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One Dollar

2008 CILL Season Opens on Newly Renovated Field

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Little League baseball and softball season began on April 26, 2008, on the newly renovated Ambrosini Field. Bob Whelan, president of CILL, presided over the start of the season and dedication of the new baseball and softball diamonds. Funded by the New York City Parks Department and local politicians, the renovation also includes a new playground with a nautical theme at the front of the park near P.S. 175.



Photo by LIZ LYONS

Coach John Lyons with Rob Connolly on third base, Anthony Gonzalez playing third, Nick Zappier at shortstop and Austin Cottam on second base.

Move over, you new stadiums for the Yankees and the Mets: the renovated City Island Little League baseball and softball fields opened for the season with a special ceremony on April 26, 2008. The occasion marked the long-awaited return to the "diamonds by the sea" after the 2007 season, when Island boys and girls had to play all their games elsewhere in the Bronx.

Bob Whelan, president of the City Island Little League (CILL), presided over the start of the season and dedication of the newly renovated Ambrosini Field, named after Anthony Ambrosini, a longtime Islander and baseball coach. The completion of the field and the new playground area represents the culmination of years of planning, endless meetings with the New York City Parks Department and the generous support of local politicians.

The three-year-long project actually began with funding from the Parks Department that was part of the \$2 million received by Bronx Parks as a result of Van Cortlandt Park being selected as the site of a new filtration plant for the city's water from the Croton Reservoir. Former State Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman, who spoke at the opening ceremony, was instrumental in getting \$2.2 million from this source for the renovation of

Ambrosini Field.

The renovation also included a new playground area at the front of the property on City Island Avenue next to P.S. 175. The City Island group Millennium Moms worked alongside CILL and the Parks Department to design a playground with a nautical theme that would be consistent with the Island's history. The new equipment features an anchor (which in summer will serve as a sprinkler), the helm of a ship and other nautical elements.

Two new ball fields are now in place between City Island Avenue and Long Island Sound—a baseball field and a softball field. Now, for the first time, girls in St. Mary's Softball League will be able to play on City Island rather than having to go to the field near Rodman's Neck.

Getting this project completed was no easy task, according to Mr. Whelan. Over 250 tons of rock was put in place to shore up the bulkhead on the water side of the fields and prevent further erosion. Then the Parks Department crews leveled the entire area and put in new soil and brand-new sod. A sprinkler system was installed throughout both fields, to the great relief of many past CILL volunteers, who used to hose down the infields by hand. There are now three water fountains for

players and spectators, as well as a sturdy new grandstand.

The concession and equipment building, originally constructed a decade ago by Chris McGuire and other CILL volunteers, remains in place, although not without a fight, Mr. Whelan told *The Current*. The Parks Department made him produce all the original permits and approval letters to prevent the building from being torn down. There is even something for Island adults in the new field—an exercise station installed near the entrance to the park, just past the playground.

To help insure that the entire renovation does not fall prey to vandalism and graffiti, surveillance cameras and lighting have been put in place, thanks to former New York Assembly candidate Jay Savino.

At the opening-day ceremony, after a prayer offered by the Rev. Susan Chadwick, Mr. Whelan acknowledged the support of Stephen Kaufman and many other local and state officials, including Council Member James Vacca, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (both of whom were present) and Congressman Joseph Crowley and Borough President Adolfo Carrion (who sent representatives). He also acknowledged the volunteers who helped



prepare the field, as well as the CILL executive board, coaches, sponsors and parents who make the Little League the successful program that it is.

Jimmy Vacca announced that he had put a grant of \$1,000 for the Little League into the new city budget and was working with the Borough President to rehabilitate the early-childhood playground behind the school, a program that would begin during the summer this year. Assemblyman Mike Benedetto also announced that the new state budget would include \$1,500 for the CILL. Liz Lyons read a letter from Mayor Bloomberg, who expressed his best wishes to the teams for a great year.

Continued on page 14

Temple Beth-El Dinner Dance

By MARIA SWIECIKI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On April 12, 2008, City Island's Temple Beth-El celebrated its 74th anniversary at the Harlem Yacht Club. Islander Dr. Edmund Rothschild was honored at the gala dinner dance. Shown above (l. to r.) are the officers and members of the board of trustees, along with some special friends of the temple: Bob Berent, Steve Slotnik, President Mort Ellis, Council Member James Vacca, Dr. Ed Rothschild, Rabbi Shohama Wiener, Paul Klein, Nan Kaplan, Irwin Hoberman, Violet Ellis and Marc Kaplan.

Friends and families gathered at the Harlem Yacht Club on April 12, 2008, to celebrate the 74th anniversary of City Island's Temple Beth-El and to honor one of its most active and beloved members, Dr. Edmund Rothschild.

Ed, as he is known to almost everyone, has been a valued trustee and officer of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth-El and also serves as treasurer. He designed the temple's logo, a Star of David, in the shape of a sailboat and has helped maintain the temple building by utilizing his carpentry, home-repair and nautical skills.

Mort Ellis, Temple Beth-El's president, presented Ed with a citation from Mayor Bloomberg. Proclamations from elected officials, including Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., Congressman Joseph Crowley, Senator Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Michael

Benedetto and Council Member Jimmy Vacca were conferred on Ed, along with a special certificate of merit given to Ed by Exotiq's Paul Klein.

After all the accolades, Ed graciously thanked his wife, Kathy Lonergan, his children, family members and friends with whom "he shared this honor tonight."

When he is not busy in his chosen profession of medicine, Ed can be found putting around his garden, fishing and performing his duties as co-chair of the P.S. 175 School Leadership Team.

The night flew by as honoree and guests dined and danced the night away to music by the very talented Freddie Lando. Floral centerpieces were generously donated by Paul Klein of Exotiq.

Mazel Tov to Dr. Ed and smooth sailing to Temple Beth-El in the coming years.

BRIEFLY...

GARDEN CLUB LUNCHEON: You are cordially invited to attend the annual luncheon of the Garden Club of City Island, which will take place at noon on Thursday, May 22, at the City Island Yacht Club. Pre-paid reservations are \$30. Call Ruth Collins at 718-885-1361 and join us for a most festive and pleasant afternoon with fine food, door prizes, beautiful baskets and raffles.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS for the 18th Young Artist Exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Any artist aged 18 or younger may submit one work of art and have it exhibited at the gallery. The work may be a drawing, painting, sculpture or photograph. Just bring in the work and Focal Point will mat, frame and hang the art in the exhibition. All art should be at the gallery by May 25, 2008. The exhibition will open on Saturday, June 7, with a reception from 1 to 4 p.m. For further information, call 718-885-1403. This event is made possible with the public funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund Re-grants Program, Bronx Borough President Aldolfo Carrión and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council.

BLOOD DRIVE: On Tuesday, May 13, the Pelham Masonic temple will hold its regular Blood Drive from 4 to 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church on City Island Avenue at Bay Street.

CLOTHING DONATION: The Masons are sponsoring a clothing drive on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the City Island Temple, 241 City Island Avenue at the corner of Schofield Street. All donations should be clean and placed in separate bags for women, men and children to help St. Athanasius Church distribute the clothing more quickly to the needy.

SPECIAL HEALING SERVICE: On Sunday afternoon May 18, at 5 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church (116 City Island Avenue) will offer a special healing service in conjunction with its sister parish, Christ Episcopal Church in Pelham. The public is warmly invited to partake of this quiet, contemplative worship opportunity, which will feature the laying on of hands for healing, a tradition that dates to the earliest church. For more information, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or e-mail RevPPA@aol.com.

BEAUTIFY THE BRONX: Pitch in to clean the City Island Bridge and surrounding areas as part of the annual "Team Up to Clean Up the Bronx," a program sponsored by the office of the Bronx Borough President. The clean-up will meet at Bridge Park on Sunday, May 4, from 9 to 12 noon, rain or shine. Volunteers are encouraged to wear sun block and to bring work gloves. For further information, call Patty Grondahl at 914-882-9578.

HEALTHY SENIOR EXERCISE PROGRAM: More than 40 people have joined the exercise classes at Grace Church parish hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but there is plenty of room for more. The classes include Sittercise with Patty Grondahl on Tuesdays at 10, which focuses on movement for arthritic joints; Tai/Chi Yoga with Marc Kaplan on Tuesdays at noon, featuring gentle movement to improve flexibility, balance and strength; and Cardio-Fitness with Mary Immediato on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., based on the popular Silver Sneakers program. The suggested contribution for each class is \$2. The programs are sponsored by the Presbyterian Senior Services and New York City's Department for the Aging. Every Monday and Wednesday, the City Island van leaves Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. to pick up participants on their corner of City Island Avenue to go to Orchard Beach for a walk and a stretch. The transportation contribution is 50 cents each way. Call Patty at 914-882-9578 for more information or to reserve a place on the van.

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE: The City Island Girl Scouts will host a plant sale the day before Mother's Day, Saturday, May 10, outside the Trinity United Methodist Church, City Island Avenue at Bay Street, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

30TH ANNUAL RUNNING RACES AND FITNESS WALK:

The Bronx Community College (BCC) 30th annual 10K race (6.2 miles), 5K race (3.1 miles), and the Michael Steurman two-mile fitness walk will take place on Saturday, May 3, rain or shine. Runners from ages 7 to 80 should check-in at BCC on Saturday morning from 8 to 9:30 a.m. There is free parking on the BCC campus, which is at West 181st Street and University Avenue. Visit <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/directions/directions.htm> for directions. The 5K run will start at 10 a.m., and the 10K race and the two-mile Fitness Walk will start at 10:30 a.m. The Awards Ceremony will be held at noon, and there will be a barbecue lunch. The first 300 registrants will receive long-sleeve tee shirts and medallions. Come with the family; there will be supervised games and prizes for children. For a registration form, call 718-289-5989 or register on line at www.active.com.

COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM:

It is not too late to enroll in this wonderful program where members receive fresh certified organic produce from an upstate farm every week. Each week's share consists of 9 to 12 different vegetables weighing about 12 pounds in midsummer into fall. The 24-week season starts the second week in June and ends in late November. Members purchase shares (\$450, due June 1, 2008) and pick up their vegetables at a location on City Island to be determined. A fruit share is also available for \$210; this covers 20 weeks and consists of about 5 to 8 pounds of fruits. For more information contact: Christine Williams at williams10464@aol.com, 117 Horton Street; cell 347-525-4727 or Marie Caesar at mariecaesar@hotmail.com.

INDOOR TAG SALES:

First, at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, on May 4 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table. Next, on Saturday, May 10, Grace Church will hold their fourth annual spring tag sale at 116 City Island Ave. at Pilot Street. The doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with baked goods and coffee at "Grace Café". Donations may be dropped off at the parish hall on May 8 and 9 from 6 to 9 p.m.

MOON OVER BUFFALO:

The City Island Theater Group presents Ken Ludwig's hilarious comedy/farce "Moon Over Buffalo" during the month of May in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Performances are on Fridays, May 16 and 23 at 8 p.m.; Saturdays, May 17 and May 24 at 8 p.m., Thursdays, May 22 at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, May 18 and May 25 at 3 p.m. Call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com to reserve your tickets!

ALERT-ALL LANDSCAPERS:

Last year a new law went into effect concerning the yard waste generated by landscapers. No longer can it be set out for the Department of Sanitation to collect, nor can be it dispersed in or around the curb or street. Landscapers are businesses, and they must dispose of yard material as commercial waste. Fines for lack of compliance are \$100 for the first and second violations and \$200 for the third and each subsequent violation.

HUTCHINSON RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT:

Saturday, May 3, 2008, is the Borough President's Bronx Cleanup Day. In order to participate in that cleanup, the members of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project are inviting interested people to meet in the Rodman's Neck parking area at 9 a.m. The cleanup of the Hutchinson River will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. For further information, please call Islander Eleanor Rae at 718-885-9653.



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Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb

ADVERTISING MANAGERS: Joan Ramftl, Margaret Lenz
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.

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A Current Preview A Farce in the Making

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by MARY MCINTYRE

The new production of the City Island Theater Group is a delightful farce, "Moon Over Buffalo." Here, Camille Kaiser as veteran actress Charlotte Hay shows her ability to express emotion, flanked by Elizabeth Paldino, Frank Siciliano and Sandra Prosnitz.

This month's production from the City Island Theater Group (CITG) is a hilarious comedy about the backstage drama created by a husband-and-wife team running a repertory theater company on the road in Buffalo, New York, in 1953. So it seems appropriate, since this issue of *The Current* has to go to press before opening night, to write a review of the backstage drama that goes into the making of the play instead of reviewing the finished production, and to encourage readers to go to the play and judge the performances for yourselves.

Ken Ludwig's "Moon Over Buffalo," was a great hit on Broadway years ago, starring Carol Burnett as Charlotte Hay, a role written especially for her. The CITG audience will be delighted with the new Charlotte, however, who is played with enormous comic wit by Camille Kaiser. The relationship between Charlotte and her husband, George (the equally witty CITG veteran Bill Kozy), runs the gamut from warm affection to actual sword fighting, with all sorts of verbal sword-play in between.

It seems that Charlotte and George, who are not exactly the Lunts, have come on hard times in their theatrical life. Not only have they run out of money, but their talented daughter (played by CITG favorite Elizabeth Paldino) has broken up with their sensible stage manager (John Garcia) and taken up with a new boyfriend (Keith Trauceniek) and decided

to leave the theater forever. George himself has taken up with a local Buffalo girl (Tara Brant), much to Charlotte's horror, though she too is being wooed by a wealthy suitor (Frank Siciliano). Overseeing all this mayhem is Charlotte's stone-deaf mother, Ethel (Sandra Prosnitz), who hears little but sees and knows a great deal.

Fate gives these aging thespians one more shot at fame, however, when we learn film director Frank Capra is en route to Buffalo to catch their matinee performance of "Cyrano de Bergerac" (or maybe it's Noel Coward's "Private Lives"), perhaps to cast them in his film version of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." As they prepare for his arrival, chaos breaks out, as the actors dash about the stage chasing each other and slamming doors as they go.

Of course, at the time *The Current* went to press, the actors were rushing around the stage chasing each other through non-existent doors and fighting with non-existent swords as director Nick Sala and stage manager Eileen Fox tried to determine the blocking and keep track of the mayhem. But everyone had learned his or her lines and was definitely getting into the spirit of the thing, as their private personalities disappeared into fabulous characters whose antics will leave you laughing in the aisles.

For reservations, call 718-885-3066. Admission fees are \$15 at the door; \$12 reserved seats, seniors, and students.

A FIRE ENGINE GOES HOME

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by MARY ANNE CLANCY

Members of the Humane West Centre Street station were delighted to have their 1939 fire engine back, thanks to the Clancy family, who gave it a good home for 30 years on City Island. Bill Clancy (second from right in the first row) poses here with his son, Bill Jr. (far left) and with members of the Humane station who came to City Island to take their beloved fire engine back home.

In 1976, Bill Clancy and his wife, Mary Anne (née Mahalage), visited Mary Anne's home town, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, and they did what most couples do when visiting their favorite place—they bought a souvenir. Of course, since we're talking about the Clancys here, it wasn't an ordinary souvenir. It was a 1939 Mack fire engine, which Bill drove home to City Island in the pouring rain and kept in his driveway for some 30 years. What makes this story even more unusual is that after three decades on City Island, the fire engine has recently returned to its hometown and become a cherished possession of its original fire department.

Let us begin with the trip to City Island in 1976. Bill relates that the rain was so intense during the 160-mile ride that the temporary license plate fell off the back of the engine. When he was stopped by the New Jersey state police, Bill explained that he was taking the truck home, having just bought it in Pennsylvania. The trooper radioed ahead so that Bill was not stopped again on his trip home, and, not only that, the troopers along the road waved and flashed their lights as he passed them.

Once the engine arrived on City Island, it immediately became a familiar sight in City Island parades and other community events. Bill would take his family and friends for rides on the engine, but by 1985 when his sons were grown and the engine began to need serious maintenance, he retired it to his driveway and covered it with a tarp. "We just stopped using it," Bill told a reporter from the *Republican & Herald* newspaper in Potts-

ville, Pennsylvania. "It just sat there. I really felt bad." Several people expressed interest in buying the engine, but they never got serious. Flash forward to 2007, when a small fire started at a house next door to the Clancys. The firefighters who responded to the alarm noticed the engine and asked the Clancys what they were planning to do with it. Bill told them that he would be glad to donate it to whoever would be willing to restore it, and when the firefighters noticed "Humane No. 1. Mahanoy City PA" on the hood, they contacted the original fire department and offered it to them.

The Humane West Centre Street station, a volunteer company, had no idea what had happened to the engine, so when they got the call, they were delighted at the prospect of getting it back. In November 2007, nine members of the station rented a van and drove to City Island to take a look at the fire engine. Within weeks, they hired a flatbed truck and pulled the 1939 Mack onto it for the trip home to Mahanoy City, where it is being restored with the support of the Schuylkill Historical Society.

Michael Kitsock, president of the society, was impressed by the way in which the Humane company found their old engine. "There is so much heritage," he told the *Republican & Herald*. "Fire trucks are a special type of machine. They are man's greatest gift to the service of man."

The Clancys miss their old engine, but they are delighted that it is back where it came from, and it goes without saying that they are also pleased to have their driveway back.

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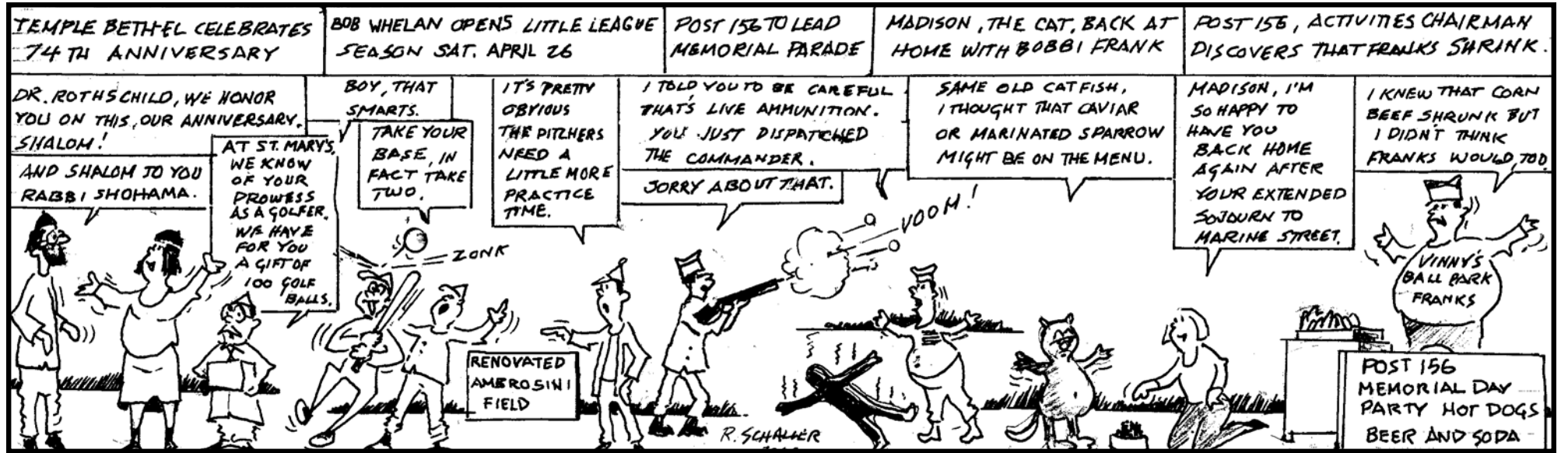
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Photo by RICK DEWITT

The City Island Girl Scouts wrapped up a successful year at their annual Court of Awards held at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on Saturday April 12, 2008, from 10 a.m. to noon. The morning started off with breakfast, followed by the ceremony, as troop by troop, the scouts and their leaders celebrated their achievements for the year.



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.

Heartfelt Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you, Deacon Bill Mueller, for all your efforts and supreme wisdom that you used to support our beloved St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish Church during your many years as deacon. I am just one of many parishioners who thank you for your spiritual guidance and commitment of faith to our youth, and others through all these years.

We thank you for your quiet, generous nature; responsible character; and commitment to the young and elderly alike. We are grateful for your compassion to friends and neighbors and your undying love of faith and church and our City Island community!

As you go happily into retirement, we will miss seeing your smiling face on God's altar, your articulate sermons, and, most of all, your dedicated presence. Good luck, Bill and Angela, in your future endeavors, and forever, many, many thanks.

Margie McNulty

Auto Larcenies on the Rise

To the Editor:

City Island is a beautiful place to live. The residents here for the most part are both friendly and established in their community. Sad to say since the beginning of April, many car larcenies have occurred. At least three residents in the Tier Street area were affected, my vehicle included.

Luckily, a local resident and business owner happened to be driving past. The police were on the scene, and the first thing he asked was: "Are you okay?" I was calling the Automobile Club, when he said, "No problem, I'll give you a boost." He fixed my broken window, boosted the car and even cleaned the vehicle. The price was so low I was embarrassed.

City Island Auto Body showed a lot of class. I am in the Republican Party in City Island and a retired officer. The whole feeling is a community that looks out for each other and has a genuine interest. I ride my bike every morning through the Island, and I feel proud to live here.

Trust me, I will be looking out for others the same way Eddie from City Island Auto Body did for me. This is our community, and we must be watchful for the bad elements.

John S. Mitchell

Thanks from the Garden Club

To the Editor:

The Garden Club of City Island owes all of you in our island community an enormous thank-you for the support you have given us since we were founded more than 48 years ago. The club's primary focus is on the public spaces of City Island, such as the memorial areas, the parks and the tree pits along City Island Avenue.

As you saw in our annual fund-raising letter, we had accomplished several specific proj-

ects this year and we have many more that are ongoing. These include the Legion's memorial triangle, the Welcome to City Island sign and Hawkins Street Park. We are currently in discussion with the New York City Parks Department regarding the refurbishment of Hawkins Park, and we will keep you informed about that project. Our goal for 2008-2009 is to continue our existing projects and programs but also to participate in new ones, such as the renovation of the grounds in front of the City Island Nautical Museum.

We would like to make a special plea to all of you residents to keep your property well maintained by weeding, sweeping and generally beautifying your own little piece of the Island. If we all our do part, the effort will be worthy of great pride and a sense of accomplishment. Your contributions and encouragement to our Beautification Fund have allowed us to achieve many of our goals over the years, and we hope you will continue to support us both through donations as well as your own beautification efforts.

The Garden Club of City Island welcomes anyone interested in our goals and programs to join our organization. We meet at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of every month at the City Island Yacht Club, at the foot of west Pilot Street. Remember, this is not a "ladies only" club, but a community effort. If you can't make it to a meeting, call Phyllis Goodman at 718-885-0521 for more information about how you can participate.

We invite each of you to help us by making all of City Island a place that is neat, clean and beautiful, that has great curb appeal not only for residents, but for our visitors as well.

Barbara Hoffman

Thanks for Your Help

To the Editor:

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to my family and friends at the Black Whale and to the City Island community for all your love and support after my house fire. I am especially grateful to Bill and Vickie Kenney for never letting me feel alone or unsupported, to Calliope Rigos and her mother, Marie, for gifts that went beyond anything I could have expected or imagined, and to Christine Werkhoven, without whom I would never have gotten through this extraordinary experience. All my love and thanks,

Maurice Richard

Naples Comes to City Island

To the Editor:

Two years ago I finally got to Naples, Italy, after imagining it from Shakespeare and poetry, movies and the travel photos I had seen. When I got there, I was flabbergasted. It was the dirtiest city I had ever seen. A few steps from our lovely hotel is a tour-book recommended area were mounds of garbage and even a pig's head, which were still there days later! Why do I mention this? Because I walk my wonderful City Island regularly and have never seen it so slovenly, neglected and decrepit-looking in 40-plus years of living here.

Yes, I have always picked up and deposited cans and newspapers in a pail going and coming from the bridge. That is something a citizen realizes is necessary from time to time. But I'm referring to the fronts of stores, the parcels of grass outside a City Island Avenue fenced-in private house, an unused lot next to one of our most popular stores, where there are layers of dog turds and debris that one stroller cannot tackle while walking—and should not have to!

We can attack dog owners and people who unload their ashtrays and fast-food car-

tons from their cars, but in the end, we are the ones who must keep this garbage under control. We, the residents and store owners. This is our home. It is bad enough that the ongoing street construction invites added cans and lunch wrappings and even discarded building and paving supplies—but we all have a responsibility to talk to the offenders and to beg store owners to clean up their property daily or at least weekly!

What has happened to us? We used to be that "lovely New England village island" nestled in the Bronx, with quaint-looking, well-cared-for stores (empty or not) and tidy, looked-after house fronts (and backs). Now we are a sorry-looking island with an avenue and side streets that look unkempt and forgotten. What has happened to the island I was once so proud to show off to the world?

Carmen Mason

Thanks for the Tree Service

To the Editor:

I feel compelled to tell you what nice neighbors the Owens Brothers Tree Service are. I contacted them on April 7 because I thought they had cut branches on King Avenue and left the branches on the street, taking up two precious parking spaces.

Dennis Owens explained to me that they cannot and would not do business that way. If they did, their customers would not pay them!

He offered to take a look at the mess someone else left and he offered to take away the debris in the interest of being a good neighbor.

And the Owens Brothers made good on their very generous offer and carted away the branches. Good neighbors like this should be celebrated, recognized and appreciated.

Thank you, Dennis Owens.

Joanne Brogan

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“CARPENTER’S KIDS”: A MISSION IN TANZANIA

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by THE REV. J. RANDOLPH ALEXANDER

These Carpenter’s Kids in the village of Lamaiti, Tanzania, are wearing the t-shirts that were taken to them last summer by the Rev. J. Randolph Alexander of Christ Church in Pelham. A new mission to Tanzania this summer will be led by Grace Church’s vicar, the Rev. Patricia Alexander.

Many City Islanders may not be aware that some in our community, parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church, have made it possible for a parish in Tanzania to purchase a cow, whose presence will significantly improve the physical and economic health of the parish.

This connection between Grace Church and the Diocese of Central Tanganyika is made possible through “The Carpenter’s Kids,” a mission initiative of the Diocese of New York in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika in Tanzania, East Africa.

Africa continues to be devastated by the ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic, and estimates suggest that the Diocese of Central Tanganyika is currently home to at least 40,000 orphans who have lost their parents to HIV and AIDS. The Carpenter’s Kids program was established a few years ago to help selected orphans by providing a school uniform, a pair of shoes, and adequate school supplies to enable them to attend primary school. These children also are fed breakfast on school days. Incredibly, \$50 a year defrays all of these expenses

for one child.

Mother Patty Alexander, vicar of Grace Episcopal Church, has been invited to be the spiritual leader of a pilgrimage from the New York diocese to Tanzania that will take place from July 7 to 18 this summer. She is thrilled to be leading this pilgrimage, which she calls “the dream of a lifetime.” Her husband, the Reverend J. Randolph Alexander, rector of Christ Church in Pelham, visited the Carpenter’s Kids last summer, so Mother Patty is delighted to be able to follow suit.

Because supplies of all kinds are very scarce in Tanzania, and since shipping costs are prohibitive, she will be taking with her large suitcases filled with t-shirts, school supplies, deflated soccer balls and other gifts for the children in the program.

Mother Patty welcomes contributions from City Islanders, so please be in touch with her at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@aol.com, if you would like to help out. More information about the Carpenter’s Kids program is also available at www.carpenterskids.net.



Photo by PATTY GRONDAHL

Healthy seniors exercise at Grace Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays (see Brief, page 2).

A COUPLE FOR ALL (SPORTS) SEASONS

By KAREN NANI



Annamarie and Bob Whelan are shown with their three children, Kevin, Briana and Christine, after Kevin’s confirmation in April 2008.

If you thought the directors of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea (SMSS) basketball program could take a well-deserved rest after the long winter season, think again. The Whelans, Bob and Annamarie, barely had time to catch their breath when the City Island Little League (CILL) season began, and they switched from their basketball jerseys to their volunteer baseball caps.

Bob Whelan, in his fifth year as president of CILL, presided over the start of the 2008 season and the dedication of the newly renovated Ambrosini Field on April 26 (see story and photos this issue). The completion of the field and the new playground area represents the culmination of years of planning, meetings with the Parks Department and pleading with local politicians for support.

The couple’s multitasking marriage began in 1984, when they met skiing at Hunter Mountain in upstate New York. Introduced by friends who shared a ski house at Hunter, the Whelans were married in 1990 in Queens, where Annamarie grew up.

Bob is a longtime Islander. His parents, Tom and Barbara, were social members of the Morris Yacht Club for many years, and they finally decided to move to City Island from the Norwood section of the Bronx in 1960. They raised the six Whelan children—Bob, Michael, Billy, Tom, Jim and Jeanne—on Marine Street, where Barbara still lives.

Bob attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Fordham Prep High School. He then enrolled at John Jay College, after which he became a police officer at the age of 20. He retired from the NYPD and now works for Verizon.

His interest in coaching basketball began early, while he was still in high school. He started helping out at St. Mary’s and then became a full-time coach when his son, Kevin, began playing in 1998. That year Bob also started coaching Little League.

He joined the CILL board of directors and eventually succeeded Irwin Weinfeld

as president in 2003. Obviously not ones to say “Let someone else step up,” Bob and Annamarie also assumed the leadership of SMSS Basketball from another hard-working Island couple, Cathy and Frank Cebek.

It has definitely been a husband-and-wife effort in both their careers and their volunteer efforts. Annamarie was also a member of the NYPD from 1986 to 2006. “We attended the same police academy class, but we didn’t know each other,” she told *The Current*. Annamarie retired from the Housing Department as a sergeant, a rank not achieved by many women.

The couple moved to Fordham Place on City Island in 1993 and now have three children, Kevin, Briana and Christine. Annamarie started working with the SMSS basketball girls teams when their two daughters began to participate, and now the couple shares the hard work of the “long, but enjoyable” City Island basketball season. “Anna runs the program and does all the paperwork. I make the decisions,” Bob said smiling. When asked whether they still enjoy skiing, Anna said: “Unfortunately we don’t have time for that anymore. We’re too busy with basketball in the winter.”

Like many City Island mothers, she juggles work, parenthood and volunteering. She is now preparing for her son’s eighth-grade graduation from P.S. 175 this June and looks forward to getting involved at Fordham Prep, his new school as of September. Kevin will be the third generation of Whelan boys to attend Fordham Prep, following in the footsteps of his father and his late grandfather.

As if their schedules aren’t busy enough, the Whelans were in the middle of moving to a new house on King Avenue as this story was being written. I interviewed them amidst the noise of hammers and drills, as they renovated sections of their new home, formerly owned by Dr. Robert and Susan Greenlee. Susan was a dedicated volunteer at P.S. 175 when her children, Travis, Cameron and Hannah, attended the school. So you could say that the house’s tradition of community spirit continues.



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In the month when the **Starving Artist Gallery/Café** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779) celebrates its 11th anniversary on City Island, we have everything from young musicians to jazz to blues to the best of singer-songwriters. On the anniversary weekend itself, Starving Artist offers the debut of singer-songwriter Susan Kane on Friday, May 2, at 8 p.m. That Saturday, May 3—the same day the Artist opened in 1997, songwriter Nicola brings her “wicked, brilliant, awesome” self to help us celebrate in style, starting at 8 p.m. On Sunday, May 4, it’s another debut, Spuyten Duyvil, a band offering acoustic / folk / blues selections. The following weekend, bring in your mom, grandmother, or aunt or just treat yourself to the music of Amura on Friday, May 9, at

8 p.m., or the awesome talent of Lawrence “Lipbone” Redding on Saturday, May 10, also at 8 p.m. The first two days of the following weekend feature young musicians. On Friday, May 16, at 8 p.m. City Island’s James McGowan and Evan Berent perform; that Saturday, May 17, Lauren West performs, beginning at 8 p.m. On Sunday, May 18, it’s the City Island Jazz Quartet, led by City Island’s Roger Scala on saxophone and featuring the legendary jazz artist Lou Volpe on guitar. On Friday, May 23, the Freakin’ Ricans are back with us at 8 p.m. That Saturday, May 24, Elliott Glick of the Starving Artist, along with wife, Monica Glick, and music-artist and City Islander Lucille Rivin are on stage at 8 p.m. with Just Us, an evening of favorites. On Sunday, May 25, there’s a Starving Artist Jam, commencing at 3 p.m.; all musicians, all instruments welcome. Then it’s the last-Friday-of-the-month “Take the Stage” Open Mike Night on Friday, May 30, at 8 p.m., ending with blues / folk songwriter Phil Minissale on Saturday, May 31, at 8 p.m. For more information, visit our Web site at www.starvingartistonline.com.

combination of fat-burning cardio, resistance training, and proper eating. It is absolutely possible for you to dramatically shape up your waistline before summer hits this year. Weight loss is not reserved only for the people you’ve seen on the “Biggest Loser” or on diet pill infomercials. You can do it too. Just the two questions below to see how your routine measures up.

How often do you exercise? If your answer is anything less than four times a week, then that’s the first thing getting between you and streamline abs. You need to adopt a fat-burning workout, which is a routine that includes intense cardiovascular training coupled with effective resistance training. Do you do this?

I’m sorry to be the one to break this to you, but walking on the treadmill for 30 minutes isn’t a fat-blasting routine. Neither is a leisurely 20 minutes on the elliptical machine. The truth is that you can dramatically increase your results while investing less time when you exercise right.

Cardio exercise is all about maintaining an effective level of intensity. This doesn’t mean that you should be out of breath or gasping for air. It does mean that you need to push yourself. Resistance training is the second key part of a fat-burning workout. This means working your major muscle groups against resistance in a way that stimulates your metabolism. Again the key here is to find the right intensity and to keep each muscle group guessing.

What kind of shape is your diet in? Diet is a big stumbling block for most people, especially as it relates to their midsection. Here’s a fact: If your diet is out of control, then your abs will be, too. You can’t trim your waist without trimming the junk out of your diet, regardless of how hard you exercise. Here are some important tips:

- Keep calories in check. Do you know how many calories you eat? The best way to find out is to record everything you eat for a few days. Tally the number of calories that you eat each day and do an evaluation. Feel free to recruit me to help out with this part. To-

gether we’ll chart improvements for your diet and adjust your calories for maximum results.

- Just say “no” to junk food. While this may seem obvious, your definition of “junk food” may need an alteration. Refined sugar is one of the biggest culprits in the junk food world. It is found in soft drinks, blended coffee drinks, cookies, cakes, packaged snacks and other sinfully sweet treats. Processed fat is another monster. As a rule of thumb you can safely view all processed or refined items as junk food.

- Eat more frequently. The key here is to never let your metabolism “crash” by going hours without eating. One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to skip breakfast, as this is the meal that “breaks the fast” that your body goes into each night. Stick with eating small meals every few hours and always avoid stuffing yourself.

You should now understand why you are better off not wasting time on crunches. It is important to exercise your abs a couple of times a week, but you can’t expect fat to fall off that area even after hundreds of crunches. If you want to flatten and sculpt your waist in time for summer this year, all you have to do is decide that you really want it. Commit to yourself; you deserve it.

Butch Nieves is a City Island resident who owns a personal fitness business. He suffered from asthma as a child and eventually chose body building as a way to become healthy and strong. He has won numerous events, including Mr. America, Mr. U.S.A. and the American National Bodybuilding championships. His Web site is www.mramericaspersonaltraining.com.

GETTING INTO SHAPE WITH MR. AMERICA

By BUTCH NIEVES

It never fails. As spring approaches, people start thinking about getting in shape for summer, and every year the number one question I am asked is: “How can I get great abs?”

You have probably pondered that question at some time or another yourself, and it is likely that you are frustrated with your waistline. Maybe you have given up on your abs after doing dozens of crunches only to see zero results. I don’t blame you.

Forget everything you’ve heard about how to sculpt your abs. Crunches simply aren’t the answer. In fact, doing crunches with the hope that they will turn your midsection

into a washboard is to operate under one of the most widely held fitness myths. Simply put, training one area of your body, or spot reducing, will not specifically burn fat from that area.

You have probably heard that spot reducing is a myth, but most people still train as if it is true. Doing crunches will not magically make your waist shrink; it will not cause your muffin top to disappear; and it will not give you washboard abs. Only a reduction in body fat will do that for you.

So what is the secret to great abs? Instead of endless crunches, the secret is a winning

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DANCING WITH AN ISLANDER



King Avenue resident and dancer Hyonok Kim directed a film entitled "Spirit of the Pinnacles." Her film was selected at the Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema and was shown at Boulder Museum of Contemporary Arts in Boulder, Colorado on April 4 and 5, 2008.



Photos courtesy of MONICA GLICK
Two Islanders, Monica Glick and Marion Rosenfeld, were present at the Mass offered by Pope Benedict XVI at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, April 20, 2008. Monica has worked for 21 years for the Pontifical Mission Societies as editor of the national "Mission" magazine and as director of development and programs. She attended the Mass with members of the national office staff of those societies and brought Marion along as a guest.



MADISON, THE CAT WITH NINE LIVES

By NANCY SCOTTO PRYOR



Photo by BOBBI FRANK
Missing Island cat, Madison, was recovered after a 20-day ordeal for her family thanks to help from friends and neighbors.

During the month of March, posters for a missing cat named Madison started appearing everywhere on City Island. It all started on March 18 about 10 p.m., when Madison decided to chase a pigeon off the fourth-floor balcony of her apartment, and it finally ended happily after a 20-day ordeal for her family, not just for her owner, Bobbi Frank, but for her extended family, the City Island community.

Several days and nights were spent walking the blocks near Bobbi's home, looking into yards, checking garages, peeking under porches, or any other spots where a cat might hide. I accompanied Bobbi on some of these walks and was amazed at the amount of sincere concern that neighbors and even complete strangers showed for Madison's well-being and for Bobbi's deep determination to find her beloved pet. Most people are naturally suspicious when approached by strangers, but as soon as she told them she had lost her cat, they welcomed her into their yards, their homes and apparently their hearts.

Bobbi's perseverance was amazing, but she was certainly bolstered by all the support she found. People would actually go out looking for Madison, calling her and following cats they thought looked like her. Bobbi got numerous calls during the days after Madison disappeared, and she endured a roller coaster ride of emotions as she thought she had found Madison only to learn it was yet another poor stray.

On Monday, April 7, at about 2:30 in the afternoon, Bobbi got a call from John Steine, who was in his grandparents' yard on Marine Street when he spotted a cat on the beach that looked familiar. As he went back into the house to check the flyer, the cat jumped into the yard, and at the moment he opened his door, she ran inside. She was scared but desperately hungry, so John fed her and called Bobbi, who was at work on Long Island.

Bobbi then called Yolanda, whom most

City Islanders know as our community animal lover and who had been searching for Madison from the beginning. Yolanda believed that the cat was Madison, so Bobbi made one more mad dash to City Island, this time her last. Madison was very thin but healthy and unhurt and very, very happy to be home.

Bobbi is so grateful to all the people she encountered along the way that she asked me to express her deep personal gratitude to them all: to Nancy for her unbelievable and generous support as she printed, stapled and mailed 360 flyers and 700 mailers together with her daughter, Sam; to Hope and Mike, who were first on the scene to help search in the dark and cold that very first night Madison went missing; to Yolanda, whose tireless efforts and unbelievable faith gave Bobbi hope; to Aggie for keeping her company every morning at 5:30 a.m., even with a disability; to Anita and Phillip for always looking for and calling Madison; to Trita, who spotted Madison the next morning and gave Bobbi hope that she was alive and well; to the postal workers Debbie and Laura, who always assured Bobbi she would be found; to Christine from Pilot Street, whose own experience guided Bobbi with knowledge and support.

She is also grateful to her superintendents Peter and Nora, for giving her access to the entire building and allowing her to post flyers throughout the building; to Rocco and Gracie on Marine Street and their daughters, Doris and Lorraine, of Pilot Street for encouragement and support; to Donna, Denise and Lori for covering so much territory distributing flyers; to Robin on Marine Street who positively identified Madison and gave hope when hope was dwindling; to Barbara and Gary of Pilot Street for their gentle support and for opening their spirit and their home; to Wes at Consolidated for telling Bobbi never to give up hope; to Marianne of Tier Street for searching and praying for her safe return; to Lee and Steve of Horton Street for caring for all the strays who come their way and giving Bobbi access to their yard; to Bobbi's mother and her friends for their prayers; to her sister, Mary, who walked through the rain for hours, and her brother, John, who also joined in the search.

She thanks her friends and boss, Dr. Naegele, Kasha and Monica, for their support and for letting her leave work at a moments notice when there was a sighting; Tim Link, an animal communicator at *Wagging-Tales.com*; Maria and Pepe for giving hope, moral support, a trap and great guidance; Indra, who was very concerned along with Sally's two boys; Christine's friend Nikki, who lent Bobbi a trap; and all the store owners who let Bobbi post the flyers: City Island Chinese Food, Burck's, the City Island Diner, Buddy's, JT's, The Vegetable Store, Sugar & Spice, the City Island Pharmacy, Nails by the Bay, The Art of Beauty, Connie's, the IGA, the Sunoco station, Dunkin' Donuts, City Island Deli, Fella's, Filomena's Pizza, Moe's and the Golden Needle; and everyone and anyone else she met or spoke with along the way.

"I am sure I have forgotten to name many others," Bobbi told *The Current*, "but you have all been outstanding, and I have never been more proud to be part of a community as I am here on City Island."

Robert Frost wrote that "Good fences make good neighbors." In three weeks Bobbi scaled numerous fences, literally and figuratively, and turned what could have been a long and horrible ordeal into something positive, an experience that she will never forget. Madison is no longer just the missing cat on a poster. She has become a symbol of community, compassion and hope and of the great and powerful miracles that happen every day in our lives.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MAY

Sat., May 3, **Bronx Cleanup Day and Hutchinson River Restoration**, meet at Bridge Park or Rodman's Neck parking area at 9 a.m. (see Briefs this issue).

Sun. May 4 and 18, **Indoor Tag Sale**, City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat., May 10, **Mother's Day Plant Sale**, sponsored by the City Island Girl Scouts, outside Trinity Methodist Church, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thurs., May 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Glebe House Senior Center, 2125 Glebe Avenue, Bronx.

Sat., May 17, **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.

Thurs., May 23, **Garden Club Spring Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, 12 noon. Call 718-885-1361 for reservations.

Mon., May 26, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2:30 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion.

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

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the City Island Garden Club will be Monday, May 5, at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street, at 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 17, the club will hold its annual spring clean-up of Hawkins Street Park, at 10 a.m. Volunteers are welcome.

The annual luncheon in on May 22 (see Brief, page 2). The deadline for payment is May 15.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

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

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew. Rabbi Shohama will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on May 2 and Reb David Daniel will lead the Shabbat service on May 16. (Mort Ellis and Bob Berent, with his accordion, lead on the other Friday nights.)

Our annual meeting and general elections will take place on Friday, May 16, at 7 p.m. preceding the Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. our City Island American Legion conducts its annual memorial service. This year, Temple Beth-El will host the service, led by Reb David Daniel. Veterans, their families and members of other congregations are welcome to this communal event. We urge you to arrive early.

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

And finally, "Dancing with Elaine," a series of lessons in ballroom and Latin dance, is back for six Wednesdays starting on May 14. Open to the public; no partner required. The lessons are from 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10 per session for non-members, \$54 for all six lessons if paid by the first class. (Temple Beth-El members free.) Call 718-885-2154 to register.

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

Bob Berent

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We begin the month of May with the celebration of the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven on May 1. This is a holyday of obligation. Our Masses are at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. That evening we are joining the other houses of worship at Grace Episcopal Church for a prayer service to commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

On Friday, May 2, we will have our monthly Holy Hour from 4 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, will be an important day in the life of our second-graders and their families. Twenty-nine children will receive their First Holy Communion at an 11 o'clock Mass. The following day, these children will participate in a special procession at our Sunday 10 o'clock Mass, when our parish will honor Our Blessed Mother at the beginning of 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.

On Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 11, we will honor all our mothers with a special blessing at all our Masses.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held this month on the third Sunday of the month, May 18, after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are invited to come and share a few moments with other parishioners.

The May meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our religious education program for this year will come to an end on Wednesday, May 21. Report cards and awards will be distributed that day. We wish all our young people a happy and healthy summer.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by Healing Prayers on the second 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 about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 or visit our Web site, www.gracecityisland.org.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during May:

Thursday, May 1, 6 p.m.: Interfaith National Day of Prayer Service.

Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School. All school-age children are invited to participate!

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Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 scouts with their families were in the U.S. Navy for the weekend of April 5-6, 2008, when they spent the weekend aboard the battleship *Massachusetts*, where everyone enjoyed Navy grub and sleeping in the actual bunks that the crew of the ship used during World War II.

City Island Republicans

I am happy to report that by November, we should have a full slate of candidates for what will be one of the biggest elections in history. There was a meeting held at Bronx Republican headquarters on April 16. For the first time in many, many years, there are several candidates competing to run for the different offices across the Bronx. For example, we have two people considering a run for the 82nd Assembly District, which covers City Island. The candidates will go through a screening committee.

We will not have a May meeting. Our next meeting will be in early June. Stay tuned for the June issue of *The Island Current*.

Fred Ramftl

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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

Indoor Tag Sale: It's the return of the Springtime Indoor Tag Sale! May 4 and 18, June 8 and 22. Tables available for \$10 each. Please come and sell your wares, or buy them! Call 718-885-1145 for information or to reserve your table or e-mail brendaprohaska@aol.com.

NEW CLASSES

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

Yoga: City Island's Marc Kaplan is teaching yoga—a beginners-to-intermediate class, which will include Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). He hopes to include tai-chi as well, which will help balance the immune system and reduce pain. Cost will be depending on class size; larger classes will be \$10 each; a small class \$15. Please contact Susan for inquiries at riossj@aol.com or call 718-885-9145.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

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

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

Legion News

Our big event this month will, of course, be the annual Memorial Day Parade, which will step off at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 26, at Belden Point. General Robert Menonna, ret., is busy with the final preparations. He reports that he has already engaged a pipe band for the event. Among the local participants will be the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Post 156 veterans, the Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, associate members, Little Leaguers and veterans representing other posts.

Robert is working on the possibility of procuring the services of a military band. We should also have a contingent of marines and sailors to grace our line of March. We can always count on our local politicians or their representatives to participate, and we look forward to our men and women of the cloth to join us, too. Should your organization wish to march with us, call Comrade Menonna on x2595.

I was recently asked by a relatively new resident to recommend a good place from which to view the parade. I would suggest Hawkins Park, where homage is paid to our WW I veterans; or Pelham Cemetery, where a brief ceremony honors veterans of all wars from the Revolutionary War to WW II; or the Legion Memorial at the bridge, where we honor veterans of WW II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The advantage of the last is that it is in close proximity to the Post, where festivities will take place following the parade.

I don't like to whip a dead horse, but people who attended the St. Patrick's Day dinner still ask "What happened to the corned beef?" Our activities chairman Comrade Hecker, chief chef for the affair, attributed the debacle to shrinkage. Our judge advocate, Comrade Hartigan, conducted an investigation and concluded that Comrade Hecker's deduction has merit. In the future only preshrunk corned beef will be purchased by the quartermaster.

Keep the date open for this year's Post Memorial Service, which will be held on Friday, May 16, at the Temple Beth-El at 7:30 p.m. We are looking forward to a good turnout of Post members, the Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and associate members.

Our meeting Monday, May 5, will be Member Recognition Night. We will pay homage to those having service anniversaries of five years or more in increments of five years. In the past, refreshments befitting the occasion have been served, and we are confident that the commander will continue this popular custom. There will be three



Photo courtesy of PILOT COVE MANOR

A great time was had by all at the party on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2008, at Pilot Cove Manor. Enjoying themselves were (front row, l. to r.) Ann Toscano and Nettie Schmidt; (second row): Ann Butera, Martha Meehan, Ann Squillante, Terry Carmody, Felicia Doati and party organizer Louise Mangine. Camera shy: Yolanda Bove.

recipients of life memberships, those who have had 50 years of continuous membership: Jack Flynn, Vincent Warner and myself, Russ Schaller.

Fortunately, we have no departures to report this month. Francis Scollon, a.k.a. Old Chap, is recuperating at Workmen's Circle Home. He is expected to be home by the first week of May. Michael Kelly, son of associate member Michael Kelly, is still recuperating from an unfortunate accident suffered when he was away at school. Jennie Varian says that Donald is doing well. Jim Callahan, his friend for many years, stops by to chat or play a game of dominos. If you are marching in the parade, look for Don along the route. If you know of anyone not up to par, let me know at x 2087.

Meetings for May are: May 5, Membership Recognition Night; May 19, regular meeting, and May 12 executive board meeting.

We welcome aboard a new member, Joseph Burck, an Island resident and local businessman.

Saturday, May 17, Borough President Adolfo Carrión will sponsor Veterans Appreciation Day at the Orchard Beach mall, starting at 10 a.m.

From "Straight and Level" comes this story of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in WW II: "It was only 68 years ago on May 7, 1945, that we learned that hostilities had ended at midnight, May 6, and that May 8 was to be Victory-in-Europe Day. In accordance with surrender procedure, Jerries were to approach our air strip, wheels down, circle the field and come in. May 8 would be the beginning of a parade of German aircraft eager to escape the Russians. On May 8 two Ju-88s and an FW-200 Condor landed. One of the Ju-88s was being used as a troop transport, for from it emerged 11 docile Germans thankful that for them the war was over."

And for you WW II buffs, this comes from Col. Charles D. Canham, commanding officer of the 116th Infantry Regiment, First Infantry Division, a.k.a. The Big Red 1, on Omaha Beach, D-Day. "The're murdering us here. Let's move inland and get murdered!"

See you at the Big Parade.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

City Island Girl Scouts

The Court of Awards was held on Saturday April 12, 2008 from 10 a.m. to noon. The morning started off with a yummy continental breakfast with juices and coffee, and then the ceremony began with the color guard and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Troop by troop, the Girl Scouts and their leaders celebrated their accomplishments for the year.

Troop #1120 with leader Deana Weyhrauch and cadet girl scouts Veronica Weyhrauch and Anna Rothschild were unable to attend. Troop 1075, led by Grace Nagy, Felicia Maldari and Lisa Grillo, included sixth-grade Junior Girl Scouts Blakely Nagy, Samantha

Nagy, Gabi Maldari, Alyssa Grillo, Samantha Yew, Samantha Rivera, Jillian Cea, Jenna DesGriessler, Analise Vivola, Nicole DeRosa, Isabel Werkhoven and Ardaya Jones. Troop #1175 with leaders Jamie Reilly and Carmelina, included fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts Brianna Reilly, Kaylin Fitzpatrick, Briana Whelan, Amanda Valentino, Sarah Williams, Catherine Graves, Grace Ramos, Michele Lombardo, Anastasia Lacina and first-grade Brownies Savanna Dentico and Christine Whelan.

Brownies Troop #1065 led by Brenda Prohaska, included second-grade Brownie Girl Scouts Dusty Prohaska, Anita Beqiraj, Emma Ramos, Olivia Albertelli, Sabrina Jarvis and Catherine Ficke. The youngest troop, with leader Sally Lachman, are the Daisy Girl Scouts: Jessica Lachman, Grace Kretzmer, Madison Viera, Sarah Stark, Caitlin Knapp, Amanda Campbell, Jade Villasana, Nicole Masi, Meghan McCornaghy and Kiera Varnavas. They were adorable with their Daisy song!

The girls ended the ceremony with "America the Beautiful." It was a wonderful day both inside and out as the Girl Scouts wrapped up the year. The two remaining events for the scouts this year are to march on Memorial Day in the parade and to put on their big fund-raiser for the year (besides cookie sales): the Mother's Day Plant sale on May 10.

We thank Reverend Sue Chadwick and the Trinity United Methodist Church for allowing us to use the church for these events and we are grateful to City Islanders for their support!

Brenda Prohaska

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

The trip to Shea on Saturday, April 12, was a huge success. Commander Todd Davis reported to me that over \$500 was raised for the purchasing of needed supplies for a unit that is currently serving in Sammara, Iraq. The squadron looks to have many more exciting events throughout the year.

At our last meeting, we spoke about upcoming events, including Memorial Day. This year the squadron hopes to have a large number of members marching in the parade. A reliable source has reported to me that City Island Avenue will be repaved in time for the parade. Other events we discussed were the clambake, a possible summer barbecue and setting up a booth at the biannual street fair.

We are looking for some fine new members. If anyone is interested in joining the squadron, they can contact membership vice commanders Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695 or Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000. Any male who is the descendant of a military veteran who served in time of war is eligible to join.

The vice commanders for membership want to remind our members that the dues (\$30) should be paid now.

Fred Ramftl



Charlize Theron

I first noticed Charlize Theron in the "Pulp Fiction"-esque film **Two Days in the Valley** (1996). It is an intricate interweaving of plots concerning Los Angeles murderers, cops and those in the media world. James Spader is Lee Woods, a sadistic hitman who is sent to murder Olympic athlete Becky Foxx's (Teri Hatcher) husband (Peter Horton). Two cops (Jeff Daniels and Eric Stoltz) are on the trail of Lee's girlfriend (Charlize Theron). Lee's accomplice is the soft-hearted Dosmo (Danny Aiello), who takes refuge in the home of Hopper (Greg Cruttwell), a snobbish art dealer who is verbally abusive to his assistant, Susan (Glenn Headly). Director Paul Mazursky has an acting role as a suicidal television director, who is befriended by a nurse (Marsha Mason) when they meet at a cemetery. Until all the pieces come together in this engrossing film, it is impossible to figure out what has happened when.

In **The Devil's Advocate** (1997), Charlize appears as Mary Ann, wife of up-and-coming lawyer Kevin Lomax (Keanu Reeves). They leave their Gainesville, Florida, home to join a top Manhattan law firm, run by John Milton (Al Pacino). Living in a fancy apartment, the good life proves to be too much for her, as she is neglected by her husband and starts to go "mad," in the certifiable sense. Judith Ivey is on hand as Kevin's Southern mother, a religious woman who is worried about the demons in New York City.

The Legend of Bagger Vance (2000) is a mystical film that takes place in Savannah, Georgia. Talented golfer Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon) and Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron) are very much in love until Rannulph goes off to World War I and "loses his swing." Adele's father sponsors a tournament inviting the world's most famous golfers Bobby Jones (Joel Gretsch) and Walter Hagen (Bruce McGill) to participate. Rannulph enters the game "for Savannah." This is a wonderful film about sportsmanship, growth, pride and healing.

The Italian Job (2003) pairs Charlize as Stella, a nerves-of-steel safecracker, with Mark Wahlberg as career criminal Charlie Coker. This caper film is the story of revenge in which "honorable" thieves team up to recover their

stolen gold. Edward Norton is on hand as gang member Steve Frezelli, and Donald Sutherland plays John Bridger, a criminal mastermind in the twilight of his career and the father of Stella. Although I am not a fan of chase scenes, the opening one through the canals of Venice is one of the best I've seen.

In her Oscar-winning best actress performance, Charlize completely disappears into the character of the disturbed and violent notorious Florida murderer Aileen Wuornos in the graphic film **Monster** (2003). Having survived as a prostitute, Aileen meets Selby Wall (Christine Ricci) and wants to make honest money to support them both. Her efforts are thwarted at every turn, and the rage she exudes is palpable. There is a graphic rape scene in this film, so be forewarned.

Another Oscar-worthy performance is the part of Josey Aimes in **North Country** (2005). This film was inspired by the first sexual harassment class-action suit in the United States. Josey is hired by a Minnesota mining company when it is forced to hire women. However, the abuse perpetrated by the resentful men on these women, who desperately need their salaries, is vile indeed. Frances McDormand appears as Glory, a fellow mineworker; and Sissy Spacek and Richard Jenkins play Josey's parents. (Director Niki Caro also directed the outstanding 2002 independent film, **Whale Rider**.)

Charlize is cast in the title role in a complete change-of-pace futurist film **Aeon Flux** (2005). In 2011 most of humanity has been wiped out by a killer virus. In 2415 the remaining population lives in a lush environment, but all is not perfect in paradise. Although a bit confusing, this rebel-versus-government sci fi flick is great to look at, and Aeon is an incredibly beautiful acrobat who wears sensational costumes. Based on a series of animated MTV shorts from the 1990s, this movie features fabulous cinematography.

Charlize is a far cry from glamorous as city homicide detective Emily Sanders in the excellent and disturbing drama **In the Valley of Elah** (2007). Hank Deerfield (Tommy Lee Jones), a Vietnam veteran and retired military police officer, is contacted because his son Mike (Jonathan Tucker) has gone AWOL after a stint in Iraq. Detective Sanders attempts to help investigate. Despite heckling from other members of the squad, she quietly goes about her job and raises her son. Susan Sarandon appears as Hank's wife, Joan. This film was co-written and directed by the outstanding Paul Haggis (whose credits include 2004's **Crash** and 2006's **Letters from Iwo Jima**). All the acting is so understated that it doesn't seem like acting. The film is not a condemnation of the war in Iraq but rather the story of a man who wants to find his son.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Our eighth-graders will be taking the written portion of the New York State science exam during the first week of May.

May 7 is Teacher Appreciation Day; we thank and appreciate our faculty: Mrs. Beth Neshsiewat, kindergarten; Sr. Joan McKinney OP, first grade; Mrs. Janice Guarino, second grade; Mrs. Theresa Bivona, third grade; Mrs. Helen McMahon, fourth grade; Mrs. Lisa Moore, fifth grade; Mr. Robert Garrison, sixth grade; Mr. Evan Beskin, seventh grade; Mrs. Audrey Cabbell-Delgado, eighth grade; Mrs. Joyce Occasio, pre-K; Mrs. Bilma Garcia, art; Mr. John Dominick, music; Ms. Rachel Mirabito, physical education, and Mrs. Diana O'Halloran, computer science.

Kindergarten through Grade 3 will have a librarian from the City Island branch of the N.Y. Public Library visit with them to conduct a guided reading project in early May. On May 12 our faculty is being trained on the use of Smart Boards.

Best wishes to our eighth-graders as they begin their final exams on May 28 in preparation for their June 13 graduation.

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be administered on Saturday, May 3.

St. Mary's First Annual Talent Show will be held on May 9. The Home-School Association and several faculty members invited all students to participate and held auditions for places on the program. We're looking forward to a very entertaining event.

A visit to the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk is in store for our pre-K to third-graders. Exhibits will bring the students nose-to-nose with frogs, seals, sea otters and other creatures of the deep.

The fourth grade will be going to Albany. Assemblyman Mike Benedetto will host the class for a tour of the State Capitol as part

of their studies of New York history and the operation of the state government.

St. Mary's will participate in two American Heart Association events: "Hoops for Heart" and "Jump-a thon." Students will work on their basketball and jump-rope skills, competing in several games, having fun, and promoting cardio awareness and earning funds for AHA's critical research and educational programs that fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's number 1 and number 3 killers.

St. Mary's School would like to thank the Home-School Association and all the businesses and vendors who participated in presenting the play "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" for the benefit of the school. The talented actors played a wedding party and included the audience in the reception with hilarious results.

St. Mary's class of 1958 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its graduation from the school on Friday evening, June 13. Reunion attendants will hold a celebratory luncheon reunion on Saturday, June 14, at The Harbor restaurant, formerly Jimmy Ryan's where the class held its prom. If you were in the class of '58 and haven't received your invitation package, please call Barbara Harrison Kaye at 718-885-0868.

Public School 175

Spring has arrived and our students continue to bloom! 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 Ms. Goulian have been working alongside their students to make this a most meaningful project.

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill continued this year as our sixth-graders spent three days learning about the environment and about themselves. Mrs. Rondi, Ms. Tighe, Ms. Rodrigues and Mr. Lafreniere accompanied the students and said it was an enriching experience for both the students and themselves. We were very fortunate that Mr. Rauh accompanied the students for the 23rd consecutive year!

The Sports & Arts in Schools after-school program continues to thrive! Along with the daily activities that the students enjoy, they also participate in a variety of activities dur-

ing school vacations. This month our eighth-grade students went to Medieval Times and Grades 5 through 7 enjoyed trips to New Roc City for bowling and the movies. We are so lucky that Tina Gisante, the program director, plans such wonderful events for our students!

Our fifth-grade students are preparing for their June presentation of "High School Musical," which will take place on Wednesday, June 4, and Friday, June 6. Our fifth-grade teachers, Mrs. Wiehler and Ms. Minor, along with actors, musicians and set designers from the Bronx Arts Ensemble, have been working with students and, from the sound of the rehearsals, this promises to be another phenomenal P.S. 175 production. As an extension activity to preparing for this performance, our fifth-graders went to see the Broadway production of "Hairspray". After the performance, the students met with members of the cast and were able to ask questions about the many facets of putting on a Broadway production.

In an effort to beautify the school grounds, foster a sense of pride in our school's appearance, and provide students with an understanding of plant ecology and nutrition, P.S. 175 has embarked on a Pilot Gardening Enrichment Program led by one of our second-grade parents, Han Yu Hung, and coordinated by second-grade parent Lisa Fine. First-graders are planting ornamental flowers and pumpkins, which will be harvested in the fall, and second-graders are planting lettuce and sunflowers that they will harvest in June. Our wonderful parent volunteers were instrumental in collecting the compost and preparing the beds. The staff and students appreciate the help of all parents who made this program possible!

P.S. 175 has also implemented a school-wide Community Service Program. Kindergarten students will be going to Pilot Cove to sing to the residents and will also collect soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House. First-graders are collecting gently used books to donate to the Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit. Second-graders are going to Pilot Cove to do some planting to beautify their grounds. Third-graders will be picking up litter from the schoolyard and playground area. Fourth-graders are raising \$300 to replace the Nautical Museum porch light. Fifth-graders are sending letters and packages to the troops for Memorial Day. Sixth-graders are doing a supply collection for troops in Afghanistan. Seventh-graders are picking up litter on City Island and conducting

a poster campaign, gathering clean-up materials and recruiting parent and community volunteers to join in their efforts. Eighth-graders are providing needed items to local shelters, reading to and playing bingo with Pilot Cove residents, and raising money for charities. We are so pleased that our students will be giving back to the community that has given them so much!

We are very proud to report that several of our seventh-grade girls participated in the Math Olympiad at Preston High School. Our team was coached by our seventh-grade math teacher Ms. Ramos, who did a fabulous job preparing them. The students on this year's team were Abigail Adams, Jennifer Branley, Melissa Scott and Veronica Weyhrauch. The two alternates were Nancy Navarro and Frances Robles. We applaud the girls for both their individual and their team efforts.

The staff and students of P.S. 175 want to congratulate our remarkable PTA members for their very successful 2008 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 these important dates: on-going kindergarten registration for City Island residents Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; seventh-graders will be going to Boston on May 1; eighth-grade graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. The graduation dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m. The eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., will take place from May 28 to 29; the kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Friday, June 20, at 10 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.

The Citizens-of-the-Month for April were: Amanda Campbell and Maddox Pedroza (kindergarten), Javier Caamano and Christine Whelan (first grade), Anita Beqiraj and Olivia Albertelli (second grade), Deisy Navarro and Deborah Hughes (third grade), Shai Ann Lubelli and Lily Kolb (fourth grade), Olivia Randazzo and Anastasia Lacina (fifth grade), Stefano Torres and Jonathan Dyal (sixth grade), James Kunz and Adrian Pena (seventh grade), Kaitlin Masiello and Fabjola Rama (eighth grade).

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Photos by BARBARA HARRISON KAYE

The New York Dinner Theater performed "Joey and Mary's Irish/Italian Comedy Wedding" at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on April 11, 2008, as a school fund-raiser. The cast members of the hilarious show (top photo), in which the audience plays the role of wedding guests, work their way throughout the tables. The "bride and groom" share a special moment with Islander and St. Mary's alum Frank Hoffman.

Obituaries

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



Frank Scavello

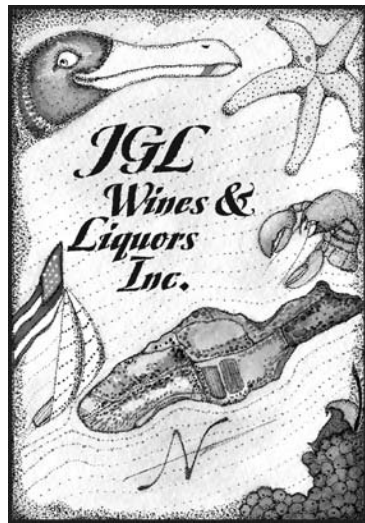
Frank Scavello, 60, of Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, died on Friday, April 4, 2008, as the result of a motor vehicle accident in Warren County, New Jersey. He was on his way to work at the City Island IGA Market, where he was employed as manager for the past 21 years.

Frank was born in Cosenza, Italy, the son

of the late Paul and Angelina (Cosentino) Scavello. City Island always held a special place in his heart and was like a second home to him. He had a special bond with many Islanders that will never be broken; he especially loved helping the elderly and assisting at Pilot Cove Manor.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda (Ciuzio) Scavello; his four sons, Frank, Eric, David and Michael; his two brothers, Gabe and Mario Scavello; and two sisters, Nancy Scavello and Julia Pellicori; and eight grandchildren.

Frank was a free spirit who loved his family dearly; he was a caring, hard-working person who was always ready to lend a helping hand. He will be very much missed.

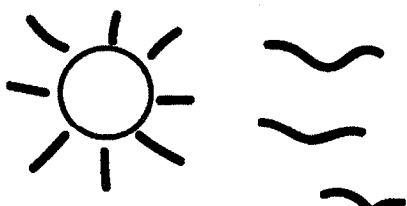


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CORRECTION

There were two errors in the obituary of Herbert Stark on page 12 of the January-February issue of *The Island Current*. Mr. Stark passed away on Nov. 11, 2007. He was active after his retirement. He lived in Flushing, Queens, where he served as president of the Mitchell-Linden Civic Association, not the City Island Civic Association.

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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 2008									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0204	0.84	0801	7.16	1423	0.62	2031	7.82	Thu 01
02 Fri	0310	0.32	0901	7.33	1519	0.27	2124	8.22	Fri 02
03 Sat	0410	-0.22	0957	7.51	1612	-0.04	2214	8.58	Sat 03
04 Sun	0506	-0.66	1051	7.65	1703	-0.25	2304	8.82	Sun 04
05 Mon	0559	-0.95	1143	7.70	1754	-0.33	2354	8.90	Mon 05
06 Tue	0653	-1.03	1236	7.66	1846	-0.24			Tue 06
07 Wed	0045	8.81	0749	-0.92	1331	7.54	1942	-0.01	Wed 07
08 Thu	0139	8.54	0849	-0.65	1432	7.36	2045	0.32	Thu 08
09 Fri	0239	8.15	0953	-0.30	1543	7.19	2200	0.65	Fri 09
10 Sat	0352	7.71	1059	0.04	1659	7.12	2319	0.84	Sat 10
11 Sun	0521	7.39	1205	0.29	1810	7.20			Sun 11
12 Mon	0031	0.83	0637	7.26	1307	0.42	1913	7.39	Mon 12
13 Tue	0137	0.67	0742	7.25	1405	0.46	2011	7.61	Tue 13
14 Wed	0237	0.41	0840	7.29	1459	0.44	2103	7.82	Wed 14
15 Thu	0331	0.15	0932	7.32	1549	0.43	2151	7.96	Thu 15
16 Fri	0420	-0.06	1020	7.32	1634	0.45	2236	8.02	Fri 16
17 Sat	0506	-0.16	1105	7.29	1715	0.52	2317	8.01	Sat 17
18 Sun	0548	-0.16	1146	7.21	1752	0.65	2354	7.93	Sun 18
19 Mon	0627	-0.06	1225	7.12	1822	0.81			Mon 19
20 Tue	0026	7.81	0702	0.10	1300	7.02	1840	0.95	Tue 20
21 Wed	0046	7.71	0730	0.30	1327	6.93	1855	1.03	Wed 21
22 Thu	0103	7.67	0746	0.46	1344	6.92	1926	1.08	Thu 22
23 Fri	0131	7.67	0807	0.56	1409	6.97	2004	1.13	Fri 23
24 Sat	0207	7.65	0840	0.63	1444	7.06	2047	1.18	Sat 24
25 Sun	0248	7.60	0920	0.69	1526	7.16	2135	1.20	Sun 25
26 Mon	0335	7.49	1005	0.74	1612	7.27	2226	1.18	Mon 26
27 Tue	0426	7.35	1053	0.75	1703	7.41	2322	1.08	Tue 27
28 Wed	0522	7.20	1146	0.72	1757	7.58			Wed 28
29 Thu	0023	0.90	0622	7.08	1241	0.64	1854	7.80	Thu 29
30 Fri	0128	0.61	0724	7.04	1339	0.50	1952	8.06	Fri 30
31 Sat	0239	0.25	0828	7.08	1439	0.34	2050	8.33	Sat 31
June 2008									
01 Sun	0350	-0.16	0932	7.18	1540	0.17	2148	8.56	Sun 01
02 Mon	0454	-0.53	1033	7.31	1641	0.04	2244	8.72	Mon 02
03 Tue	0553	-0.79	1133	7.43	1742	-0.03	2341	8.76	Tue 03
04 Wed	0650	-0.90	1232	7.51	1844	-0.02			Wed 04
05 Thu	0038	8.66	0746	-0.86	1331	7.55	1946	0.08	Thu 05
06 Fri	0137	8.44	0843	-0.69	1432	7.55	2050	0.23	Fri 06
07 Sat	0242	8.12	0940	-0.42	1536	7.52	2156	0.39	Sat 07



DAY OF THE DOLPHIN

We have an unconfirmed report of dolphin in Eastchester Bay! Our neighbors, Ken and Steve, are fairly certain they saw five or six of them swimming by in early April. If true, this could signal a new chapter in the story of nature's slow counter-march on civilization. By now, the deer, turkey, and coyote sightings in our area have become almost passé. How exciting to think that dolphin may be mounting the next comeback.

Yes, a comeback. Long-time City Islanders may recall stories of their own from the days of the dolphin around City Island. We have family members who remember them. We also have a call in to the Nature Center at Pelham Bay Park. They may have more information to share on the subject. Stay tuned.

A mating pair of great-horned owls has been coming back to Pelham Bay Park for years now, and this year there were three owlets. For a close-up picture of this year's brood, check out www.cityislandbirds.com and click the "April 6 Early Spring Bird-walk" link. Because great-horned owls lay their eggs one week at a time, the oldest owlet can sometimes be confused with its parent, especially around the time when it is preparing to fledge. This was the case for us the last time we were at the nesting site to see what we could see. What we thought was the mother was actually the most developed offspring preparing to leave the nest.

We learned a lot at the park that day from Dave, one of the park's resident experts. Dave also told us about an



Photo by PETER QUINONES

This raccoon, photographed near Glover's Rock, is not sleeping but dead. No one knows how he got onto the rock but we hope that he didn't suffer.

extremely rare prairie grass that grows naturally in Pelham Bay Park and the super scarce species of moth that feeds on it. "If this were Iowa," he said—and we are paraphrasing here—"these organisms would be considered a top priority by conservationists." We also learned from Christine that the chicken we wrote about in a past article—the one taken by the hawk in her yard—was actually a sparrow. In fact, Christine's chicks were taken to a farm where they could live out their days in more appropriate surroundings.

Some City Islanders on their way to work in mid-April were surprised to see a raccoon on a rock near the mini-golf course. No, it wasn't sleeping; it was dead, no doubt, killed crossing the road. How its dead or dying body found its way onto the rock remains a mystery, though. Let's hope it didn't suffer.

Keep an eye out for more late spring and early summer blooms on the way this month. The peonies, irises and daylilies should be next. If you're interested, the Botanical Garden has a display that should not be missed. Also, keep a sharp lookout for some of City Island's missing pets. Unfortunately, missing cat and dog flyers on telephone poles and store windows have become all too common a sight.

As usual, we can be contacted at jdsstrat@msn.com, or care of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

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CILL 2008

Continued from page 1

And a glorious day it was as the first pitch was thrown out on April 26 by Catherine Ambrosini to celebrate the 2008 season and the opening of the new diamonds. In all, seven Little League teams and three St. Mary's softball teams will take the field over the spring and summer months. Stop by and "root, root, root for the home teams" and their new field of dreams.



Photos by BARBAR DOLENSEK

The new softball field and nautical playground area were part of the renovation project.



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and EYVONNE BAKER

The City Island Nautical Museum is making progress in repairing the damage caused by the fire that took place in July 2007. Trustees Russell Schaller, Fred Ramftl and Jeanne Pezone joined forces to clean up the Walsh Room one recent Sunday afternoon. And a number of board members posed in front of the newly cleaned plaque (l. to r.) Tom Nye, Russell Schaller, Virginia Gallagher, Fred Ramftl Jr., Ed Sadler and Barbara Dolensek.



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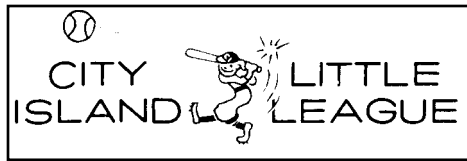
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The arrival of the first green shoots pushing up through the wintry brown earth signals the coming of spring and with it the return of baseball to City Island. The Little League has completed its registration, and teams have been selected. A few teams have already had a chance to practice on the newly renovated Ambrosini Field. The New York City Parks Department did a great job in re-creating the two fields and was able to fast track the work so that we only had one season off City Island.

Over the past few weeks, the coaches have been getting the teams ready for opening day, which took place on April 26, 2008 (see story), with a Majors Division game and free hot dogs and soda.

This year, there is one Juniors team

(13-14 years old); the Majors Division has four teams (9-12 years old); the Minors Division has two teams (7-8 years old), and there is a Saturday morning instructional league for T-Ball and T-pitch (5-6 years old). Games will be held at Ambrosini Field on Monday through Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Because several other leagues around the city have been displaced because of field renovations, we will have the opportunity to host Majors Division games for the North Bronx Little League one evening each week. The City Island Little League will also share the field with St. Mary's softball team.

So come out and enjoy the spring by watching some ballgames and cheering on our kids.

Elizabeth Lyons



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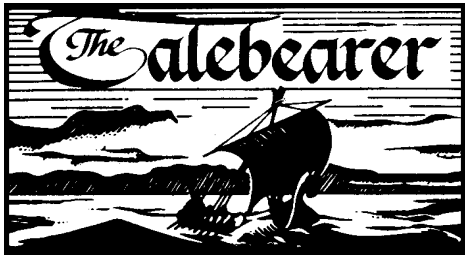
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations, Virginia Nye, on your graduation from SUNY Maritime College as an engineer. You have made your parents proud. We wish you the best of luck with your new job with the Bechtel Corporation and your move to Wisconsin. We will all miss you.

Ruth Cronk celebrated her 80th birthday on April 4 in Pennsylvania, where she was attending a Girl Scout swap meet. There was a surprise party for her, and her son Scott, her nephew David Cronk from California and her daughter, Joyce Brafford, from North Carolina were there to celebrate with her. A scrapbook was given to her depicting her interesting and generous life so far. Mrs. Cronk is well-known as a Barbie Doll collector, in addition to having been a City Island Girl Scout leader for many years. She will receive her 50th-year Girl Scout pin in May. She is a former columnist with *The Island Current* and still resides on City Island.

Happy 92nd birthday wishes to Pilot Cove's Mary Iovieno, who will celebrate her big day on May 10, with love to our Nana from Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina.

Congratulations to Bay Street's Marissa Karabel, team captain, who led her St. Catherine's Varsity Cheerleaders to the UCA Nationals at Walt Disney World in February. The team, trained by coaches Nicole and Christine, placed second in the semi-finals and 16th in the finals. Also, a fond farewell to all the seniors on the team who made the past four years so memorable. We will miss you! And remember—stars shine forever! Love from the Karabel family.

Belated March 17 birthday wishes to

King Avenue's Virginia McGuire, with love from your family and friends. A great time was had by all 14 guests who attended her weekend bash in Lantana, Florida. Thanks for bringing us all together for great food, lots of laughs and memories that will last a lifetime. Luv ya, Suzzanne, Christine A., Francesca, Christine P., Patti, Rosanne, Stephanie, Valerie (camera shy), Elvira, Linda, Noreen, Phyllis and Ann. P.S. Jimmy and Nixy had the best time!!!

Happy 21st birthday to Marine Street's Matt Butterworth, who celebrates his day on May 26 and to his dad, Chuck Butterworth, on May 22.

Birthday wishes go out to Meaghan Strnad, who turns 15 on May 21.

Birthday greetings across the miles to James Butterworth, who turns 14 on May 10. With love from your City Island cousins.

Happy anniversary on May 12 to the Sailmaker's John and Judy Iovieno, with love from Maria and Bob, Stephen, Bobby and little Maria.

Happy May 16 birthday greetings to Frank Ring, with love from your P.S. 175 friends.

Happy birthday on May 28 to Patrice Ortega, with love from the Swieciki family and especially from Bobby up on Cape Cod.

Neither rain, sleet nor snow will stop birthday greetings from going out to City Island's friendliest mailman, Tommy Cleary, who will celebrate his big day on May 30.

A very happy Mother's Day on May 11 to all you hard-working moms and grandmas. Enjoy your special day!

Maria Swieciki



The St. Catharine Varsity Cheerleaders.



Virginia McGuire celebrated her birthday on March 17 with a weekend bash in Lantana, Florida.

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