

The Island Current

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One Dollar

FIRE DAMAGES ISLAND APARTMENT BUILDING

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The fire that broke out on the second floor of 212 City Island Avenue on April 6, 2010, was quickly brought under control, thanks to the fast response of the City Island fire engine and ladder companies.

The all-too-familiar sound of fire trucks racing across the City Island Bridge alerted residents on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 6, 2010, that City Island was once again at risk of serious damage caused by fire. The location this time was the apartment building at 212 City Island Avenue, across from the bank, and the cause of the fire, which started in the front apartment on the second floor, is under investigation by the Fire Department.

As expected, the City Island fire trucks showed up in less than three minutes after they were alerted, although it is not clear exactly how they got the alarm. Joe Rodriguez, who lived in the third-floor front apartment, above the fire, called 911 at 3:50 p.m. but he told *The Current* that the 911 operator kept asking questions rather than referring his call to the Fire Department, and he hung up in frustration. The Fire Department told *The Current* that the call came in at 3:50, however, so it is likely that the operator went ahead and referred the call to the appropriate dispatcher.

At about the same time, Island resident Flo Bonicoro came out of the bank and headed south on the Avenue to the corner of Winter Street. When she looked north to check for oncoming traffic before crossing the street, she saw flames shooting out of the second floor of the building. She noticed the fire box at the corner, broke it open and told the operator that there was a fire on City Island Avenue "across from the bank." She told *The Current* that she had no idea these boxes still worked, nor did Dave Carman, whose service station is on that corner.

The one-alarm blaze brought 12 other units to the Island, with 60 firefighters, and the fire was brought under control at 4:32 p.m. Ambulances were also on hand in case there were injuries related to the fire, but Deputy Chief Tom Dunne told *The Current* that no one had been injured. The fire was apparently contained within the apartment



Photo by RON TERNER

Walter Henning, Island resident, was one of the City Island firefighters who responded quickly to the alarm.

where it started; the upstairs apartment was seriously damaged by smoke, and the firefighters had to remove windows and break through walls to be sure the fire had not traveled up. There was also water damage to other apartments in the building. The Deputy Chief was heard telling firefighters not to break the third-floor windows but to remove them from the frames; he also instructed the men to replace them before leaving the scene.

Marsha Treiber, the *Current's* movie columnist, lives on the second floor of the building, and she told *The Current* that her apartment escaped "miraculously unscathed," thanks to the quick work of the City Island firefighters. "If we had not had our ladder company that day," she said, "I would have lost everything I own. One of the Co-op City firefighters told

Continued on page 12

PLAY BALL!



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Opening day of the City Island Little League on Saturday, April 17, brought out elected officials Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Council Member James Vacca, who congratulated the new president, John Tomsen (in back), the outgoing president Bob Whelan (not pictured) and his wife, longtime volunteer Anna Whelan (with flowers) and Mrs. Anthony Ambrosini, for whose late husband the Little League Park is named (top photo). Once the ceremonies were complete, the games began and the season was underway.

FIFTIETH+ REUNION!



Photo courtesy of BARBARA HARRISON

St. Mary, Star of the Sea's class of 1958 enjoyed its 50th reunion so much in 2008 that the alums have been celebrating with spring and fall get-togethers ever since. At this year's gathering on April 18, they attended 12 o'clock Mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by dinner at the Lido Restaurant. The party included (standing, l. to r.): Tom Woods, Walter Henning '58, John Neuner '58, Carmella Henning, Bill Mueller '58, Rosetta Shandley Woods '58, Barbara Harrison, Darrell Smith, Charles Carman, Mary Fogarty Carman '58; and (seated l. to r.): Angela Mueller, Patricia Wennberg Del Guidice '58, DeliaTherault Cacace '58, Jane Genovese Gelsi '58, and Carol (Bunny) Sullivan Giacobelli '58.

BRIEFLY...

BLOOD DRIVE: The Bronx Masons will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, May 11, between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street (two blocks up from second traffic light). Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or Signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS SUPPORT GROUP: A series of support group sessions for older individuals living with chronic illnesses such as MS, Parkinson's and cancer will begin on Tuesday, May 11, at 12 noon at Grace Church Hall. The sessions will be led by JASA social worker Dvora Lazarov, who is experienced with facilitating groups dealing with various illnesses. The program is sponsored by JASA (Jewish Association for the Aged) and PSS City Island Senior Programs. To enroll, or for more information, call Patty Grondahl at 718-885-1891.

DRAMA CLASS SHOW: The City Island Community Center will present "Duh Best Fairy Tale Mix Ever: Hoodies, the Next Generation" on Thursday May 20, at 7 p.m. and on Friday, May 21, at 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Free admission, but donations to the Community Center will be welcome.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SPRING CAFÉ AND TAG SALE: Grace Church will hold its annual Spring Café and Tag Sale on Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering high-quality new and used items and decadent baked creations from parish kitchens. Stop by the popular Spring Café for a delicious light lunch and a cup of coffee or tea. All proceeds from the Café and Tag Sale will go to support the ministries of Grace Church. If you have any items you have decided to part with after spring cleaning, we will gladly give them a new home. Donation drop off dates are May 13 and 14 between 4 and 8 p.m. Grace Church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street.

DON'T MISS "BLITHE SPIRIT": The current presentation of the City Island Theater group is Noel Coward's classic comedy "Blithe Spirit." Performance dates are April 30, May 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and May 2 at 3 p.m. in the Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com right away to reserve your tickets.

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS: The City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, will hold its second annual exhibition of art work by City Island artists. There are no entry fees, all media and styles are welcome but all pieces should reference City Island in some way. Space is limited, so it will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Artists should expect to leave their work in the museum for three months. The deadline for submission is May 16. There will be an opening reception for the exhibit on Sunday, May 23 from 1-4 p.m.. Please call Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at 718-885-0933 to submit work for the exhibit.

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON: This year's festive luncheon will be held at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street on Thursday, June 17, at noon. Tickets are \$35 each. To reserve a seat, please call Ruth at 718-885-1361. Don't forget to support the Garden Club's annual Beautification Fund this year; send donations to Susan Strazzera at 108 Ditmars Street, City Island, NY 10464.

PROTEST THE PROPOSED WATER RATE HIKE: Councilman James Vacca invites all property owners and community leaders to speak out against the 12.9 percent increase in water rates proposed by the NYC Water Board. A public hearing will be held at P.S. 14, 3041 Bruckner Boulevard, on Thursday, May 6, at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.).

CITY ISLAND REUNION: On Aug. 21 this year, beginning at 11 a.m., there will be a huge City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field. Come celebrate with friends you haven't seen in days or decades! Admission is \$10 per person to cover expenses (tents, bandstand, Porta-potties, permits, clean-up, and miscellaneous items). Kids 12 and under get in free. All proceeds will be donated to the City Island Little League, so even if you're not sure you can attend, please donate anyway. If you would like to use this event as a fund-raiser for your City Island organization by selling snacks or beverages or other items, please e-mail us as soon as possible to make arrangements. We will be accepting requests on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information or to pay in advance, please e-mail cityisland-reunion@yahoo.com or visit the Facebook group The 2010 City Island Reunion. Hope to see you there!

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Photo by RICK DEWITT

The cast of Noel Coward's comedy classic "Blithe Spirit" at ease between rehearsals: (standing l. to r.): Nicolas Perugini and Matthieu Regney; seated (l. to r.): Carol Dooner, Camille Kaiser, Emily McSpadden, Susan Rauh, and Michelle Gonzalez. The play will be presented at Grace Episcopal Church Hall on April 30, May 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. and May 2 at 3 p.m. in the Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com right away to reserve your tickets.

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BRIDGE REPAIRS PIQUE ISLANDERS' CURIOSITY

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

In April 2010, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) began maintenance work on the City Island Bridge using two barges anchored off the southwest corner of the structure. The routine repairs sparked some Islanders' hopes that the city would abandon plans to replace the bridge. Above the water, another DOT crew was cleaning and maintaining the bridge walkways in April (left photo, l. to r.): Ruben Sanchez, Deborah Cavalieri and Ricardo Mariscal.

In April, the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) ordered two barges anchored alongside the City Island Bridge, and work began on the underside of the structure. This sparked hopeful speculation among Islanders that maybe the city decided to repair the bridge rather than replace it with the new cable-stayed structure proposed in 2002.

DOT commissioner Constance Moran was quick to tell *The Current* that "we are performing normal maintenance work. There are no closures involved with this work. There is no delay with the new bridge."

According to DOT, the current work is regular maintenance identified by an inspection team that surveys the bridge at least once every two years. The work

includes safety and structural repairs to protect maritime traffic. The maintenance work will take place from April to June 2010 with the crew working from Monday to Friday each week.

The repairs are considered "work over the water." Wooden shielding is being placed over some of the stringers and the concrete deck to prevent loose debris from falling into the water. In addition, the stones on the piers are being repointed.

The work is being done by a marine contractor from Long Island under the supervision of DOT. There are two barges in place along the southwest corner of the bridge. One barge has the boom and lifting equipment, while the other barge is mostly for materials and storage. The working barge is being moved around by a small

tugboat.

The barges were originally positioned on the northwest corner below the bridge, but they were moved when workers realized that power cables and gas lines were in the way. The barges are held in place by two spikes driven into the underwater surface close to the shoreline and the stone steps at the corners of the bridge.

In September 2002, about 200 Islanders and guests gathered on Catherine Scott Promenade in Bridge Park to celebrate the 101st birthday of the City Island Bridge. For many Islanders, it was also a show of unity for keeping the current bridge, which the DOT intends to replace with a new structure.

Although politicians had told Islanders in 2002 that the bridge was a done deal, they also said construction would begin in six years. Since nothing has started yet, residents took the recent repair work as a sign that maybe the city had abandoned plans to replace the quaint structure.

Longtime resident Ed Sadler of the City Island Historical Society is one of the few Islanders who still remembers when the bridge was turned by six men walking in circles to allow boats to pass between Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay. He also remembered two of the bridge ten-

ders, Matt Mulligan and Wilson Reynolds, who were stationed in a bridge house that used to be on the northwest corner over the bridge. Mr. Reynolds kept the bridge "clean and in good shape by sweeping it every day," said Mr. Sadler. Mr. Reynolds reported to former Islander Arthur Rauhauser, who oversaw all the Bronx bridges at the time for Harlem River Division of the city's bridge operations. Mr. Rauhauser was the father of current Horton Street resident Ducky Rauhauser.

The city is still doing similar clean-up work on the bridge although there are no permanent bridge tenders anymore. Another DOT crew was working on April 23 on the bridge walkways doing "preventative maintenance." The team, not related to the crew working below ground level, was cutting the grass, sweeping up the garbage and performing other work to keep the walkways clean and clear. They told *The Current* that they are assigned to clean up the City Island Bridge walkways approximately every two weeks in the spring and summer months.

So with the 109-year old structure getting some TLC in 2010, some residents remain hopeful that the city, with all its financial woes, will give up on the new bridge and continue to maintain the historic structure.

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HERSTORY MONTH



Photos by RON TERNER

Committee members and guests gathered at the City Island Annual Women's Herstory Month Celebration held recently at the Community Center (l. to r.): Tina DeWitt; Assembly Member Michael Benedetto, holding the citation he presented to the organization; Violet Smith; celebration coordinator Toby Liederman; former City Council Member Madeline Provenzano, who spoke about the 19th Amendment; Eleanor Rae; Inge Unger; Jo Heck; Cassandra Campbell; Susan Bellinson; and Pat Grondahl, recipient of the Anne Hutchinson Award.



LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON BEGINS WITH A BANG. ANNA WHELAN THROWS OUT THE FIRST PITCH.	LOCAL EDITOR THAWS OUT AFTER SPENDING 3 NIGHTS IN ICELAND VOLCANO DEBACLE.	PAPA JOHN'S CELEBRATES 10 YEARS ON CITY ISLAND.	FLURRY OF BRIDGE ACTIVITY ENCOURAGES ISLANDERS THAT NEW CONSTRUCTION MAY NOW BE IN ABEYANCE.
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We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To the Editor:

Everyone knows that City Island is a very unique place. What makes it extraordinary is the people. On March 24, 2010, our beloved son and brother, Raymond, died in a tragic motorcycle accident. There aren't any words that can explain our grief. My family and I would like to sincerely thank the entire City Island community for its outpouring of love and support in our time of greatest need. Everyone was so generous and thoughtful. People and businesses sent food, cooked meals, walked the dog, made airport runs, brought clothes to the cleaners and cradled us in their arms while we cried. Raymond's funeral was a tribute to his life. This would not have been possible without the help and guidance of Chris and Virginia McGuire, Dino and Holly Esposito, Aimee Breen, and John and Ann Livingston. My family and I will forever be indebted to them.

Our sincerest thanks to Father Michael Challinor and our many friends for coming to the hospital to offer their prayers and support. Tommy McMahon led many of us in the rosary. My family and I are blessed to have such wonderful friends and to live in an extraordinary community. Please accept our sincerest heartfelt thank you. God bless you all.

The Pena Family,
Diane, Bob, Bobby, Richie and Ryan

Deer Signs for Park

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Commissioner Constance Moran
Bronx Department of Transportation
1400 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

I write to you again requesting that deer signs be installed throughout Pelham Bay Park. I have written to you on Nov. 30, 2007, and April 5, 2009, to request this but never received a response. The New York Times has written in the past regarding this request by many in the City Island community. Marianne Anderson, Pelham Bay Parks Administrator, also wrote to you last year on March 25, 2009, to add her voice supporting my request for deer signs.

In addition, last year, my office submitted the insurance record of one constituent who had hit a deer in 2006. Since that time, as is the case every fall, we have heard from several in the community about collisions or near-miss accidents. And as is the case in many of these situations, constituents are reluctant to contact authorities and file

a claim as there is no other party with insurance. However, my office used the Freedom of Information Law to obtain records showing two previous accidents unrelated to the first we brought to your attention. One accident occurred in November of 2008 (Case: 2008-32877449) and another in October 2006 (Case: 2006-32024432). Thankfully, there have been no humans killed yet.

With this in mind, I would again renew my request for your agency to install deer signs throughout Pelham Bay Park. I would even be willing to allocate state funding to produce and install these signs. The installation of these signs and the very positive benefits they would serve for the safety of my constituents are a priority for me. I hope you will consider my request and advise us as to a time frame for your response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any additional information, please call John Doyle in my Bronx District Office at 718-822-2049. We look forward to your response.

Senator Jeffrey D. Klein
Deputy Majority Leader
New York State Senate

One Man's Opinion

To the Editor

It's great to have a "man's" barber on City Island. I gave Roman of Hollywood Barber (403 City Island Avenue) a try and got the best haircut I've had in years. Let's help this new business thrive and hold a permanent place on our Island. Reasonable prices: Haircut \$12, Shape-up \$6, Hot Shave and Face Massage \$15, Beard Trim \$6, Goatee Trim \$3, Wash, Cut and Blow Dry \$15.

Walter Huffell

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All About Mom – City Island Style

By MONICA GLICK

How do you describe “mother?” For every word-picture, there’s a City Island business, gallery, shop or restaurant that also fits the bill, offering you a way to celebrate those special ladies in your life on May 9 and all month long.

NURTURING. There will be plenty of pampering available from Eva and her friends at the Art of Beauty Salon (240 City Island Avenue). Try one of the beauty specials, a way for Mom to foster a fabulous new look! Similar “taking care of you” experiences are on hand at Lina Petite Salon (474 City Island Avenue), not to mention the possibilities for hands and feet found at Bay Rose Nail Salon (329 City Island Avenue) or Nail Island (462 City Island Avenue). And while you’re thinking “salons,” stop by the Hollywood Barber Shop (403 City Island Avenue) to check out the possibilities next month for Dad on his special day!



Kaleidoscope Gallery

GENEROUS. That describes the options for gifts for Mom at City Island’s new Kaleidoscope Gallery (280 City Island Avenue). There are photographs by George Dean Callas, paintings from Lois Weingarten and Daniel Nisbeth, ceramics and images by Louis Mendez, Tatika crafts by Vicki, keepsakes to engrave by Susan and jewelry and other gifts by Paul Klein.

Calico Juno Designs (310 City Island Avenue) also offers endless possibilities for gift-giving, from Bonnie Riconda’s jewelry designs to artist-crafted scarves, bags and hats.

Moms will treasure the finds at any one of City Island’s antique shops: Early Ruth Antiques (319 City Island Avenue), Midtown Antiques (310 City Island Avenue), Silver Arrow Antiques (275 City Island Avenue) and Quality Antique Furniture (270 City Island Avenue). Mort and Violet Ellis of Midtown Antiques are marking 70 years of dealing in antiquities, and offering discounts on some items to celebrate that fact. Check out their deals!

And if you’re looking for a real generous option to reward Mom, consider what



Ohana’s

always fits—a gift card from Chase Bank (207 City Island Avenue).



Lickety Split

FUN. Remember how many times your mother made you smile? Well show her a good time with a visit to Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse (500 City Island Avenue). It’s theater with great food and table-side chefs who are as witty as they are talented with knife, food and fire.

Moms—and all of us, really—can’t help but smile at the thought of ice cream! Skip and Louise Giacco of Lickety Split (295 City Island Avenue) are deliciously scooping up a myriad of flavors and dishing them out, so enjoy!

And where can you get all you need for “Mom’s best friend”? Doggie Island (268 City Island Avenue), of course. Pick up some specialty food for your mother’s pet or take advantage of grooming services.

Or maybe think “happy” and visit Happy Hour at the Sea Shore Restaurant (591 City Island Avenue). Better yet, enjoy dinner there, on Mother’s Day or another May day, and finish up with La Renaissance, a dessert of layers of almond meringue filled with ganache cream, mocha butter cream and whipped cream in toasted almonds. Or have a “fun-fest” feasting on the lobster and snow crab leg options at The Harbor (565 City Island Avenue) next door.

SERIOUS. This can also describe Mom’s mood at times, so get serious about some food choices to treat the Mom in your life. And for food lovers, City Island restaurants have some seriously good—and diverse—options. There are plenty of seafood specialty spots, such as the Lobster Box (34 City Island Avenue), Sammy’s Fish Box (41 City Island Avenue) and the Original Sammy’s Shrimp Box Restaurant (64 City Island Avenue) at one end and the Lobster House (691 City Island Avenue) and JPs Restaurant (703 Minnieford Avenue) at the other end, or the Crab Shanty (361 City Island Avenue) in the middle.

Maybe food with a Spanish/Caribbean flair is Mom’s favorite, so stop in at Tapas City Island Restaurant & Lounge (435 City Island Avenue). If it’s a taste of Italy she craves, then try the Lido Restaurant (101 City Island Avenue) or Portofino (555 City Island Avenue). There’s even a special Mother’s Day event at the Lido! And for a related cuisine, try the northern Mediterranean fare at the Tree House (273 City Island Avenue), with their place for parties across the street at the Euro Café.

As you’re making your journeys up and down City Island Avenue, use the time wisely, planning ahead for Father’s Day in June and seeing the seriously excellent choices for fine cigars at Dom Amadiz Cigars (470 City Island Avenue). Or maybe Dad’s more into the sea, so you

might arrange diving lessons from Captain Mike (530 City Island Avenue), or see the options for fishing fun from Island Bait & Tackle (632 City Island Avenue) and Jack’s Bait & Tackle (551 City Island Avenue). And if Dad’s a “fixer,” there’s plenty on hand to help him from our two hardware stores: Buddy’s (260 City Island Avenue) and J.J. Burck (526 City Island Avenue).

BEAUTIFUL. Capture the beauty of Mom and all in the family with a portrait by Ron Turner of Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue). He’ll be offering a special price, \$15, for a family photo all Mother’s Day weekend. And check out his beautiful sterling silver jewelry options, a perfect gift for Mom any time!

Your mother’s closet will get more attractive once John McGowan gets a hold of it; his Extreme Closet Makeovers (292 City Island Avenue) is now open for business and ready to serve. Also open, helping us all to get gorgeous, is Krunch Time (538 City Island Avenue). Maybe you’re looking to beautify a body with art, and Tommy Houlihan is the one to talk to at City Island Tattoo (314 City Island Avenue).

If it’s a beautiful atmosphere your mother craves, then stop in to eat at Artie’s Steak & Seafood (394 City Island Avenue). The striking surroundings are only surpassed by the fine food selections.

THOUGHTFUL. Lots of thinking goes



Starving Artist

into the diverse lineup of talented music-artists who grace the stage of Starving Artist Café & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue). At the end of mothers’ month, come hear the Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick, who will present his thought-provoking and very romantic original songs on Saturday, May 29, at 8 p.m. And on Mother’s Day itself, there’s brunch at the Starving Artist, featuring the “golden voice” of City Island’s own Freddie Lando.

Give some thought to taking your mother away on a holiday, and Dianne and John from O’Sullivan’s Travel (travelo@aol.com) can help you find just the right spot.

Perhaps think of the past, and celebrate City Island’s rich history, at the City Island Historical Society (190 Fordham St.), which is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. and has some wonderful gifts that will please any mom, clam digger or muscle sucker!

If you’re thinking instead about just taking a break from it all, then pop in at Fella’s Bar (522 City Island Avenue). Or if it’s a family affair, then think “fun” at Seafood City (459 City Island Avenue), Tony’s Pier Restaurant (1 City Island Avenue) or Johnny’s Reef Restaurant (2 City Island Avenue).

KIND. Take it easy on Mom during May and order out! Try a delicious pizza pie from Filomena’s Pizza & Pasta (286 City Island Avenue), or any number of dishes from the City Island Chinese Restaurant (84-86 City Island Avenue). Or try something from the City Island Deli (520 City Island Avenue), now featuring food from Chef Rafael, who is cooking here while his To-Go Express gets rebuilt after the fire.

Be considerate, and make your mother a meal. You can find all you’ll need at IGA City Island Market (385 City Island Avenue), Moe’s Island Grocery & Deli (466 City Island Avenue) and Connie’s New Way Market (307 City Island Avenue). And while you’re at Connie’s, ask Sara to recommend

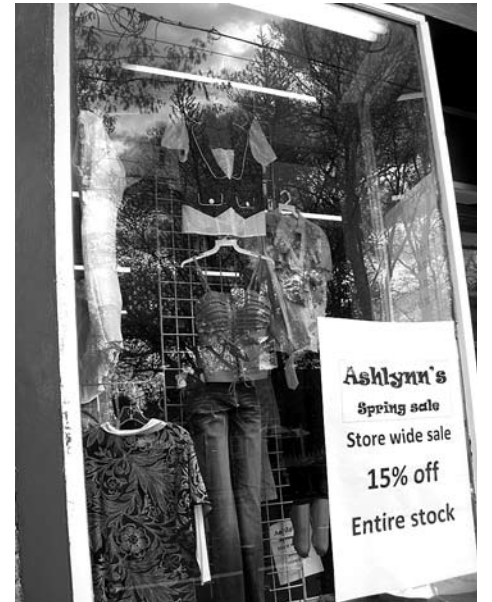


Connie’s Market

the longest-lasting flowers from their vast selection for your dinner table. There is sure to be a wine to match your meal, and lots more, at JGL Wines & Liquors (358 City Island Avenue).

IMAGINATIVE. That’s how you would describe the first Thursday of every month at Sugar and Spice (536 City Island Avenue) as Chef Alex Pertsovsky and Pastry Chef Virginia Ng create six-course dinners using foods of the season. In May they are looking to a Latin flare for the food and even added a first-Wednesday meal, so great is the demand.

Pushing the envelope of imagination is one of City Island’s newest businesses, Ash-



Ashlynn’s

lynn’s New Age Fashion (294 City Island Avenue). And your own imagination will be piqued as well by the gift offerings at Corona’s Hidden Treasures (327 City Island Avenue).

Let your imagination be free as you sit and enjoy a meal or a dessert in the Black Whale (279 City Island Avenue) garden, sure to be in full bloom and booming with diners in this mothers’ month. There is, of course, the world-class brunch at this City Island eatery for Mother’s Day or any Sunday. Or maybe you’ll want to take your mother to “dinner-and-a-movie” Tuesday here.

Imaginative art offerings can be found at Cheryl Brinker’s Studio/Gallery (276 City Island Avenue) and in the studio of Toby Z. Liederman, Ceramics...and More (30 Pilot Street).

UNSELFISH. Mom’s selfless attitude is found in the daily specials at Brian Dempsey’s Ale House (288 City Island Avenue), like \$4 burgers on Mondays and 20-cent chicken wings on Wednesdays.

There is a similar self-giving in every stitch of the creations for boats from Remy’s (272 City Island Avenue) and in every brushstroke by Mary Colby of Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery (276 City Island Avenue).

Be altruistic early one May morning and treat Mom to a delicious breakfast at Island Cafe (205 City Island Avenue) or Papa John’s Deli (325 City Island Avenue). Or maybe try something “on the go” from Dunkin’ Donuts (636 City Island Avenue).

Continued on page 14



Photo by MONICA GLICK

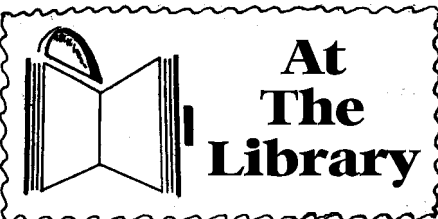
The Kaleidoscope Gallery opened in the former Exotiq International Arts location at 280 City Island Avenue with a reception on April 17.



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 Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, will open its exhibition "The Meaning of Motherhood" on May 7 with an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. The exhibition, which explores the concept of motherhood through the visual arts, will be on view through May 30. On June 4, the gallery will open "Here Comes the Sun," an exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs celebrating light, which will be on view through June. If you are an artist and would like to take part in either of these exhibitions, call 718-885-1403 to make an appointment to bring in your work. All work must be framed and ready to hang. There is a \$20 hanging fee for each framed piece and a 30 percent commission taken from the asking price.

Welcome to the Kaleidoscope Gallery, which opened its doors in April in the former Exotiq International Arts location at 280 City Island Avenue. Be sure to check out the new gifts, especially with Mother's Day around the corner.



Library Hours: Mondays and Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 1 to 6 p.m.; Fridays: 12 noon to 5 p.m.; Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Wednesdays, May 5 and 19, 10:30 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Pre-School Program: Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Ages 3 to 5.

Parents Workshop: "How to help your child succeed in doing research." Come join us on Wednesday, May 12, at 10:30 a.m.

Picture Book Program: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 11.

Spring Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, May 4, at 3:30 p.m.

Young Adult Programs

Graphic Novel Rewrite: Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Manga Overdrive: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Yu-Gi-Oh: Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Time Game On: Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In May the Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Ave.) starts out with an evening of friends and ends with the artist himself. On Saturday, May 1, City Islander John Scardina and his friends, including wife, Lucille Rivin, take the stage for an evening of original songs and old favorites, starting at 8 p.m. The Beatles tribute band, Rubber Soul, is with us, on Saturday, May 15, for two shows; the 9 p.m. show is virtually sold out, but there are still some seats left at the early show, at 6 p.m. Country music is on the bill on Friday, May 14, with the debut of Troy Willy, featuring City Islander Mike DiMaggio on harmonica. There's smooth jazz with Thieves and Poets on Sunday, May 16, from 3 p.m., and the following Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. brings Jon and Lynn to our stage. Check out Jon Burr videos on YouTube: his performance with Tony Bennett back when, and the Count Basie Orchestra. We will have a Mother's Day brunch on Sunday, May 9, with City Island's "golden voice," Freddie Lando; check our Web site for more details. And as the month ends, the Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick, takes the stage with his original songs on Saturday, May 29, at 8 p.m.; joining him is his lead guitar player, himself a soloist at the Artist, John Guth. For a more complete schedule, visit our web site at www.starvingartistonline.com, including details on our continuing Thursday night music series.

Adult Programs

Basic Computer Instruction: Tuesday mornings, 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian. Pre-registration is required.

Resumé Writing Workshop: Need help in writing or updating your resumé? Come to our workshop. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance.

Special Music Program, an opera, will be performed on Saturday, May 15, at 2 p.m.

Special Event: Come one, come all to the City Island Garden Club's "Garden Day at the Library." This event is for the beautification of the backyard reading room and garden, which is open to the public. Plants or seed donations accepted. Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

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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
33 Tier Street	1/20/10	\$720,000	Co-op
244 City Island Ave.	2/3/10	\$330,000	3 family
20 Earley Street	2/23/10	\$910,000	1 family
527 Minneford Ave.	4/7/10	\$456,500	1 family
67 Fordham Street	4/13/10	\$412,500	2 family

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Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

At the Basketball Awards Breakfast held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Sunday, March 28, State Senator Jeff Klein presented program directors Bob and Annamarie Whalen with a check for \$ 10,000 to complete an outside basketball court with portable hoops. The new court will provide a safe environment for the children to gather and play basketball. "We all want the best scholastically for our children," said Senator Klein, "but after-school activities are just as important."



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Papa John's Deli at 325 City Island Avenue celebrated its 10-year anniversary on April 3, 2010. Shown above at the celebration, which included face painting for the kids and refreshments for all, are (l. to r.): Juan Espinoza, Bob Cortazzo, Whytey Cottrell and Kieran Spencer.

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Events

On Friday, May 7, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. hop on the Bronx Seaside trolley for a free ride to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, tour the mansion, listen to live music, view our new exhibition "From Pells to Parks" and enjoy light refreshments. Then hop back on the trolley to ride to City Island for a bite to eat or just to explore. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Admission \$8 adults, \$5 seniors & children 6-17

Enjoy our Mother's Day Tussie Mussie Workshop on Saturday, May 8, at 2 p.m. Make memories while creating a traditional Victorian tussie mussie—a small bouquet—with your mother, daughter, aunt, niece or friend. Tea and light refreshments offered. Appropriate for ages 6 and up. Space is limited, so registration is required. Admission \$20; members \$15

Celebrate Bronx Week and all this borough has to offer with a visit to a landmark in your own backyard! Visit Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, the last remaining 19th-century country estate in New York City, and enjoy a free tour of the museum during regularly scheduled tour times: 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15 p.m. Museum is open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday. Free.

The BPMM East Bronx Bike Tour will take place on Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join architect Stephen Byrns, a New York City Landmarks Preservation Commissioner and avid bicyclist, for an East Bronx bike tour of notable architectural and historical sites. Bikers depart from BPMM at 10:15 and head to Westchester Square, where guided tours of the Huntington Free Library, St. Peter's (oldest Episcopal Church in NYC) and the Bartow family plot in its cemetery await. Space is limited. Registration required. Free.

Collage across the Centuries: My Bronx Revealed will be presented on Wednesday, May 19, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of art-making during Bronx Week, as we use photos to tell the story of the Pelham Bay area of the Bronx. Learn how the area has changed over time and create a collage from photos and illustrations of the mansion and grounds. Feel free to bring your own photos or drawings to include in your collage across the centuries. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. Space is limited, registration required. Free.

BPMM Adventures: Native Explorations on Monday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gather around our wigwam and learn about the culture and experiences of the original Bronx natives - the Siwanoy Indians. Design crafts from natural materials, enjoy stories and take mini-hikes to explore our natural surroundings. Recommended for children ages 7-9. Scholarships available. Registration required, deadline May 19. Cost per child \$30; members \$25.

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The Missing Link to Optimal Health

Do you rarely get sick, have no need for prescription meds and can't remember the last time that you had to visit the doctor?

If you answered "no" to the above questions, then you are likely suffering from nutritional deficiencies.

It's hard to know exactly what to eat for optimal health, especially since everyone has a different opinion. Even when you make every effort to eat healthy, your diet almost always lacks important nutrients.

In her book "Green For Life," Victoria Boutenko set out in search of the perfect human diet. She immersed herself in nutrition research and made a very interesting observation.

The Chimpanzee Connection

Chimpanzees and humans are more closely related than any other animal species. In fact, research shows that we share 99.4 percent of our DNA sequence with our chimpanzee friends.

Why is this significant? Chimpanzees are in far better physical shape than humans and possess strong natural immunity to cancer and other fatal—and quite common—human illnesses.

Victoria's research pointed to the chimpanzee diet as the reason for their superior health. Chimps and humans have vastly different eating habits, and it's all about the greens. While humans enjoy pizza and hamburgers, chimps eat a diet extremely high in dark leafy greens.

Victoria then turned her focus to dark leafy greens. What she discovered was a super food packed with extremely high levels of nutrients. Here are five amazing facts about greens:

1. Greens are packed with amino acids, also known as protein. I'll bet you didn't know that dark leafy greens are a legitimate source of protein. It's true! Protein molecules are made of a chain of amino acids. When you consume protein from chicken, you're getting chains of amino acids that have already been assembled into a complex protein. When you eat dark leafy greens you are getting a plethora of individual amino acids. Your body then takes these amino acids and assembles it into complex protein chains.

2. Greens give you lots of insoluble fiber, like a sponge. You know fiber is important, but did you realize that fiber is needed to rid your body of toxins? Insoluble fiber is extra special, since it is built like tiny sponges that each absorbs several times more toxins than its own volume. Check out just a few of the many benefits of fiber: it reduces cholesterol, prevents and reduces the risk of cancer, lessens risk of diabetes and im-

proves existing diabetes, prevents overeating and helps shed unwanted pounds.

3. Greens promote bodily homeostasis, which is necessary for optimal health. Homeostasis is the physiological process that regulates all substances in your body at ideal levels for optimal health. It is a very complex process, one that your body is constantly working toward. In order for your body to achieve homeostasis, it needs an abundance of vitamins, amino acids, carbohydrates, essential fatty acids and minerals. Greens are a super provider of all of the above.

4. Greens are alkaline, which promotes healthy cells. In 1931 Dr. Otto Warburg won the Nobel Prize for discovering the cause of cancer: weakened cell respiration due to lack of oxygen on the cellular level. This causes fermentation, which results in acidity, or low pH. There is a close connection between the foods you eat and your pH balance. For example, Parmesan cheese is highly acid forming, minus 34; while spinach is an amazing alkalizing food, plus 14. When you get plenty of greens on a daily basis, you're able to better maintain a good alkaline pH balance.

5. Greens are made of chlorophyll, liquid sun energy. As amazing as it may seem, the molecule of chlorophyll is strikingly similar to the molecule of human blood. Chlorophyll heals and cleanses your organs while destroying harmful substances. Here are just a few of the powers of chlorophyll: it builds a high blood count, helps prevent cancer, counteracts toxins, promotes an alkaline body, helps sores heal faster, improves varicose veins and improves vision.

Although the evidence for eating lots of greens continues to mount, who really wants to chomp through a pile of spinach every day? The solution is as convenient as it is efficient: the green smoothie.

Victoria discovered that when she blended greens with fruit and water, the result was an easily absorbed, delicious smoothie. The key to reaping all the benefits from your green smoothies is to use a wide variety of greens and to drink it every day. Most enjoy it as a quick, nutrient-packed breakfast.

Victoria did a study in which people drank green smoothies everyday for a month. Most participants reported a noticeable increase in their energy levels after just the first week. This boost of energy may be just what you need to get into gear with your workouts. Remember, regular challenging exercise is the key to achieving your ideal body.

To make one serving of a green smoothie, put into a high-speed blender: 1 bunch (2 cups) of red dandelion greens (or spinach or other dark green), 1 cup of hulled strawberries, 1 banana and one to two cups of filtered water. Blend until smooth, and enjoy!

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

APRIL

Sat., May 1, **Spring Fair**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sat., May 8, **Girl Scout Plant Sale**, Trinity Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tues. May 11, **Blood Drive**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3 to 8 p.m.

Sat., May 15, **Spring Café and Tag Sale**, Grace Church, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thurs., May 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Greek American Church, 3573 Bruckner Boulevard.

Sat., May 22, **Temple Beth-El 76th Anniversary Dinner Dance**, Lido Caterers, 7 to 11 p.m. Call 718-885-2820 for reservations.

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

Sat., May 29, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Cut up chicken with rice.

Mon., May 31, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 5 and 6, **Arts and Crafts Fair**, City Island Ave., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

We are pleased to offer a new fun-filled dance/exercise class on Fridays at 10 a.m. at Grace Church Hall taught by Zumba instructor Adelaide Kontras. In addition to the Friday morning class, the schedule is as follows: Zumba with Adelaide (filling in for Stephanie): Monday at 10:30 at the Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Sittercise with Patty: Tuesday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday leave Pilot Street at 9:30; Yoga Stretch with Michael: Thursday at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty: Thursday at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to programs and for a schedule of afternoon shopping trips. Be sure to mark June 11 on your calendar as the date for our annual Health Fair at Grace Church Hall sponsored by VNS et al. For further information, call Patty Grondahl at 718-885-1891. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Arthritis Foundation.

Pat Grondahl

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Prayer service is held every weekday at 9:15 a.m. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Sunday school will end for the summer on June 6. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

There is a new discussion group for adults only. Jay Howard will moderate. Look for an announcement and fliers for the next group. The theme might be about anger once again. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained by written submission of

questions.

Don't forget to register your youngsters for Vacation Bible School before June 20. The school will be held at Trinity from June 6 through June 9. Call Pastor Sue at 718-885-1218 to register.

Our annual Spring Fair will be May 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. For \$8, adults will have a choice vegetable lasagna or chicken marsala; for \$4 children can have macaroni and cheese or pigs in a blanket. Drinks and dessert will also be served.

The Budget Shop will be open May 4, 8, 18 and 22 and June 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15. Will someone out there please volunteer to lead Budget behind the scenes? Myra Martin will work right along with you to help and train you for this responsibility. It is basically contacting the established crew for work dates and help with the gleaning and pricing. We need your help; call Myra at 718-885-1049.

Ellen G. Hebard

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., with child care available on the first Sunday of the month. We also offer evening prayer in the Church every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@aol.com.

Here is what is happening at Grace Church during May:

Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, with "Lambs" child care, followed by a pot-luck farewell luncheon honoring Father Stephen Harding, Mother Storm Swain and Theo Swain-Harding. Please join us to thank them for their presence and ministry among us for the past two and a half years.

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.: Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke and "Hearts and Hands" knitting ministry (both in Parish Hall).

Thursday, May 6, 6 p.m.: City Island National Day of Prayer Observance, with "Lambs" child care.

Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.: Bible Study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.: Taizé Prayer Service in the church.

Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Fifth Annual Grace Church Spring Café and Tag Sale.

Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.: Bible Study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Sunday, May 23, 10 a.m.: The Feast of Pentecost - "The Birthday of the Church".

Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.: Bible Study and "Hearts and Hands" ministry.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Thursday, May 6, we will join the other houses of worship on the island at Grace Episcopal Church for a prayer service to commemorate the National Day of Prayer. We invite all our parishioners to attend this service which will begin at 6 p.m.

Our Holy Hour this month with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, May 7, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 9, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

On Thursday, May 13, we will mark the celebration of the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation. Our Masses will be at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Trinity United Methodist Church held its traditional Easter Sunday Sunrise Resurrection Celebration at 6:30 a.m. inside the Pelham Cemetery on April 4, 2010.

Saturday, May 22, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families. Thirty-eight children will receive their First Holy Communion at an 11 o'clock Mass. A special practice for this celebration will take place on Thursday, May 20, from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m.

The following day, May 23, the children will participate in a special procession at our Sunday 10 o'clock Mass, when our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother during the month of May. We will crown the statue of Our Lady and honor her as the patroness of our parish. Following the Mass, our First Communicants and their families will partake of a communion breakfast in our school gym.

The May meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our religious education program for this year will come to an end on Wednesday, May 26. Report cards and awards will be distributed that day. We wish all our young people a happy and healthy summer.

Happy Memorial Day and happy summer to all!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 2 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Saturdays at 12:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church hall, 116 City Island Avenue (at Pilot Street).

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drama Class Show: "Duh Best Fairy Tale Mix Ever: Hoodies, the Next Generation" will be presented on Thursday, May 20, at 7 p.m. and Friday, May 21, at 4:30 p.m. Free, but donations to the Community Center are welcome.

Indoor Tag Sale: May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$10 per table

NEW CLASSES

Summer Art: July 5–Aug. 27, Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$5 per day. Drawing, painting, sculpture, building toys, crafts and more! Preschoolers must be accompanied by adults, but all caregivers are welcome to stay and participate.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

and Saturdays at 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

Sally's Playground: Where children ages 1–5 enjoy indoor play. Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 with questions. \$7 per child (\$4 for each additional sibling). Come and join the fun!

Mommy and Me Fitness: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m. A high-energy aerobics class that allows you to bring your children along up to the age of 6. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

Vilma's Music Together. Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults who love them! Saturdays from 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit www.fun-timemusicstogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusicstogether.com.

Art Classes by Laury Hopkins: Call 718-885-3202; please leave a message. Private and semiprivate lessons available.

ADULT PROGRAM

Gentle Yoga-Qi Gong class with Norma: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Get into shape, relax the body and mind and have some fun doing it! This class is a combination of low-impact Hatha Yoga and Qi-Gong (free form Tai Chi) and mild stretches. Although this class is geared to those who have not exercised in a while, all levels are welcome. Price per class is \$7. Please bring a yoga mat, yoga strap and yoga blocks. Most of these items are available at Barnes & Noble, Modell's, Target or K-Mart. Straps and blocks will be available for purchase on the day of the class. For more information, please call 718-730-3442. Namaste.

Fit for Life with Sarah: Hi-Lo impact aerobics, strength training/toning, kick-boxing and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

Rhythmic Movement Exercise Class: A fun way to combine exercise with various styles of dance. Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. \$15 per person. If you have questions, please call Judy Farnum, Group Fitness Instructor, at 914-548-4184 or e-mail judyfarnum@aol.com.

Yoga With Emily: Yoga class now being offered on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

All levels are welcome. Call Emily Wilson at 347-886-4546 with any questions.

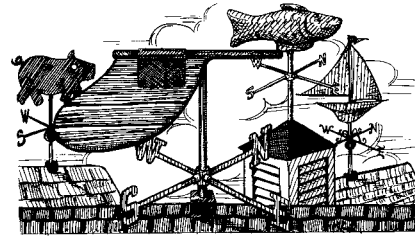
Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

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

Yoga: A beginner to intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Please e-mail Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 718-885-2445.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Amy Gottlieb



City Island Republicans

Our meeting on April 20 featured Mike Rendino, candidate for the New York State Assembly. He spoke to the membership and was a hit. He has been traveling around the district and will be on City Island quite often between now and November. Our next meeting will be in June, when it is time for petitions. Stay tuned!

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Legion News

On a somber note, we mourn the passing of comrade Cortazzio in April.

Meetings for the month of May are: regular meeting Monday, May 3 and executive board meeting Monday, May 17. Meanwhile, don't forget our mothers on Sunday, May 9.

The parade will be shorter on Memorial Day, May 31. We are not certain of the step off time, but the starting point will be in the vicinity of P.S. 175. Check Post Bulletin Board for further information.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

Our officers for 2010–2011 were sworn in on Friday, April 30. A party was held afterward and everyone had a great time. Commander Walter Natiw is off to a good start.

We will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade. The uniform will be the navy SAL shirt and khaki pants. If anyone needs a shirt, speak to Vice Commander of Americanism Vic Anderson Jr.

A few members of the Post are on sick call. Buddy Pontecorvo is out of the hospital and resting comfortably at home, and Bill Walsh is recuperating from surgery.

Just a reminder that dues are past due. They are still \$30 and a check can be mailed or dropped off at the Post.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

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A Selected Filmography of Liev Schreiber

Liev Schreiber is an incredibly versatile actor, who seems to have an equal share of leading and character roles, the key being an intelligent script. Although he had several small roles at the beginning of his career in the 1990s, I first noticed him in **A Walk on the Moon** (1999), a film set in a place reminiscent of summers in my own childhood. In 1969 Pearl Kantrowitz (Diane Lane) and her children, Alison (Anna Paquin) and Daniel (Bobby Boriello), are spending the summer in the Catskill Mountains along with her mother-in-law, Lillian (Tovah Feldshuh). Her hardworking TV repairman husband, Marty (Liev), comes up on weekends. When Walker Jerome (Viggo Mortensen), the "blouse man" (who sells from the back of his truck), captivates Pearl, Marty has to make serious decisions about his family and their future.

Set in a Polish ghetto during World War II, **Jakob the Liar** (1999) is the story of how a man's imagination can be a profound source of hope. Liev portrays loud-mouthed boxer (Mischa) who is used by a Jew named Jakob (Robin Williams) as a conduit of information concerning the imminent defeat of the Nazis. The cast also includes Alan Arkin as an actor, Armin Mueller-Stahl as an old doctor and Bob Balaban as a deeply depressed barber, all trying to survive.

In the character-study **Spring Forward** (1999), Liev plays Paul, a trigger-tempered ex-con who has taken a job in a Connecticut town park as a groundskeeper. Paul gradually matures by his association with Murph (Ned Beatty), a park veteran with whom he is teamed. The dynamic between the two is beautiful, as Paul tries to put his life back together while Murph deals with family tragedy and impending old age. The acting is superb.

In the docudrama **RKO 281** (1999), Liev gives an excellent understated performance as Orson Welles, who has enraged William Randolph Hearst (James Cromwell) by making the classic film, "Citizen Kane," which is based on Hearst's life. The cast also features Melanie Griffith as Hearst's mistress Marion Davies, John Malkovich as screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz, and Brenda Blethyn as movie columnist Louella Parsons.

In a change of pace, we next find Liev in the romantic comedy **Kate and Leopold** (2001). When the dashing Leopold, Duke of Albany (Hugh Jackman), follows Stuart Besser (Liev) through time from 1876 to present-day New York, he meets and is befriended by Kate (Meg Ryan) and her brother Charlie (Breckin Meyer). In a comical role, Stuart is Kate's former boyfriend who realizes that Leopold must return to the past. Kate works in advertising and uses Leopold in a commercial

that is so successful, her boss J.J. Camden (Bradley Whitford) decides to promote her. However, Kate falls in love with Leopold and must decide where and when her future lies.

Next we find Liev in a small character role in the Tom Clancy thriller **The Sum of all Fears** (2002). Ben Affleck stars in this prequel as Jack Ryan, a CIA rising star who tries to divert a nuclear disaster through his knowledge of Russian and his familiarity with the new Russian president Alexander Nemerov (Ciaran Hinds). Morgan Freeman is on hand as Ryan's mentor, CIA Director William Cabot; James Cromwell as U.S. President Fowler; and Bridget Moynahan is love interest Dr. Cathy Muller. Liev's role is that of CIA operative John Clark, who is sent to do dirty jobs for the welfare of the United States.

As Congressman Raymond Shaw in the excellent remake of the thriller **The Manchurian Candidate** (2004), Liev has the lead role as a war-hero-turned-politician whose power-broker mother, Senator Eleanor Shaw (Meryl Streep), wants him on the presidential ticket. The counterpoint is Major Marco (Denzel Washington), Raymond's commanding officer in Kuwait, where something diabolical happened to their entire platoon.

In **The Painted Veil** (2006), Liev is philanderer Charles Townsend, who has captured the heart of unhappily married Kitty Fane (Naomi Watts). When her husband, bacteriologist Walter Fane (Edward Norton), discovers the affair and learns that Charles won't leave his own marriage, Walter whisks Kitty away from Shanghai into the countryside where he fights a cholera epidemic. The true star of this film is the cinematography.

There are two more films that return Liev to his Jewish roots. In **Defiance** (2008) he stars along with Daniel Craig and Jamie Bell as Zus, Tuvia and Asael Bielski, three brothers who help a group of fellow Jews survive the war in an encampment in the forests of Belarus. Zus is the one with the temper; Tuvia is the natural leader, and Asael is the baby of the family. In the film **Taking Woodstock** (2009), Liev gives a wonderful performance as Vilma, a kindly cross-dressing marine security guard. The setting is the Catkills again, this time with Demetri Martin as Elliot, a young boy who is trying to keep his parents' hotel afloat. Eugene Levy is on hand as Max Yasgur, whose farm was the setting for the infamous Woodstock concert.

Most young people would probably know Liev as Victor Creed, the brother of comic book classic hero Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) in **X-Men Origins: Wolverine** (2009). The film spans the period from the Civil War to the present day as the two brothers (not unlike the brothers in **Defiance**) fight the bad guys in an effort to survive. Liev Schreiber is a very versatile actor, whose performances large and small, are always memorable.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



Public School 175

Spring has arrived and our students are in full bloom! Fifth-grade students just finished their musical production of "Seussical, Jr." The two evening performances were a huge success, and we are sure that we have some students who are Broadway-bound! Our fabulous fifth-grade teachers, Danielle Minor and Kathie Wiehler, worked with Jessica McQuiston and Katelyn Walker from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to put on a terrific show. We are grateful to Council Member James Vacca for the arts grant that helped to subsidize the play.

Our eighth-graders are putting the finishing touches on their social studies and science exit projects. In addition to a visual presentation, the students are required to do an oral presentation for their teachers. Ms. Heil and Mr. Scopp have been working alongside their students to make this a most meaningful project.

The Sports & Arts in Schools After-School Program continues to thrive. Along with the daily activities, the students also have an opportunity to partake in a variety of activities during school vacations. This month our eighth-grade students went to SportsTime USA in Elmsford, City Ice Pavilion in Long Island City, Lucky Strikes Lanes in Manhattan, the Hall of Science in Queens, the New York Auto Show at the Jacob Javits Center, the Statue of Liberty and a day of movies in Manhattan at the AMC Loews. Because of budget cuts throughout the city, we are slated to lose funding from this after-school program grant. Please check your child's backpack for notices regarding what you can do to help us get the program back!

P.S. 175 has implemented a school-wide community service program. Kindergarten students visited Pilot Cove and read to the residents, and they have been collecting soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for Schools. First-graders are collecting gently used books to donate to the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit. Second-graders are going to bake desserts to be donated to the POTS food drive at St. Mary's. The third-grade students will beautify the P.S. 175 school grounds and plant flowers in the yard. Fourth-graders will work with the Garden Club to beautify City Island Avenue. Fifth-graders organized and ran a fund-raiser at Chuck E. Cheese to raise money to fight juvenile diabetes. The sixth-graders will collect towels, sheets, blankets and dog and cat food to distribute to animal shelters. Seventh-grade students are partici-

pating in neighborhood clean-up activities. The eighth-graders organized and worked at our "Help for Haiti" bake sale and did individual and group projects, including City Island and Orchard Beach clean-up; dance instructor aide; volunteer work at a nursing home, the Bronx Zoo, the Community Center, Thorps Family Residence and the American Legion; they are also participating in walk-a-thons to raise money for breast cancer research and Alzheimer prevention. We are so pleased that our students give back to the community that gives so much to them!

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year but has been moved to May. Our sixth-graders will spend three days learning about the environment and themselves. Mrs. Rondi, Ms. Tighe, Ms. Fretwell and Mr. Lafreniere will once again accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for both the students and themselves. We were most fortunate that Mr. Rauh accompanied our students for the twenty-fifth consecutive year!

The staff and students of P.S. 175 want once again to congratulate our remarkable PTA for their very successful 2010 Card Party! They worked tirelessly to put together an evening that was not only fun but also allowed the P.S. 175 community to come together in support of our school. Proceeds from the event will allow us to continue to provide our students with all of the activities that make our school a place of excellence.

Please keep in mind the following important dates: on-going Kindergarten registration for City Island residents continues. Please call the school to be sure you bring the required documentation; seventh-graders will be going to Boston on May 7; eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 25, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The eighth-grade trip to Washington, DC will take place on May 25-26; the Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 23, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gymnasium with a DJ and clown.

Important: Any community members who have gently used children's books to donate to the first-grade community service project for the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit may drop them off in the P.S. 175 main office.

Citizens of the month for April were: Kindergarten,; Johanna Doyle and Joseph Persteins; first grade, Samuel Rosa and Natasha Serrano; second grade, Isabella Rosas and Nicole Masi; third grade, Dava Lee Candelaria and Christine Whelan; fourth grade, Michael DeSantis and Phoebe McElroy; fifth grade, Laura Clarke and Joseph Mancuso; sixth grade, Jean Gonzalez and Amanda Devlin; seventh grade; Catherine Graves and Valentina Rugova; eighth grade, Alyssa Albert and Samantha Yew.

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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

George and Christine

In 1952 a native Bronxite shocked the world and knocked the Korean War, the Cold War and hydrogen bomb testing out of the headlines. This Bronxite was arguably one of the most famous people in the world for a period in the mid-1950s and may have fired the opening shot in the sexual revolution. George William Jorgensen, a first-generation Danish-American, was born and raised in the Westchester Square neighborhood of the east Bronx and lived at 2847 Dudley Avenue. Jorgensen attended the local public schools and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School (just off Pelham Parkway) in June 1945. Shortly after graduation, he was drafted into the army and deployed to Fort Dix, New Jersey.

After receiving an honorable discharge, George Jorgensen returned to the Bronx and began to deal with a lifelong sense of being trapped in the wrong body, or gender. As a child and then a teenager, Jorgensen felt "lost between the sexes." Now, as an adult, these feelings began to haunt him, and his desire to be a woman became overwhelming.

With the help of a friend and after much research, he learned about doctors in Europe who were in the early exploratory stages of sex-reassignment surgery, although sex-change operations were still illegal in most countries. There was no such surgery available in the United States, and it was still a great secret in Britain. In 1950, at the age of 24, Jorgensen left the Bronx to find a doctor who could transform him into a woman. He intended to go to Sweden, where the only doctors performing this type of surgery were to be found at that time. At a stopover in Copenhagen, however, Jorgensen met Dr. Christian Hamburger, a Danish endocrinologist and specialist in rehabilitative hormonal therapy. So Jorgensen ended up staying in Denmark, and under Dr. Hamburger's direction, he was allowed to begin hormone-replacement therapy. With special permission from the Danish Minister of Justice, Jorgensen underwent a series of operations, and in less than two years was transformed from a man to a woman.

The story of this remarkable transformation first broke on Dec. 1, 1952. *The New York Daily News* shocked the world with a headline that screamed "EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BOMBSHELL," and the story exploded into the nation's con-

sciousness in the halcyon days of the post-war Baby Boom. In that placid I-Like-Ike, I-Love-Lucy era, issues of sexuality, much less transsexuality, were strictly taboo, and thus started an international debate, along with public scrutiny and ridicule.

With the cooperation of the American ambassador to Denmark, Jorgensen's passport was changed to identify her as a female, so that she could return home to the United States. The new passport was also issued with her new name, Christine Jorgensen, in honor of Dr. Hamburger. On Feb. 12, 1953, when she stepped off the plane at Idlewild Airport (now JFK International Airport), Christine Jorgensen was greeted by hundreds of admirers, autograph hounds, protesters and the just plain curious. Hordes of reporters and photographers were on hand to catalogue everything, from her baggage (13 pieces) to her destination, Manhattan's swank Carlyle Hotel, and her first beverage in America, a Bloody Mary containing two shots of vodka. *The New York Times* carried a five-paragraph front-page story headlined "Bronx 'Boy' Is Now A Girl," while some of the tabloids ran with "Bronx GI Becomes a Woman," and "Dear Mom and Dad, Son Wrote, I have Now Become Your Daughter."

From then on, wherever Jorgensen went, neither the press nor the attendant carnival atmosphere was far behind. But if the press fueled the furor over Jorgensen, it was feeding a public that couldn't get enough of the story and a society that didn't know what to make of her. Was she some sort of sideshow freak or a modern pioneer? There was no consensus. While gossip columnist Walter Winchell ridiculed her, hostess and socialite Elsa Maxwell feted her. While the Stork Club banned her, the Waldorf-Astoria welcomed her.

According to *Publisher's Weekly*, Jorgensen was the most written-about person in the press in 1953. Despite this, she tried desperately to live a normal life. She relocated to Massapequa, New York, where her father built her a house. Although she considered herself primarily a photographer, she earned a more-than-comfortable living on the talk-show and lecture circuit, and, most notably, as a stage actress and nightclub performer. In 1967 she published an autobiography, which became a film in the 1970s. She was one of the most popular speakers on the college lecture circuit. She also worked with many of the first professionals who explored the transsexual phe-



George Jorgensen, 1952



Christine Jorgensen, 1953

nomenon in the United States, including Dr. Harry Benjamin, who coined the word "transsexual."

Christine Jorgensen never married, although she was engaged twice. She made plans to marry John Traub, a labor-union statistician, but the engagement was called off. In 1959 she announced her engagement to Howard J. Knox, a typist, but the couple was unable to obtain a marriage license because Jorgensen's birth certificate still listed her as biologically male.

Although Christine Jorgensen was not the world's first transgendered person, she might as well have been. She was the first to go public, the first person to combine reassignment surgery with hormone-replace-

ment therapy. Her transformation made international headlines, and for decades she was the most famous transgendered person in the world. To many people, Christine Jorgensen was a pioneer, a man-turned-woman who broke down at least one of society's sexual barriers. For her own part, however, she saw it as nothing more than a case of self-preservation. "Does it take bravery and courage for a person with polio to want to walk?" she once said.

Christine Jorgensen died in San Clemente, California, of bladder and lung cancer on May 3, 1989. She was 62 years old.

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



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

LOST DOG! On Friday, April 23 at 10 p.m. Gwyn Hopkins found this wonderful old dog wandering aimlessly in front of Grace Episcopal Church. She realized immediately that he was homeless, starving, deaf and very arthritic, so she put him on a leash, named him Bear and started looking for people who might help him out. Many friends were immediately helpful, providing food, comfort, money, support and a place to stay overnight: the Byrne, Werkhoven, Peccorelli and Stinson-Hurwitz families, Taz and Teddy Dolensek, and more. Special thanks go to the ladies at Doggie Island, who spent hours bathing, drying and clipping him of dirt and mats, and then gave him a bag of dog food to make sure he would start back on the road to recovery. If anyone knows if Bear is lost or is willing to give him a good home, please call 718-885-3202.

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Raymond Pena

Raymond A. Pena

Raymond A. Pena, beloved son of Diane and Bob Pena, died in a tragic motorcycle accident on March 24, 2010. He was 21.

Raymond was born on Sept. 18, 1988, and grew up on King Avenue on City Island with his parents and brothers, Bobby, Richie and Ryan. He graduated from P.S. 175 in 2003 and went on to attend Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains.

After high school, Raymond worked at

Bridge Boat Marine Supply on City Island and then qualified for licenses to operate different types of equipment, including tow trucks and construction equipment. A hard worker, he was most recently driving a tow truck for J&S Recovery and living on Carroll Street. Raymond was planning to attend college in the fall and to apply to the New York Police Department.

Friends and family members described him as a "Ray of Sunshine" and often joked affectionately that "Everybody Loves Raymond." Raymond loved water sports, especially jet skiing and boating around the north end of City Island.

Raymond is survived by his parents and his brothers, all of City Island; his grandparents, Peter and Mary Maynich of Yonkers, New York, and Delia Galvan of Florida; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Raymond was interred in Pelham Cemetery after a funeral mass on March 29 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The family requests that donations be sent in his name to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

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Fire

Continued from Page 1

me that it took them 10 minutes to get to the scene, with no traffic, and they would have been way too late to keep the fire from spreading."

The owner of the building, Marcy Brennen, was devastated by the incident. She told *The Current* that the tenant in the affected apartment was in the process of moving out of the building and as a result did not suffer damage to his property. The tenant, Joseph Pushkal was on the scene watching the firefighters at work but he did not wish to speak about the fire. Rumors were floating about that an acquaintance of his had started the blaze, but these rumors were unsubstantiated by press time.

Marsha Treiber was impressed by the fact that two representatives of the Red Cross came to the fire offering to find housing for anyone made homeless by the fire. "I never appreciated the Red Cross before,"

she said, "but I was very impressed by them." Island residents Jo Heck and David Cook were able to house Joe Rodriguez and his wife, Karol Lee, and their dog, Julie, for over a week until they found a new apartment.

Council Member James Vacca, who has been spearheading the fight for City Island's Ladder Company 53, which is likely to be slated for closing because of city budget cuts, told *The Current*: "Once again, this fire demonstrates the absolute necessity of keeping Ladder Company 53 on City Island. One only has to look at the response time for off-Island companies to know that we risk loss of life if fire service to City Island is cut. In this particular case, I have also alerted the Fire Department to allegations that a 911 operator took too long to take vital information from those calling in the fire. At my insistence, this matter is now also part of the investigation now under way relating to this fire."

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

MAY 2010									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0157	8.10	0849	-0.31	1439	7.21	2042	0.56	Sat 01
02 Sun	0242	7.75	0935	0.19	1528	7.01	2122	0.97	Sun 02
03 Mon	0329	7.38	1023	0.68	1622	6.85	2208	1.35	Mon 03
04 Tue	0426	7.04	1113	1.09	1721	6.76	2310	1.63	Tue 04
05 Wed	0535	6.78	1206	1.38	1821	6.76			Wed 05
06 Thu	0023	1.76	0642	6.65	1300	1.54	1917	6.85	Thu 06
07 Fri	0127	1.72	0742	6.62	1351	1.56	2009	7.00	Fri 07
08 Sat	0223	1.52	0835	6.66	1437	1.48	2055	7.17	Sat 08
09 Sun	0313	1.24	0922	6.74	1517	1.34	2135	7.33	Sun 09
10 Mon	0357	0.91	1004	6.81	1549	1.16	2205	7.50	Mon 10
11 Tue	0437	0.58	1039	6.89	1618	0.96	2225	7.71	Tue 11
12 Wed	0512	0.28	1105	6.99	1650	0.75	2253	7.96	Wed 12
13 Thu	0546	0.03	1132	7.12	1728	0.57	2328	8.20	Thu 13
14 Fri	0621	-0.16	1207	7.26	1809	0.46			Fri 14
15 Sat	0009	8.37	0659	-0.27	1248	7.37	1854	0.41	Sat 15
16 Sun	0053	8.44	0743	-0.27	1333	7.45	1942	0.45	Sun 16
17 Mon	0141	8.38	0830	-0.17	1423	7.47	2035	0.55	Mon 17
18 Tue	0233	8.18	0922	0.00	1517	7.45	2134	0.69	Tue 18
19 Wed	0329	7.87	1022	0.20	1618	7.43	2243	0.79	Wed 19
20 Thu	0433	7.51	1132	0.36	1728	7.45			Thu 20
21 Fri	0012	0.74	0551	7.22	1248	0.41	1849	7.58	Fri 21
22 Sat	0134	0.47	0723	7.11	1356	0.34	2000	7.82	Sat 22
23 Sun	0241	0.08	0835	7.17	1457	0.21	2100	8.07	Sun 23
24 Mon	0341	-0.31	0935	7.27	1553	0.07	2154	8.28	Mon 24
25 Tue	0436	-0.63	1030	7.36	1645	-0.01	2245	8.40	Tue 25
26 Wed	0527	-0.80	1120	7.41	1734	-0.01	2332	8.42	Wed 26
27 Thu	0616	-0.81	1208	7.41	1820	0.09			Thu 27
28 Fri	0018	8.34	0702	-0.66	1253	7.37	1904	0.27	Fri 28
29 Sat	0101	8.17	0746	-0.38	1337	7.29	1944	0.52	Sat 29
30 Sun	0141	7.94	0828	-0.02	1420	7.20	2020	0.80	Sun 30
31 Mon	0219	7.66	0906	0.37	1502	7.11	2051	1.06	Mon 31
JUNE 2010									
01 Tue	0256	7.38	0940	0.73	1543	7.02	2121	1.29	Tue 01
02 Wed	0333	7.10	1002	1.03	1624	6.94	2201	1.47	Wed 02
03 Thu	0414	6.84	1028	1.23	1707	6.90	2248	1.58	Thu 03
04 Fri	0502	6.62	1107	1.37	1752	6.90	2343	1.62	Fri 04
05 Sat	0558	6.45	1153	1.44	1838	6.96			Sat 05



Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard

Nora Chidlow (daughter of Island resident Carol McCabe) is the Coast Guard archivist and is researching the presence of the Coast Guard on City Island. This photograph of the City Island Lifeboat Station is all she has in her files at the Coast Guard Historian's Office. There is no date on the picture, but it probably dates to World War II. It is believed the station was on the dock at Belden Point, near where the Lobster Box Restaurant is now. On a recent trip to the City Island Nautical Museum, Ms. Chidlow discovered more tidbits of Coast Guard history. For example, the Coast Guard enforced Prohibition rules on the water, but liquor flowed freely on City Island, thanks to a federal agent who showed residents how to cover up. All of the Hell's Gate pilots were lieutenant commanders in the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II, and the Danish training ship Danmark, which was in Coast Guard service during the war, often stopped at City Island. Stepping Stone Lighthouse, like all other lighthouses, was operated by the Coast Guard. If anyone has any information about the Coast Guard on City Island, be it rum-running, sailors, stations or lighthouses, please get in touch with Ms. Chidlow at 202-559-5142 or Nora.L.Chidlow@uscg.mil.



By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

HUMPBACK RUBBERBANDS

There's something we just have to get off our chests. It's a little off topic, we know, but here it goes. It concerns that unfortunate humpback whale on the beach out in East Hampton. For three days, we watched on TV or read in the papers of its imminent demise; that there was nothing to do but wait. And in the end, even waiting was not an option. The whale had to be euthanized.

What they did was shoot it, which isn't what we take issue with (although, reports that it had to be shot more than once were disturbing). Rather, it is the namby-pamby way with which things seemed to be handled. Does anyone doubt for one second that our parents' generation, certainly our grandparents, would have acted more decisively. There were too many experts consulted, too many conference calls. We can't help but believe that the wrong people were being told to stand back, behind the yellow tape; that some bricklayer there, or tugboat captain, watching from afar, had he been the one to come upon the beached whale first, that he would have gotten his buddies together and pushed or pulled or whatever it took to get that creature back to the deep water.

No one would have read about it or seen it on TV. No one would have known about it at all, except those involved, and the few they chose to tell about it, back at ye olde watering hole, no doubt. Or maybe


they wouldn't have figured out how to help, or couldn't; in which case they would have shot it, but at least they would have gotten it right the first time.

There, now it's out there, for better or worse. Anyone who would like to take us to task for our facts or opinions is welcome to do so at jdsstrat@msn.com.

Last month, we shared Pete Gustas's photograph of Puddle PG, the peregrine falcon that frequents the puddles of Orchard Beach. This month's raptor is a turkey vulture, or buzzard, as they are more commonly known. Perhaps you have noticed these eagle-sized birds drifting round and round overhead. At a glance, they appear all dark below, but upon closer examination there is a two-toned characteristic about their underside, one hue slightly less dark than the other.

Sorry, no pictures. We have yet to see one on the ground, but we wouldn't be surprised if we do soon, with the warmer weather fast approaching. Road kill is what they're after and what we see more of generally in the spring and summer.

Apparently, the mysterious rubber bands on the ground are not a mystery, after all. Numerous readers let us know that it is the mail carriers who drop them. One reader has been putting them to good use in her home and office. Another pointed out that it doesn't happen as much as we seem to think. Oh well, case closed.



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Mother's Day

Continued from Page 5



Focal Point Gallery

You could even offer to do the laundry for Mom and say "hi" to Susie at On Board Laundromat (323 City Island Avenue).

LOVING. Find the right card that says "I love you, Mom!" at the City Island Phar-

macy (290 City Island Avenue); they even have the wrapping paper and gift bags for your gift selections.

You—and your mother—will surely love the home-feeling of the food at the City Island Diner (304 City Island Avenue) and its neighboring location, the Snug (302 City Island Avenue). The turkey dinner will recall Mom's home-cooking, to be sure. There's something to love every night at the Snug, in fact, such as a taste of Mexico on Thursday nights and half-price burgers on Tuesdays.

In the final analysis, just like your Mom, City Island's business community is ready to pamper and please, love and lift your spirits any day of the year!

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TAG SALE: Sunday, May 16th. 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 415 King Avenue (near Ditmars Street). Long-time City Island residents moving on and selling their collected furnishings and treasures. Lots of wonderful and unusual items. Even a dinghy! And ... if you love the house, you can buy that too!

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

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PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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PARENTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A series of ten parenting workshops offered by City Island resident, John Scardina at Bronx CC beginning March 15th. Contact BCC by E-mail (cps@bcc.cuny.edu) or John by phone (718 885-9305) or e-mail (john@ThinkLaughLearn.com).

LEARN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Photoshop 7 or black and white photography, developing film, printing, camera techniques. Call Ron 718-885-1403.

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Photo courtesy of PATTY GRONDAHL

The folks pictured walked and surveyed the sidewalks along City Island Avenue from Pilot Street to Winters Street to do their part for the AARP Complete Streets Week Initiative. In general, they found the sidewalks good except for one section uprooted by a tree and a few rough areas. The seniors would love to see a traffic light at the Pilot Street intersection, or at the very least a painted crosswalk and stop sign. The surveys will be returned to AARP with a copy for Ed Fleming from Senator Klein's office; he also attended and will try to implement suggestions.



The official opening day of the 51st City Island Little League season took place on Saturday, April 17. There were hundreds of children and families at the field celebrating the start of another season. City Island Little League runs a comprehensive program that helps children develop their skills from the fundamentals of t-ball to the more strategic play in the majors league. Also present was the St. Mary's Softball League, which is managed by Frank Strazera.

A highlight of opening day was the introduction of our new president, John Tomsen, an involved Little League parent who has stepped up to the plate to take on the responsibility of managing the League. Outgoing president Bob Whelan was honored with a plaque and the accolades of the vice president, Larry Saulnier. Bob has been an integral and inspirational part of City Island Little League for decades. Anna Whelan, Bob's wife, was presented with a bouquet of flowers and was given

the honor of throwing the first pitch, an appropriate way to thank her for her generous contribution of time to Little League over the years.

Elected officials came to our event to show their support of Little League and the importance of offering our young people a healthy after-school outlet—learning how to play the game of baseball as well as learning the values of companionship, teamwork and fair play. Thomas Messina representing Congressman Joseph Crowley, Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and Councilmember Jimmy Vacca took the time out of their busy schedules to show their support of our league.


Mrs. Katharine Ambrosini, the wife of Anthony Ambrosini, the great coach of hundreds of young athletes on City Island for whom the Little League Park is named, said a few words. Mrs. Ambrosini was presented with a bouquet of flowers and, of course, a 2010 Little League baseball cap.

A special thanks to our steadfast sponsors whose contributions help to fund a quality athletic program: JP's restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, Ruggiero and Sons Funeral Home, Don-Glo Sunoco, American Legion Port 156, Seafood City, Jack's Bait and Tackle, City Island Medical Group, Crab Shanty, Seashore Restaurant, Dugout Sporting Goods and Pro Pace Construction. Thank you to Umberto and Gladice Amadiz of Amadiz Cigars for their generous contribution of refreshments served on opening day.

Congratulations to the majors team "Don-Glo Sunoco," managed by Fernando Gonzalez, and coached by Rachel Mirabito and Storm Gonzalez, for their win at the first game of the season!

City Island Little League is built on the contribution of volunteers. We will be asking that each family contribute some time working in the concession stand throughout the season. A schedule will be sent out shortly with your assignments. Thank you, in advance, for your help.

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

Congratulations to Deirdre Spencer for receiving a third-place medal at the 2010 Big Apple Feis, an Irish stepdancing competition held recently at the Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan. You are starting quite a nice collection of medals. Everyone is so proud of all you have accomplished. Also, congrats for your performance in P.S.175's production of "Seussical."

Special 60th birthday greetings to Pell Place's Joanie Klopfer on April 11. With all our love, Peter, Bryan, Jill, Vera and grandson Peter.

Congratulations to Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, who just received word that her painting "Moment of Reflection XI" has been selected for inclusion in the North Light book "Splash 12: Celebrating Artistic Vision." This beautiful book series showcases the work of the top 100 watercolorists juried from thousands of international submissions. She also received word recently that the Wurlitzer band organ she painted, which will be the centerfold of the Carousel Organ Association of America Journal in May, will also be the full cover image of the May issue of "Mechanical Music," a magazine with an international circulation published by the Musical Box Society.

Best wishes to Jessica Lachman on your First Holy Communion. Love, Mom, Dad, Christina and Paulie.

Oops! We missed the big days for Lee and Cramb family members. Belated happy birthday wishes to Aunt Lynn on April 11, cousin Marie on April 17 and brother Billy on April 21. Also, belated happy 29th birthday to daughter Jennifer and her son Dylan, who turned 5 on April 7. Love from Kathleen Cramb (aka Aunt Caffiene).

The Focal Point Gallery would like everyone to know they are now carrying jewelry again.

Happy May birthdays to Matt and Chuck Butterworth.



Photo by RON TERNER

"DJ" Ray and Susan Weis on their wedding day.

May birthday greetings to Meaghan Strnad.

Belated April birthday wishes to David Butterworth.

Belated April birthday wishes to Jack Strnad and Mari Doyle.

Belated April birthday wishes to Anne McIntyre and her mom, Peggy Eberhart.

Happy belated birthday wishes to Chris Butterworth, Joseph Nelson and his dad, Joe Nelson.

Congratulations to Dan Green of Reynolds Street for winning a silver medal in history at the Academic Olympics on April 17 held at Mt. St. Michael Academy. Dan represented St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and competed against 20 other area Catholic schools for the honor. We couldn't be more proud of you. Love from Mom, Dad and Jack.

Happy 20th wedding anniversary on May 12 to the Sailmaker's Judy and John Iovieno.

Happy birthday on May 16 to Frank Ring.

Happy birthday and happy Mother's Day to Susan Huffell on May 9.

Congratulations to Grace Kretzmer, who is making her First Holy Communion on May 2 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham, New York. Also, Team Amazing Grace is walking for our sixth year to help raise money for the March of Dimes/ March for Babies. Grace was born 11 weeks premature in 2002 and has come a long way. Go, Grace! Love, Mama,



Photo by RON TERNER

New York State Governor David Patterson could not resist having his photo taken with Islanders Virginia Gallagher and Jackie Kall at the annual Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors 2010 Banquet in April.

Daddy and Paxton.

Birthday greetings go out to Patrice Ortega on May 28 with love from the Swieciki family.

Happy birthday wishes to City Island's friendliest mailman, Tommy Cleary, on May 30 with best wishes from your co-workers and customers along your route.

God bless Lauren Russell and all of her friends who will make their First Holy Communion on May 22 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Mom, Dad and Johnny are so proud of you!

Happy third birthday wishes go out to Ditmars Street's Matthew on May 31. You are a wonderful little boy and you bring us all so much happiness. All our love,

Mommy, Daddy, Bobby and Nanny.

Happy belated birthday, Sal. Love, A, J, and the little C.

Happy 18th birthday on May 28 to Briana Lotrionte, and best of luck to you at the University of Rhode Island in the fall. We love you lots. Mom, Dad, Nicolette, Jillian and Stella Rose.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to "DJ" Ray Weis and his lovely bride, Susan, who were married at the Harlem Yacht Club on April 10.

And a very happy Mother's Day to all our hardworking moms and grandmas! Enjoy your day!

Maria Swieciki

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