	Mon 22
23 Tue	0449	-0.5	1045	8.6	1751	-1.4	2334	7.4	Tue 23
24 Wed	0547	-0.5	1140	8.5	1843	-1.3			Wed 24
25 Thu	0029	7.4	0644	-0.4	1236	8.2	1936	-1.1	Thu 25
26 Fri	0125	7.3	0743	-0.2	1335	7.9	2030	-0.7	Fri 26
27 Sat	0224	7.2	0843	0.1	1438	7.5	2124	-0.3	Sat 27
28 Sun	0324	7.1	0946	0.3	1545	7.1	2220	0.1	Sun 28
29 Mon	0425	7.0	1050	0.5	1651	6.8	2317	0.4	Mon 29
30 Tue	0525	7.0	1152	0.6	1754	6.5			Tue 30
31 Wed	0013	0.7	0623	7.0	1252	0.6	1853	6.4	Wed 31

JANUARY 2004

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Thu	0105	0.7	0715	7.2	1345	0.4	1946	6.4	Thu 01
02 Fri	0155	0.8	0806	7.3	1437	0.3	2036	6.5	Fri 02
03 Sat	0242	0.8	0853	7.3	1524	0.1	2123	6.5	Sat 03
04 Sun	0325	0.8	0936	7.4	1607	0.1	2207	6.6	Sun 04
05 Mon	0403	0.8	1015	7.4	1646	0.0	2247	6.7	Mon 05
06 Tue	0435	0.8	1046	7.4	1721	0.0	2322	6.7	Tue 06
07 Wed	0458	0.7	1105	7.5	1749	0.0	2346	6.8	Wed 07
08 Thu	0523	0.6	1124	7.8	1810	-0.1			Thu 08
09 Fri	0002	6.9	0556	0.5	1155	7.7	1833	-0.1	Fri 09
10 Sat	0028	7.1	0634	0.3	1232	7.7	1905	-0.2	Sat 10
11 Sun	0104	7.3	0716	0.2	1314	7.7	1943	-0.2	Sun 11
12 Mon	0145	7.4	0802	0.2	1400	7.5	2025	-0.2	Mon 12
13 Tue	0230	7.5	0851	0.2	1450	7.2	2112	-0.1	Tue 13
14 Wed	0320	7.5	0946	0.3	1544	6.9	2203	0.1	Wed 14
15 Thu	0414	7.5	1047	0.3	1645	6.5	2259	0.3	Thu 15
16 Fri	0514	7.4	1204	0.3	1753	6.3			Fri 16
17 Sat	0003	0.4	0620	7.4	1342	0.1	1913	6.2	Sat 17
18 Sun	0119	0.5	0734	7.5	1457	-0.3	2038	6.4	Sun 18
19 Mon	0248	0.3	0849	7.7	1559	-0.7	2146	6.7	Mon 19
20 Tue	0359	0.0	0956	8.0	1654	-1.0	2244	7.0	Tue 20
21 Wed	0458	-0.3	1055	8.1	1745	-1.2	2336	7.3	Wed 21
22 Thu	0553	-0.4	1149	8.2	1834	-1.2			Thu 22
23 Fri	0026	7.5	0645	-0.5	1240	8.0	1921	-1.0	Fri 23
24 Sat	0114	7.6	0735	-0.5	1331	7.8	2006	-0.7	Sat 24
25 Sun	0202	7.5	0825	-0.3	1421	7.4	2051	-0.4	Sun 25
26 Mon	0251	7.4	0916	0.0	1513	7.0	2136	0.1	Mon 26
27 Tue	0341	7.2	1010	0.3	1608	6.6	2222	0.5	Tue 27
28 Wed	0435	7.0	1106	0.6	1707	6.3	2312	0.8	Wed 28
29 Thu	0532	6.8	1205	0.8	1807	6.1			Thu 29
30 Fri	0006	1.1	0630	6.8	1304	0.8	1906	6.0	Fri 30
31 Sat	0104	1.3	0726	6.8	1359	0.8	2001	6.1	Sat 31

FEBRUARY 2004

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0158	1.3	0818	6.9	1449	0.7	2052	6.3	Sun 01
02 Mon	0247	1.2	0905	7.0	1535	0.5	2138	6.5	Mon 02
03 Tue	0331	1.1	0947	7.2	1616	0.3	2219	6.7	Tue 03
04 Wed	0407	0.9	1021	7.4	1652	0.1	2253	6.9	Wed 04
05 Thu	0438	0.6	1043	7.5	1721	-0.1	2316	7.1	Thu 05
06 Fri	0508	0.4	1105	7.7	1745	-0.2	2335	7.3	Fri 06
07 Sat	0541	0.1	1137	7.8	1810	-0.4			Sat 07



**WAITER, THERE'S
A SQUIRREL IN MY SOUP!**

As we recently admired a neighbor's jack-o'-lantern from afar, we were not a little surprised to see a bushy gray tongue that it seemed to be sticking out in our direction. A closer look, however, revealed the tongue to be a tail. Then, suddenly, the tail disappeared and out the eye came the entire intruder—a squirrel. We watched as the brazen rodent moved in and out of the thing, scraping away at that poor jack's insides, presumably for food.

Fortunately for us, we had not had the time to carve our own jack-o'-lantern this year. We barely had time for the plain Jane pumpkin out on the stoop. But we did it; and so roasting our gourd, in preparation for our annual roasted Halloween pumpkin soup, was no different this year than any other. There were seeds to remove, of course, but no squirrels. And we intend to keep it that way in the future, even if it

means hiring our own hawk to watch over things while we're not on guard.

After the big winds we had in November, our yard was more than ready for the rake. Where the leaves had piled up in a corner, the composting had already begun. Composting is nature's way of returning to the soil those nutrients it needs to sustain life. As plant and animal matter decomposes, the nutrients that once sustained life are released back into the soil where they can be recycled by new living things.

Thousands of microscopic (and some not so microscopic) decomposer organisms have been entrusted by nature with this awesome life-sustaining task we call composting. Perhaps the most familiar decomposer organism is the earthworm, who has been referred to by some as "a living soil factory." It eats decaying plant matter and excretes waste products called worm casts, little lumps of smooth soil you see in healthy soil everywhere.

We bet you've never realized that so much worm doo-doo was out there in the backyard you've been rolling around in all these years. If it's any consolation to you, neither have we.

One final item—the "City Is." sign in the City Island traffic circle. Are we mistaken, or is that one of the few New York City street signs to actually include the period in the abbreviation? Why not "City Is" like so many other "hwy" signs? Let us know what you think at jdsstrat@earthlink.net.

Oh, and, happy holidays to all!

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Christmas Schedule 2003



CONFESSIONS
Saturday, December 20
4:30 to 5:00

**LESSONS AND CAROLS
CONCERT**
Sunday, December 21st
7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
Carols, 7:15 PM
Masses: 8:00 PM &
12:00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY
Masses: 8:00, 10:00 AM and
12:00 Noon

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Mass 5:15 PM
(Anticipated Mass for Feast of Mary,
Mother of God)

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Masses: 8:00, 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

PIANO LESSONS: Lifetime experience teaching children and adults. My home on a Steinway Grand Piano. Willing to come to your home. Flexible hours. Call Diana 718-885-2091.

2 BEDROOM EXTRA LARGE APARTMENT for rent. \$1500 no fee, no dogs, washer/dryer, heat included. Available now. Call Jow @ 718-885-1944.

NYS REGENTS "MATH A" Preparation Course: Classes start December 13. Seating is extremely limited. Call John Konrath's Tutoring Service (718) 829-0234.

I BUY OLD BOOKS and some not so old. Call John for appointment. 718-885-1822. Appraisals and search service available.

MASSAGE THERAPY in the privacy of your home. Gift certificates, references available. John Raimondi, L.M.T. 718-885-0619.

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FOR SALE: Piano, Spinnet-Winter Royale. Very good condition. Asking \$1500. Vivi McGuire 718-885-1442.

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LAZY SUSAN'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE. LIVE MUSIC AND HOLIDAY FUN! Friday, December 5 Dawn and Greg 8pm., Friday, December 12th: Singing Christmas Tree 6:30pm. Pictures with Santa Claus for the kids 4-6pm. Sunday, December 14th: Christmas party! Pepe & Dr. Rick at 6pm. Friday, December 19th: Dawn and Greg 8pm. Sunday, December 21: Dawn & Greg 8pm. Wednesday, December 31, 2003 New Years Eve Party.

ENTERTAINMENT 2004 BOOKS: Being sold by Trinity Church. Save hundreds of dollars for only a \$27 investment and help us to reach our goal in the process! Terrific gifts! Donna 718-885-0931.

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We are very sorry we missed last month's issue, but here is an update. We held registration for the 2004 City Island Little League season on two dates in October and November. We currently have nearly 90 children signed up for the upcoming season. If anyone is interested in enrolling a child and has not yet done so, you may contact Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313 or e-mail us at cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com.

We will be holding a meeting for parents sometime in February to share with everyone the details for the winter program and a schedule of events for the season. Also, we hold monthly meetings on the last Thursday of every month (holidays excluded). Parents are encouraged to attend and volunteers are always welcome.

At this time, let me introduce the newly elected officers for the 2004 season: Irwin Weinfeld, president; Robert Whelan, vice president; Betty Barry, treasurer; George Spencer, recording sec-

retary; Larry Saulnier and Tom Vivola, information officers; Ed Esposito, player agent. We welcome all of the new officers and are looking forward to another successful season.

On behalf of the executive board, I would like to recognize our outgoing president, Chris McGuire, who has been instrumental in the recent success of the City Island Little League. He has been involved as a coach, manager and officer of the Little League for more than 15 fifteen years.

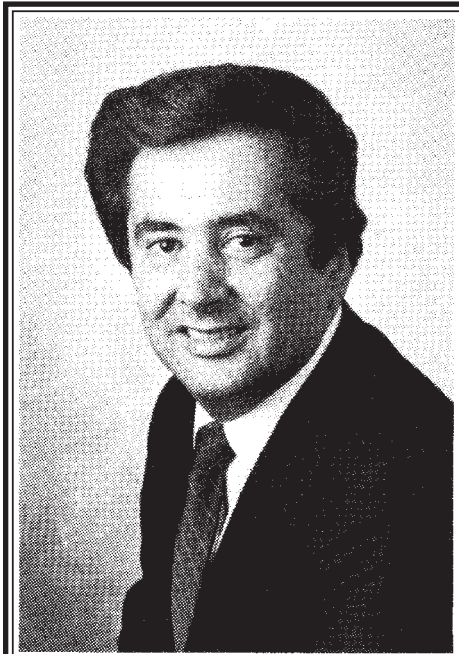
Without Chris's incredible persistence, the headquarters we now enjoy would not even exist. He donated countless hours, manpower, resources and sweat to make our facility a reality. It was not too long ago that our children didn't even have a bathroom at the field. Chris has been the driving force behind most of the improvements to the entire Ambrosini Field. Furthermore, he has touched the lives of countless children who have grown up in our Little League. Simply stated, on behalf of the executive board, all the members of the City Island Little League, the entire community and especially the players, **THANK YOU, CHRIS MCGUIRE!**

Larry Saulnier

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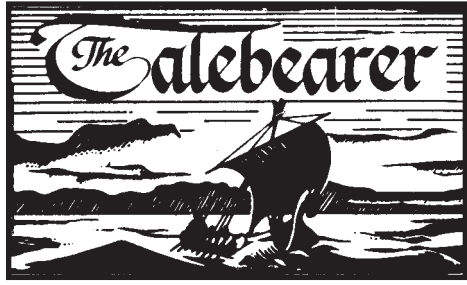
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued happiness to Buckley Street's Bette and Charlie Lacina, who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Nov. 22.

A fond farewell to long time City Island residents Anthony, Phyllis and Dawn LoPresti and Nettie (Grandma) DeLena, who will be taking up residence in Westchester. On Oct. 21, friends and neighbors gathered at Artie's to wish them good luck and much happiness in their new home. And a very happy birthday on Dec. 2 to Phyllis LoPresti, with love from the Back Road Gang.

Belated happy birthday wishes to Charlie Carman.

Can it be that Jane Byrnes (the baby of the group) is having a very special birthday on Dec. 14? Happy half century, Jane of Ridgefield fame!

Birthday greetings on Dec. 4 to Bay

Street's Mary Ann Emerick.

Happy birthday wishes across the miles to Anjulee Sebastian, who celebrates her big day on Dec. 22.

Happy quarter-of-a-century birthday to Mrs. Christa Cady, who will be 25 on Dec. 27. We love you, from Mom and Dad!

It's a special birthday on Jan. 4 for Jean Lachman; happy 75th birthday, Mom and Grandma!

Happy Dec. 10 birthday wishes to Ena Ellwanger, with love from your family and friends.

Dec. 15 is the day to wish Danny Zapata a very happy birthday, with love from the Carmody and Cebek families.

Very special happy 90th birthday wishes on Jan. 14 to Pilot Cove's Poet Laureate, Eb Riley, with love from your many friends and admirers.

For the first time ever, this past year, "The Talebearer" has been keeping track of the number of announcements of milestones sent to *The Island Current*. For those of you interested in facts and figures, here goes: 10 births, 141 "happy birthdays" and 6 wedding announcements. We've enjoyed sharing all your good news with our readers and hope you'll continue sending in those cards and letters.

We wish all our readers, friends and neighbors a wonderful and safe holiday season and all the best in the new year. See you in '04!

Maria Swieciki



On Oct. 21, 2003, friends and neighbors gathered at Artie's Restaurant to bid a fond farewell to the LoPresti family, longtime residents of King Avenue. Shown at the party are (seated, front l. to r): Grandma Nettie, Phyllis, Anthony and Dawn LoPresti.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Russell Schaller, (seated, center) King Avenue resident and Current cartoonist, celebrated his 80th birthday on Nov. 29, 2003, at the City Island Yacht Club with a large gathering of family and friends. Mr. Schaller is shown above with his children and grandchildren, who showered him with kisses and birthday wishes on his big day.



Islander Jim Kortleven and Kathleen Cullen were married at the City Island Yacht Club on Nov. 8, 2003, surrounded by family and friends.

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Good friends and neighbors like all of you make the holidays truly wonderful. Thanks!

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