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One Dollar

CIVIC ASSOCIATION GEARS UP FOR ACTION

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

At the October executive committee meeting of the City Island Civic Association, Fred Ramftl (second from right), acting president, welcomed the newly elected officers (l. to r.): Janie Blanks, recording secretary; Billy Stanton, president (with friend); and Barbara Harrison Kaye, second vice president.

The City Island Civic Association (CICA) has been an active organization on the Island since it was first founded in 1950,

and it remains the only group that represents all of the residents of City Island. With the departure of president Frank Fitts, CICA has

taken on a new mission, with the ascendancy in January of Bill Stanton, who was elected to the presidency at the organization's September meeting.

The officers of CICA and the executive committee of about 15 residents (appointed by the CICA officers) serve as a liaison with elected officials and city agencies and enable residents to voice their concerns. The group monitors and reports illegal activities and functions as an activist organization to protect City Island interests, cooperating with other organizations on the Island and networking with other communities.

Over the years, the accomplishments of CICA, under the leadership of such dedicated individuals as Virginia Gallagher, Howard Smith and Frank Fitts, have been considerable—from helping to create wildlife sanctuaries and prevent the misuse of Pelham Bay Park to resisting unwanted overdevelopment on City Island.

At the October meeting of CICA, Bill Stanton presented to the membership a number of new ideas for ways in which the organization can become even more effective in improving life on City Island. Supported by the executive committee, he proposed to form committees to study and become active advocates of Island residents in four different areas: quality of life, crime prevention,

traffic control and overdevelopment.

The area of quality of life covers issues as far-reaching as graffiti, cell towers, run-down properties, vermin (raccoons and skunks) and so on. The formation of a crime-prevention unit will try to come to terms with drug sales and abuse, as well as other criminal activity on the Island, especially among teenagers. The traffic committee will deal with everything from illegal parking and traffic congestion to moving violations, and the overdevelopment committee will deal with illegal development, building violations and other issues relating to construction on City Island.

Bill Stanton says that one of his first responsibilities will be to get more members for the Civic, since the larger the membership, the more effective the organization will be. Those who are interested in becoming members or in becoming members of the executive committee should come to one of the monthly meetings of the group (always the last Tuesday of the month), which are usually held in the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Dues are \$20 a year for each family; members are entitled to vote on significant issues and to receive a monthly newsletter describing the activities of the organization.

Islanders Dance the Night Away at the Chamber Awards Dinner

By MARIA SWIECIKI



Photos by RICK DEWITT

Six individuals were honored for community service at the 98th annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner on Oct. 24, 2008. Standing (l. to r.) are Tom Lucania, representing the Bronx Borough President; Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, the master of ceremonies; Skip and Louise Giacco, recipients of the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award; George Spencer, recipient of the Service to the Community Award; Deirdre Simmons, recipient of the Tom Cerreta Accomplished Service Award; State Senator Jeff Klein, recipient of the Exemplary Community Service Award; and Deana Weyhrauch, recipient of the Catherine Scott Achievement Award.

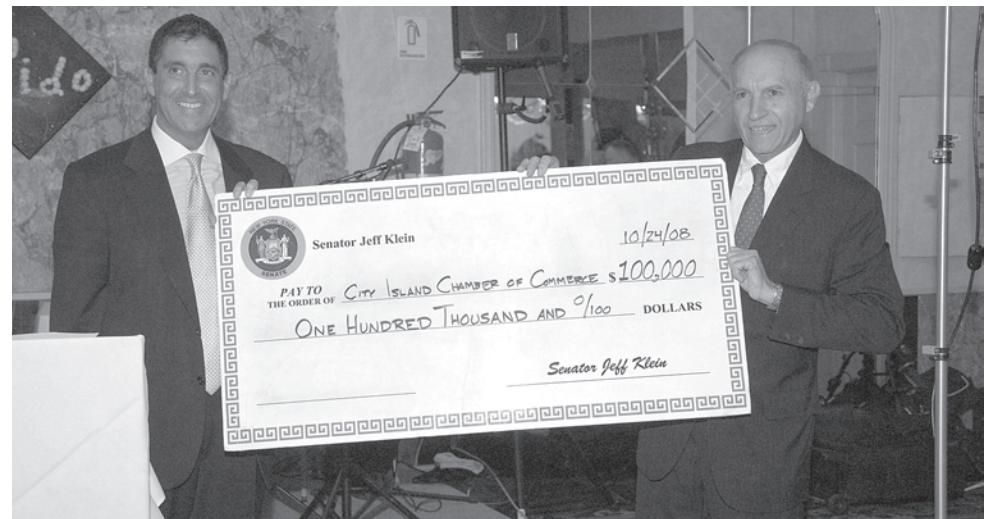
The Lido was filled with music and applause on Friday evening, Oct. 24, as nearly 140 people attending the 98th annual awards dinner hosted by the City Island Chamber of Commerce honored six individuals—Deirdre Simmons, Gerard (Skip) and Louise Giacco, Deana Weyhrauch, George Spencer and State Senator Jeff Klein—for their contributions to the City Island community.

Assemblyman Mike Benedetto, who hailed her as “an asset to City Island,” presented the Tom Cerreta Accomplished Service Award to Islander Deirdre (Deedee) Simmons. After moving to City Island more than 30 years ago, Deedee became involved with several community organizations, including the City Island Preservation As-

sociation, the Civic Association, the Community Center and the thrift shops of Trinity Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church. She also appeared in a critically acclaimed production of “The Rocky Horror Show.” Deedee enjoys sailing, especially in the dead of winter, and is a member of the Mamaroneck Frostbite Association. In accepting her award, Deedee gave a special thanks to her father and also to her sister, who had flown in from Los Angeles.

Skip and Louise Giacco, the owners of Lickety Split, received the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award. Although they owned flower shops in Manhattan and Florida and also published the *Westchester Illustrated Magazine*, this busy

Continued on page 10



State Senator Jeff Klein presented a check for \$100,000 to Peter La Scala, president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, to be used for the purchase and installation of video surveillance cameras on City Island.



Photo by REBECCA GODLEWICZ

Council Member James Vacca and Bob Nolan, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión, were joined by Kevin Saulnier, a student at City Island's P.S. 175, to cut the ribbon on Thursday, Oct. 16, in an official dedication of two new children's playgrounds in the school's courtyard. Funding for the project was secured by Mr. Vacca and the Borough President. Two units were constructed over the summer, one for children ages 2 to 5 and the second for ages 5 to 12. The organization that performed the work is the Injury-Free Coalition for Kids, which was contracted through the School Construction Authority.

BRIEFLY...

BLOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Nearly everyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in generally good health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature identification and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation.

P.S. 175 ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE: Each year, one of the biggest fund-raising events for P.S. 175 is the annual Election Day sale. With a closely contested presidential election expected, this year promises to be a record-breaker. Please support this sale when you come to the school on Tuesday, Nov. 4, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. to cast your vote. There will be an abundance of wonderful raffle prizes, as well as home-baked goods for sale. If you would like to work on this committee or make a donation of a raffle prize, baked goods or cash, please call the event chairperson Candy Mancuso at 646-879-6082 or e-mail TeamMan1@aol.com.

CLOTHING AND COAT DRIVE, sponsored by the Bronx Masons, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. All donations received will be distributed to needy recipients by St. Athanasius Church in the South Bronx. For quicker distribution, please separate clothes into individual bags for men, women and children.

FREE ITALIAN COOKING CLASSES, taught by a professional chef, are being presented by State Senator Jeff Klein for all residents of the 34th senate district. The classes, which last one and a half hours, will be held on Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, at 9:30 and 11 a.m., 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m. The classes will be held in the Generoso Pope Foundation Building, 1 Depot Square, Tuckahoe. You must call for reservations at 800-718-2039.

INTERFAITH HEALING PRAYER SERVICE The clergy of City Island invite you to join them in a prayer service offering solace, healing and hope for all who have suffered in the past or are in pain now because of drug or alcohol abuse—in themselves, their families, their friends and their community. Join us at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION will take place on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the gymnasium of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. The registration fees are: \$50 for T-ball, \$125 for minors and majors, and \$175 for juniors. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer as a coach in next season, please e-mail Sally Connolly at sallyconnolly@aol.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October 2008. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

October 2 – BURGLARIES

Police report the following incidents for the month of October:

- 10/3 – A shed was broken into and property was taken. The investigation is ongoing.
- 10/3 – Items were stolen from an apartment on City Island Avenue. The investigation is ongoing.
- 10/16-17 – Police made a water rescue in Eastchester Bay when a boat took on water.
- 10/17 – Extra police were present on City Island to visit licensed premises for compliance checks on under-age drinking.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Those who stop before entering the Bartow-Pell circle are unlikely to be amused by this piece of graffiti rendered by some City Island youths.

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ELECTION DAY

By FRED RAMFTL JR.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue. If a voter's name does not appear in the voter registration book, he or she may still be registered at a previous location. If a voter claims to be registered on City Island, the poll workers will provide an affidavit ballot, which is opened by Board of Elections officials.

The City Island ballot will list the following candidates, several of whom run on more than one party line:

President and Vice President:

Barack Obama/Joe Biden (Democratic/Working Families)
John McCain/Sarah Palin (Republican/Conservative/Independence)
Roger Calero/Alyson Kennedy (Socialist Workers Party)
Gloria LaRiva/Eugene Puryear (Socialism and Liberation)
Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente (Green)
Bob Barr/Wayne A. Root (Libertarian)
Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez (Populist)

U.S. House of Representatives District 7:

Joseph Crowley (Democratic/Working Families)

William E. Britt (Republican/Conservative)

Bronx County Supreme Court:

Alexander W. Hunter (Democratic)
Raphael E. Savino (Republican/Conservative)

Bronx County Civil Court County-wide:

Elizabeth Taylor (Democratic)
Marcos A. Pagan (Republican/Conservative)

New York State Senator District 34:

Jeffrey D. Klein (Democratic/Independence/Working Families)
Daniel Fasolino (Republican/Conservative)

New York State Assembly District 82:

Michael R. Benedetto (Democratic/Working Families)
Raymond Capone (Republican/Conservative)

In addition, voters will be asked to vote on an amendment to the state constitution regarding additional civil service credit for members of the armed forces. To read the amendment, go to <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/candidateslist.html>. For more information, call the New York City Board of Elections at 866-VOTENYC or the Bronx Board of Elections at 718-299-9017.

And be sure to get out and vote!



Photo by PATTY GRONDAHL

More than 7,000 people attended the Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach on Sunday, Oct. 19, including at least 50 City Islanders, nine of them survivors of breast cancer. This event, which raises awareness and support for breast cancer research, grows in attendance every year.

Former Islander May Be Released

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Chills ran down the spines of many Island residents on Monday, Oct. 6, when the Daily News published a report by John Marzulli that Robert Fioretti, a former Islander, had been granted permission by a judge to leave a maximum-security mental hospital in upstate New York and to live in a halfway house for a period of 180 days as he goes to work and looks for a permanent home.

According to the News, Mr. Fioretti was not able to leave the mental hospital until he found a place to live but a federal probation officer named Erin Weinrauch requested that he be allowed to live in a halfway house, where it is hoped the structured environment will enable him to "reestablish himself in the community."

Mr. Fioretti, a former New York City police officer, was suspected of murdering his estranged wife, Rita, in 1986, but there was never enough evidence to indict him for that crime. Nevertheless, he remained a prime suspect for years and was fired from the Police Department in 1987 for refusing to answer questions about Rita's disappearance. Mr. Fioretti was, however, convicted of bank fraud in 1992 and sentenced to 10 years in prison having stolen \$17,000 from his wife's bank account two months after she vanished. He was also sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to sexually abusing his two stepdaughters.

Several days after Rita disappeared in 1986, Mr. Fioretti moved back into his house at 440 King Avenue with Maureen

Brooks, his former patrol partner. They were married within a month and she gave birth to their child two months later. He was charged with bank fraud and grand larceny a year later but did not go to trial until 1990.

In June 1989, to the shock of many Islanders, Mr. Fioretti was arraigned on charges that he had sexually molested Maureen Brooks' daughters, ages 12 and 13, from her first marriage. At that time, he pleaded not guilty and was released on bail posted by Ms. Brooks. All of their children—his two sons by Rita Fioretti, his two stepdaughters and their two-year-old daughter—were placed in foster homes.

In 1990, the bank fraud case against Mr. Fioretti was dropped because the crime had not taken place in the Bronx, but in January 1992 he went to trial in Hauppauge on Long Island, and it took the jury an hour to find him guilty. In March 1992 he pleaded guilty to sexually abusing his stepdaughters, for which he was sentenced to 15 years in state prison.

After Mr. Fioretti completed his sentence in September 2007, he was committed to a psychiatric center in Marcy, New York, in accordance with a law dealing with convicted sex offenders believed to be too dangerous for release. According to the News, Mr. Fioretti was denied parole seven times, although at his last hearing in 2001, he was cited for good work in the kitchen. It was found, however, that he had "not come to terms with his mental illness."

Ray Castro's Conjunto Clasico

By MARIA SWIECIKI



Ray Castro

City Island resident and music aficionado Ramon (Ray) Castro has been busy preparing for one of his biggest seasons ever since starting his group, Conjunto Clasico, 30 years ago. The Puerto Rico-born musician credits his idols, Tito Puente and Johnny Pacheco, as the inspirations for his dedication to his craft.

As a self-described Bronx boy, Ray be-

gan his lifelong love affair with music as a youngster growing up in a very talented musical family. His father played the accordion and was often accompanied by his mother and sister, who sang along. As a young man, Ray's first gigs were as a lead singer in a Doo-Wop group. He attended Charles Evans Hughes High School in Manhattan, where he befriended and performed with classmate and fellow musician Jose Feliciano.

As Ray expanded his musical horizons, he founded Conjunto Clasico, whose sounds and style include trumpet, tres (similar to a 12-string guitar), piano, bass and rhythm section. With 18 recordings under their belt, Ray's group has been nominated by the Latin Grammy Awards for Salsa Album of the Year, and they have performed all over the world. They have a strong following in Europe, South America and Puerto Rico, and, most notably, they played for Prince Hassan of Morocco and the president of Suriname.

In addition to his love of music, Ray shares his life with his wife, Ana, a special-education teacher. They are currently preparing for the group's 30th anniversary concert on Saturday, Nov. 29, at the Lehman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 718-960-8833 or online at www.Lehman-center.org.



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WHERE DID YOU CATCH THE LITTLE MERMAID? OFF BIGTOM. I USED YOUR MARINATED FIDDLERS FOR BAIT.	BISHOP, MY AGENDA IS TO CLEAN CITY ISLAND UP. YOU GOT IT - CONFUCIUS SKY NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN.	MR CARMODY, YOU LOOK VERY SVELTE THIS YEAR I'M GLAD YOU NOTICED. I HAD TO SHED 40 POUNDS AS THEY INCREASED THE PARADE ROUTE.	HEY, PAL, I'VE BEEN SWIMMING AROUND FOR HOURS, AFTER HITTING THAT ROCK. CAN YOU HELP ME? I SURE CAN, OLD BUDDY. YOU NEED A COMPASS ADJUSTMENT.	BIKE RIDERS IN TOUR DE BRONX SUNDAY, OCT. 19TH, HAD ISLANDERS ON THE RUN. NEVER MIND DR. SANDER. GET ME A LAWYER.



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.

Bronx Masons Thank City Islanders

To the Editor:

Thanks to all City Islanders for their donations of clothes on May 17, 2008. Special thanks go to Trinity United Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church for their support. More than 225 bags of clothing were donated and delivered to St. Athanasius Church in the South Bronx, and as of June 4, most of the clothes were in the hands of the needy.

Scott Meyer

Bronx District Clothes Drive Chairman

A Tribute to a Girl Scout Leader

To the Editor:

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Doris Lane. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, she and Theresa Henning were the leaders of one of the Girl Scout troops on City Island. We had such fun with the activities that they planned for us weekly in St. Mary's gym. We formed patrols, put on skits for our parents, made holiday crafts, sang songs and went on camping trips. We grew into fine young women under their care.

It wasn't until I became a parent myself that I realized how much they sacrificed from their families to give their time to the Girl Scouts. Here is a farewell to Mrs. Lane (and to Mrs. Henning as well, who passed away several years ago). It's the song we sang at the end of our meetings:

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest.
God is nigh.

Judy Rauh

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WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

A Current Review

"THE DINING ROOM"

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DEWITT

The City Island Theater Group latest production is "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney, starring (l. to r.) Matthieu Regney, Katrina Snyder, Susan Rauh, Nathan Simmons, Lindy Tabano and Robert Mulroy.

First, in the interest of full disclosure, I must reveal that in addition to my role as reviewer, I also served as prop master for this wonderful play by A.R. Gurney, first produced in 1981 and the winner of a Pulitzer Prize in 1985. Earlier reviewers called the single set—a beautiful dining room somewhere in the northeastern United States—the principal character, and its table the centerpiece of the room (another full disclosure: the table is from my own dining room).

In spite of my obvious bias, however, I am delighted to admit that this particular production of the play, brilliantly directed by Eileen Marcus, is not at all about my table. It is about the actors, pure and simple. Let me explain.

The action of the play takes place over the course of one day but that and the single set are the only simple elements presented to the audience. There are six actors (Robert Mulroy, Susan Rauh, Matthieu Regney, Nathan Simmons, Katrina Snyder and Lindy Tabano), who play 57 different characters in 17 different overlapping scenes—who repeatedly change their names, their costumes, their accents, their ages, their status, their roles in life and their relationships to each other, often within a matter of minutes. The interweaving of the scenes is cleverly staged, and the matching of actor to role is both surprising and successful. Truly, this is theater at its best and most entertaining.

The point of the play is, as one of the characters puts it, a kind of anthropological demonstration of a "vanishing culture . . . the Wasps of Northeastern United States." As the scenes move from the period of the

Great Depression to the present day, we see an authoritarian father squelch the best instincts of his children at the breakfast table, a psychiatrist exploring the motivations of an architect who wishes to destroy the dining room, a raucous birthday party taking place under the noses of a couple of adulterous parents, a dowager aunt explaining the use of the finger bowl to an anthropologist nephew, a son listening to his father dictate the program of his own funeral. The mood switches from amusing to sad, but perhaps most poignant is a holiday dinner at which the elderly mother is disoriented and unaware that she is in her own dining room surrounded by her own family.

For many people in the 21st century, the dining room doesn't even exist, having been absorbed into the kitchen, the living room or the "family room." But for many, that vestigial part of the house serves to remind us of the "good old days," when families gathered for meals at a single table and discussed (or ignored) the issues of their lives.

The subject clearly resonated with the opening-night audience. One woman told me that she never liked her family's dining room, that she found it intimidating and cold. Another, however, told me that her house came alive with the addition of a separate dining room, which was one of the reasons she loved the play so much. As for this reviewer, the very act of digging into old closets for carving knives and linen napkins and silver coffee sets was a cathartic experience, made surprisingly pleasurable by watching those objects being used with amazing dexterity by six talented actors.

The quiet elegance of the set by Con Grondahl and John Byrne and the costume design (far more complicated than it looked) by Norma Kerner and Carol McCabe were all wonderfully coordinated by stage manager Elizabeth Paldino, lighted by Susan Velcheck, and supervised by production manager Carol McCabe and associate production manager Nick Sala.

The City Island Theater Group again deserves our gratitude for giving us yet another superb production, and I, for one, am looking forward to their next play (and, needless to say, getting my dining-room table back).



Photo by MONICA GLICK

Elliott Glick, proprietor of the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, took his original songs back to Greenwich Village on Saturday, Oct. 4, performing at Gizzi's Coffeehouse on West Eighth Street, just blocks from where this veteran singer-songwriter began performing some 40 years ago. Many City Islanders made the trek to listen, including Elliott's son, Joshua, and daughter-in-law, Jamie, and friends Marion Rosenfeld, Frank and Cheryl Koller, Mary Lou and Bob Lachman, and Dave Bowers. Also there to cheer him on were his wife, Monica, brother-in-law "Uncle" Bill Yehle, and performers from his café, including songwriter Theresa Sareo and comic Al Wagner.



Remembering Those Buried in Potter's Field:

Interfaith Memorial Services on Hart Island

By THE REV. PATRICIA PHANEUF ALEXANDER

About the time Russell Schaller's article about Potter's Field appeared in the September issue of *The Current*, I accepted an invitation to attend a meeting about an exciting outreach initiative currently taking place on Hart Island. The gathering brought clergy from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith communities together to plan religious services for the many homeless and indigent men, women and children buried in Potter's Field.

Under the auspices of Picture the Homeless, a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the rights of the homeless, the Interfaith Friends of Potter's Field has, since 2003, organized bimonthly memorials at which leaders from several faith traditions take turns officiating.

On the third Thursday of every other month, mourners wishing to attend such a service gather at the Fordham Street dock early in the morning and are ferried across to Hart Island courtesy of the New York Department of Corrections, which has jurisdiction over the burial ground. Since space on the ferry is limited, no more than 10 people (including the officiating clergy) are permitted to make the pilgrimage on any given month. Those who wish to travel out to Hart Island must be cleared by the Department of Corrections 10 days in advance.

I was surprised to learn that most mourners who attend these memorial ser-

vices are not immediate family members of those who have died. Because in many cases homeless individuals have estranged themselves from, or been abandoned by, their own relatives, the larger homeless community becomes their "family." Consequently, the majority of travelers to Hart Island are themselves homeless people who have developed meaningful relationships with the deceased, either on the streets or in the city's shelter system.

As we know, it is essential for all who mourn to have an opportunity and a venue to grieve the loss of loved ones, yet circumstances often prevent the homeless from doing so. That is why the Picture the Homeless Potter's Field Campaign is so important: It gives the homeless and indigent the dignity of a proper memorial and enables their surviving friends to pay their respects appropriately. I came away from our meeting determined to help in whatever way I can, and to that end I will be the officiant at the next Potter's Field service, to be held on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Because of the stringent regulations governing passage out to Hart Island, it is not practicable for City Islanders to go to Potter's Field on a regular basis. However, concerned local residents can help support this vital outreach. Since most people attending these services do not have their own transportation and must rely on public transit, volunteers are needed to help shuttle mourners from the Pelham Bay station out to the end of Fordham Street. It would be also be good to provide these visitors with some hospitality (coffee, hot cider, doughnuts, etc.) as they await the ferry.

Anyone who is interested in helping to drive people from Pelham Bay or to serve beverages and snacks once they arrive on City Island, please contact me at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@aol.com. I welcome your support and participation.

For further information on the Potter's Field Campaign, please come to Grace Episcopal Church (116 City Island Avenue) for a special presentation by the staff of Picture the Homeless on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m. You also may visit their Web site, www.picturethehomeless.org.

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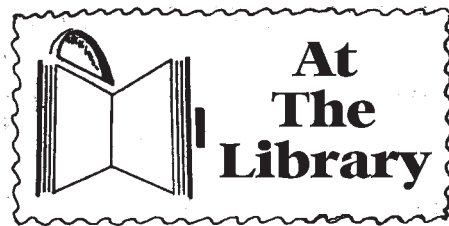


If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to *The Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The new exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue (718-885-1403; www.focalpointgallery.com) is "High Hopes," paintings by Terry McElroy. The opening reception will be Friday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m.

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) gives you lots to be grateful for in music and art this November. The month starts off with a book signing by Bronx author Jacob Jaffe on Saturday, Nov. 1; he'll be selling copies of his *Hobgoblins*, an election thriller, from 3 to 5 p.m. That night we pack the house for October Road, with Charlie Spina and Barbara Blasucci, starting at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, singer-songwriter Randy Niles debuts at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, is a Saturday Night Blues Party with Bennett Harris, starting at 8 p.m. Then Thieves and Poets—Chris Frawley, Bill Irvine and George Kelly—are there to round out your weekend nicely on Sunday, Nov. 9, starting at 3 p.m. On Friday, Nov. 14, sultry songwriter Sonya Heller is back at Starving Artist at 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, will feature an art reception from 4 to 6 p.m. for the photographs of Patrick J. Durante. That evening the jazz duo Two Guitars—Brian Conigliaro and Gus Wieland—take the stage, starting at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Nov. 16, it's some more cool jazz from talented young performer Kat Spina, at 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, features the debut of Phineas and the Lonely Leaves at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Nov. 23, it's Lou Volpe's Starving Artist Jazztet, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The month finishes the weekend after Thanksgiving with our "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night for poets, comics, songwriters and actors on Friday, Nov. 28, at 8 p.m. Elliott Glick, the Starving Artist himself, presents new songs and plays great music with some of his friends on Saturday,

Nov. 29, starting at 8:30 p.m. Then on Sunday, Nov. 30, end the month with a Starving Artist "Jam with all the fixin's," beginning at 3 p.m. All musicians and instruments welcome. For more, visit our Web site at www.starvingartistonline.com.



Computer skills: We offer basic computer lessons the second and last Tuesday of every month beginning at 10:30 a.m. Bring your questions about Windows, downloading, e-mail, cutting/copying/pasting, file management, etc. Everyone is welcome.

Our book club will start this November at the library. The first book will be "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Egan.

Teen Time

Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. "Game Up" for ages 11 and up.

Every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. **Yu-gi-oh** card game.

Upcoming "Call of Duty Four," an online tournament for PS3. For ages 15 and up. Parents welcome.

Children's Room

Toddler program every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Ages 18 to 36 months. Story, songs, playtime, etc. Pre-registration is required.

Baby story time. Thursday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m.. Ages: birth to 18 months.

Picture book program every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. For ages 4 to 10.

Wii games. Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 5 to 10.

Thanksgiving arts and crafts. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 5 to 10.

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



Photo courtesy BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM
Island resident Barbara Dennis in period costume helps set the mood for the exhibition "Finery and Frippery," a sampling of fashions dating from 1840 to 1920 on view at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum until Nov. 23, 2008.

Bartow-Pell Mansion-Museum Events

The First Friday City Island Seaside Trolley will make its first stop on Friday, Nov. 7, between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. at Bartow-Pell. Guided tours will be available free with admission. Entrance fees: \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students; children under 6 are admitted free.

A lecture on the original Bronx natives and a history of the area surrounding the museum will be given on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 1 p.m. by Pat Ernest, former education director at Bartow-Pell. She will discuss the original indigenous people, the Lenape, as

well as Jonas Bronck, the first European to settle in the Bronx (1638). The lecture is free with admission to the museum. Registration is requested. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpm.org.

Laurel Rimmer, assistant director of public programs at Wave Hill, will lead a one-day workshop entitled "Harvest-Themed Holiday Centerpiece," on Saturday, Nov. 22, between 12 and 4 p.m. Using natural materials of the autumn and a candle, participants can design a harvest table arrangement for the holidays. Fee: \$45 per person; members \$30. Supplies are included in the fee. Age appropriate for 14 years and up with an accompanying adult. Registration required, as space is limited. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpm.org.

On Friday, Dec. 5, there will be a members' holiday tea at 1 p.m. Become a member today and enjoy the holiday season with an afternoon tea. Boutique items, bake sale and silent auction will be open. Fee: \$40 per person.

A preview of the museum's candlelight tour will take place on Friday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the mansion in its full glory before anyone else! Trees will sparkle to the theme of "The Nutcracker" and items will be on sale for the holidays. You will be able to walk through the mansion at your own pace. Fees: \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students; children under 6 admitted free.

The museum's annual winter family day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. View the mansion decorated in the theme of "The Nutcracker." Enjoy a sing-along puppet show based on Clement Clarke Moore's poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and take home craft projects, purchase gift items, have professional pictures taken with Kris Kringle (\$20 extra per photo), and enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides. Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Fees are \$20 per child, free for adults; members \$10 per child. Puppet shows will take place at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Please register, as seating for the puppet shows are limited. Call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpm.org.

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MEMBER

CI Clergy Offer Prayer Service

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Concern about the continuing problem of substance abuse on City Island, and the occasional tragic events that occur as a result, have led members of the clergy to join together to address the problem—not by involving the police or taking punitive measures but by offering prayers for healing, together with information about support, prevention and rehabilitation for those in need.

A number of individuals and Island organizations have expressed interest in joining this effort, which will begin with an interfaith healing prayer service to be held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. This will be the first in a series of events designed to help individuals and families suffering with abuse problems and to avoid future tragedies.

Dr. Ed Rothschild, an Island resident, co-chair of the School Leadership Team and a physician experienced in working with patients with substance dependence, told *The Current* that he was most concerned “at what appears to be an ongoing serious problem with alcohol and drug abuse and addiction, particularly among young people.” With some colleagues he has conducted some drug-abuse prevention teaching sessions for the seventh and eighth grades.

Amy Lipson, principal of P. S. 175, told *The Current* that the PTA, faculty and administration of the school were delighted to develop this program and eagerly look forward to participating in future efforts to prevent and deal with the issues of substance abuse on City Island.

Father Michael Challinor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, points out that there are two programs at St. Mary’s that offer help for substance abusers. Narcotics Anonymous meets at the church every Sunday at 2 p.m.; Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Trinity Methodist Church also offers both Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, the former on Thursday at 8 p.m. and the latter on Monday at 8 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church also hosts regular meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The new officers of the City Island Civic Association are also intent on trying to confront and reduce the problems related to drug sales and consumption on City Island (see story page 1), and several other organizations have also pledged their support to trying to curb local drug use and criminal acts that are often associated with it.

Longtime residents are well aware that substance abuse is not a new concern for City Island. In the 1980s there was a methadone clinic on the Island, and several efforts were made to create groups to provide activities and prevention programs for young people. Most of these failed relatively quickly, however, largely for lack of volunteers to organize and supervise the organizations.

Mother Patty Alexander of Grace Episcopal Church, told *The Current*: “I am so pleased that the four houses of worship on City Island are united in our desire to confront the enemy in our midst—substance abuse. While we do not pretend to have the magic bullet to solve this problem, we are confident that prayer, dialogue and education can make a powerful difference. The first step is to acknowledge the prevalence of substance and alcohol abuse in this community and then begin to find ways to support and guide those affected by its ravages. Our young people are too precious for us to stand by idly and do nothing.”

For more information, call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080.



Photos courtesy of MARY JANE EDGAR

At the memorial held on Sept. 11, 2008, Mayor Bloomberg met with the family of Jimmy Waring, who died on Sept. 11, 2001: (l. to r. Jamie Rose and Maria Waring, their mother Maria, Mayor Bloomberg, Mary Jane Edgar and Maureen Hraska. Jimmy’s other two girls, Jessica and Stephanie, were not present because they are in college.



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Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and EYVONNE BAKER

The annual Blessing of the Animals to honor St. Francis of Assisi took place on Sunday, Oct. 5, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and at Grace Episcopal Church. Father Augustus Onwubiko blessed John Cerrato’s cat (left), while Barbara Dolensek’s dog (below, right) received his blessing from Mother Patty Alexander, as did Dusty Prohaska’s rabbit, Thumper (below, left).



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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

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 4, **Election Day Sale**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bake sale and raffle sponsored by the P.T.A.

Tues., Nov. 11, **Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Thurs., Nov. 13, **Interfaith Healing Prayer Service**, 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Thurs., Nov. 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Call 718-892-1161 for location.

Happy Thanksgiving

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

Thurs. Nov. 27, **Thanksgiving Dinner**, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 2 to 5 p.m.

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

Sat., Nov. 29, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 13, **Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, **Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 5 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our worship service and Sunday school begin at 10 a.m. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Please come and join us; you will be made to feel welcome.

Trinity appreciates all of your support for our Oct. 4 bake sale. It was a great success. We also wish to extend our gratitude to Peter La Scala, who helped us eliminate the radio interference in our sound system.

George Cavalieri, Trinity's lay leader, will continue to lead the study of the New Testament First Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians, chapters 11-16. This study is held on Sunday morning from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ending on Nov. 23. Please come and join us. For further information, call Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218.

The Budget Corner will be open Nov. 1, 4, 8 and 29 and Dec. 2, 9 and 16 with Dec. 20 as the closing date. We will reopen on Jan. 6. As always, we need volunteers for the Budget Corner. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 or Joyce Evans at 718-885-0957 to volunteer.

Once again, Anne Cox has graciously offered to head up Thanksgiving dinner at Trinity. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Everyone is welcome. We have always had wonderful feedback regarding the delightful meal. A good-will offering to Trinity to offset the expenses would be greatly appreciated. We need the names and addresses of anyone on the Island who can't travel to Trinity and would like to have a dinner delivered. Anne needs volunteers to deliver meals to shut-ins; please call her at 718-885-2572. This would be a great opportunity for the young folks to give back to the community.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Friday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., with

a dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 and Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Please come and shop for your holidays and also purchase and enjoy all the wonderful homemade goodies.

Reverend Sue Chadwick's Open House will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 7. All are welcome to stop in for a visit, fellowship and a smorgasbord of tempting finger food.

Trinity thanks Bob, Anne and Zoe Sill for all their hard labor for the church and wishes them God's blessings with their new church family in North Carolina. You will be missed.

Ellen G. Hebard

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful new year (5769).

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

This month two Friday evening services will be conducted by our rabbinic intern Molly Karp and Cantor Elaine. That's right—two! We will have a Kabbalat "welcome" Shabbat service on Nov. 7 and on Nov. 21. You can get up and dance, sing, clap. Plus another exciting Saturday Torah study session with Molly Karp will be held on Nov. 8, (10 cheshvan) at 10:30 a.m. A pot luck lunch (dairy and vegetarian foods, please) will follow. Since Simchat Torah in October, the scrolls are ready to start again from Genesis. What do the words of the Torah say to you? We look forward to your participation.

For other Friday night services you will have to put up with Bob Berent and his accordion. Come to listen or sing. Our participants frequently bring pot luck donations following services. Stay and shmooze and enjoy the company of a warm and welcoming Friday night group. What are you doing this Friday?

Finally, Mike Eiron, chair of our 75th anniversary year events committee, announces a Sunday brunch on Nov. 23 at 12 noon. This would be a great way to meet Molly, our guest of honor. We are grateful for our friends and neighbors. Happy Thanksgiving! Check our Web site: www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

Grace Episcopal Church

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during November, with a preview for December:

Calling all City Island children! Grace is planning a children's Christmas Pageant to be held on Christmas Eve, and your children are invited to participate! For more information, including rehearsal times, please call Pageant Director Steve Marcus at 718-885-1544.

Sunday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.: All Saints' Sunday.

Also on Sunday, Nov. 2, 12 noon: Pampered Chef Fundraiser Show. All are invited to join Brenda Prohaska for a demonstration of Pampered Chef products available for sale. Proceeds from this event will support the mission of Grace Church.

Sunday, Nov. 9, 11:30 a.m. Forum about the Potter's Field Campaign, offered by the organization Picture the Homeless. Come to the Grace Church Parish Hall this morning to learn more about Potter's Field and how you can help Picture the Homeless



Photo by BOB BERENT

Rabbi Shohama Wiener (left) leads the Jewish congregation through the High Holy Days at Temple Beth-El of City Island. Behind her are Alan Dattner and Arnold Wile (holding torahs) and Vice President Nan Kaplan.

honor the dignity of homeless men, women, and children buried on Hart Island.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.: Interfaith Healing Prayer Service (St. Mary, Star of the Sea).

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 6 p.m.: Special Thanksgiving Service. Please join us on Thanksgiving eve for a simple service of Holy Communion and thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

And please mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: The fifth annual Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival, featuring the very popular "Grace Café."

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Cub Scout Pack 211

It's that time again and Cub Scout Pack 211 is off and flying like a rocket. Registration was a huge success. The pack has grown in size, with more scouts in membership and more parents who come and enjoy the program we have put together.

The pack would like to welcome all our new scouts. The new Tiger Scouts are Daniel Pervisi; Brandon McLaughn; Paul, Jonathan and Gerard Mazzella; Christopher Tomsen; Jaden Torado; Jaden Manguel; Benjamin Chadwick; Jeremy Filomio; and Anthony Masella. Our new Bear Scouts are Matthew Valentine, Damon Hamblin and Joseph Zayas. Our new Webelos are Kasper Pederson. Our fine young men are already shining and showing what great scouts they are and employing their motto "Do your Best."

The scouts will be enjoying many fun and educational trips with their family and friends. The pack is looking forward to their fall camping trip in October, an overnight at the Aquarium, the annual trip to Medieval Times, as well as defending their title at the famous Klondike Race. Stay tuned for our future fund-raising event.

Registration is always open. We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Come one, come all.

Angelo Bellocchio

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The month of November began with the celebration of two special days: the Feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls.

The Enrollment Mass for those preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation in the spring will take place on Sunday, Nov. 2, at the 10 a.m. Mass. Both parents and students are participating in this important event.

All are welcome to attend our monthly coffee hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Nov. 9.

St. Mary's School will hold its annual Turkey Bingo on Friday evening, Nov. 21, in the school gym beginning at 7 p.m. Come and bring the family for an evening of fun!

Our Parish Council will meet on Monday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods which will be distributed to the poor. All are welcome to attend this celebration to give thanks for the blessings given to each of us and to our parish and our community. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Nov. 30, we will begin the Holy Season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as a man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Sr. Bernadette

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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.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

Sally's Playground for ages birth through five years. Beginning Oct. 1, Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

Fall Art Classes by Laury Hopkins begin Oct. 6. **Story and Picture** for K through second grade: Mondays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.; eight classes for \$70; **Build a Beast Workshop** for grades 4 through 8: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; nine classes for \$120; **Colorscape** for grades 3 through 6: Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; nine classes for \$80; **Storytime Art for Preschoolers**, accompanied by caregiver, Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.; nine classes for \$70 (individual classes \$10; must call ahead). Call Laury

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at 718-885-3202 for more information or to sign up. Leave a message!

Drama Club will be held on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8 p.m. starting Oct. 7, for ages 8 to 12. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 for more information.

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

ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Wilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through five and adults that 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

Healthy Senior Exercise

Healthy Senior Exercise programs continue at Grace Church Hall as follows: Tuesdays, Sittercise; Thursdays, Cardio Fitness; Fridays, Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program. All sessions begin at 10 a.m. Transportation is available to and from Grace Church Parish Hall (City Island Avenue at Pilot Street) and to the Orchard Beach walks on Mondays and Wednesdays. For further information, please call Patty at 914-882-9578.

Patty Grondahl



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 went on its annual fall camping trip at Alpine Scout Camp. The trip was well attended by the scouts and their families, along with grandparents and uncles, and everyone enjoyed Cub World Day at the camp. The scouts participated in archery and pumpkin painting and were treated to some awesome meals created by the multi-talented and famous camp chef Larry Saulnier. The brave scouts also visited the scary haunted house and cleared it of all the evil doers! The Webelos, led by Pete Green, completed their outdoorsman skills and will be awarded their merits at their next meeting.

Legion News

The month of November is just around the corner and with it come several days important to all of us. On Nov. 1, daylight saving time will end, and two days later, on Nov. 4, the good burghers of City Island will flock to the polls to vote for candidates of their choice. One week later, Nov. 11, we celebrate Veterans' Day, and on Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day.

There are a number of important dates involving the participation of veterans. On Sunday, Nov. 9, Post members will step off at 12 noon for the Throggs Neck Veterans Day parade. The parade will start at East Tremont Avenue and Lafayette Avenue. Commander Dave Carman informs us that a color guard will be needed. Those who are able to march are urged to participate.

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, a Veterans' Day ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Grove. The troops, resplendent in their uniforms and bedecked with medals, will meet at the Post at 10 a.m. The event will honor the 947 veterans from our borough who met their untimely demise in the Great War (aka World War I).

On Friday, Nov. 14, the Bronx County Military Ball will be held at 7 p.m. at the Villa Barone Restaurant. A full-course dinner with a choice of three entrees will be served. There will be an open bar and live music beginning at 7 p.m. Remember, if you plan to imbibe, appoint a designated driver.

Although I know that the annual pumpkin sale was a success, I don't have a final figure. Comrade Ed Shipp is still counting the money!

Saturday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. the Servicemen's Dinner Dance will be held at the Post. Details will be posted at the bar.

Comrade Mike Treat informs us that 2009 dues are due. We could also use some new blood. Should you know of any Korean or Vietnam War veterans, give them an application.

Comrade Shipp could use help placing flags on the poles along the Avenue. Tell your friends. It is not necessary that you be a Post member. Any able-bodied Islander is welcome.

The Post and community have lost a good friend, Dennis O'Connell, who was an associate member. You might remember Dennis appearing on television with the NYC Fire Department Emerald Society Fire Department Band every St. Patrick's Day for several years. Please remember Dennis in your prayers. I just received word that Comrade Louis Probst passed away on Saturday, Oct. 18, in Atlanta, Georgia. Lou was a longtime member of the Sam Young Post and for the last several years was a member of the Leonard Hawkins Post. He was a park

trooper with both the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in World War II (aka the Big Deuce).

To the best of my knowledge, no one is on sick call.

You may have observed that Ted Roberts' name has been added as a staff writer, as rumor has it that Jack Katz is planning an early retirement.

Meetings for November are: regular meetings, Monday, Nov. 3 and 17; executive board meeting, Monday, Nov. 10.

Until next month, at ease...

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

City Island Republicans

We want to inform all of the Republicans and Conservatives on City Island that they need to come out and vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. This is one of the most important elections in history. If enough supporters come out and vote, we can help Senator John McCain win City Island.

I am happy to report that all of our poll-worker slots are filled for Election Day.

Anyone who has any questions about Election Day can call the Bronx Board of Elections at 718-299-9017 or the New York City Board of Elections at 866-VOTE-NYC.

Watch for the December issue of *The Island Current* for information on our next meeting, which will be our annual end-of-the-year party.

Fred Ramftl, President



Sons of the Americans Legion Squadron #156

After marching in the annual City Island Halloween parade, come and attend our Halloween party, which will be held at the Post on Friday, Oct. 31, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. The price is \$40 with a costume and \$50 without. Come and have a ball.

The dues for 2009 are now being accepted. Membership cards and letters will be going out in early November. The dues once again are once \$30. Scott Murphy and I would like to remind everyone who has not paid 2008 dues that they are past due and can be dropped off at the Post.

Any male who is the descendant of a war veteran and is interested in joining the Sons of the American Legion may speak to Vice Commanders for Membership, Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000 or Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695.

Fred Ramftl



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

There was nary a child to be seen at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School on Oct. 10, which was Field Trip Day for the whole school. Pre-K through Grade 3 went to Green Meadows Farm where they were encouraged to hold, touch or experience many farm animals and other wildlife. They also went on a hayride.

Grades 4 through 6 went to Wave Hill Public Gardens and Cultural Center, where the students and their teachers experienced nature first-hand through the facility's customized education programs—this one focusing on nature and the arts. Inquiry-based learning out-of-doors is the hallmark of these innovative programs, which use Wave Hill's spectacular grounds, fine galleries and local open spaces as living laboratories for natural science exploration.

The seventh- and eighth-graders went to the Bronx Zoo, where the seventh-grade teacher, Mr. Evan Beskin, planned an African safari experience for the classes. A great time was had by all.

Later in October, the school was paid a visit by Chris Godfrey, the former NFL's New York Giants guard. When Chris retired from football, he founded Life Athletes, Inc., an organization that attempts to reach the hearts of young people, inspiring a commitment to integrity, purity and a respect for life. He spoke to the students about building good, healthy relationships, taking responsibility for their actions and making good choices in life. Chris will be back to conduct an in-service program for parents.

We began our very successful monthly Family Movie Night program—movies and snacks for children and their parents or guardians on a Friday evening at the school. And a terrific time was had by all at our annual Halloween party. The children, teachers and even Mrs. Dennehy, our principal, participated in wearing costumes and enjoying the festivities and parade.

November finds our students attending prep classes for the TACHS exam to be held on Nov. 7. This annual rite for high-school admissions and the next four years of their education brings with it some anxiety, but also the excitement and enthusiasm and anticipation for the future. Nov. 13 will be our annual Parents Association dinner at Villa Barone, presided over by PA president, Mrs. Yolanda Ortega.

On Friday, Nov. 21, St. Mary's will hold its annual Turkey Bingo and Thanksgiving raffle for turkeys, food and gifts. This traditional event, open to the entire City Island community, is always a fun event. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children and seniors.

On Nov. 24, the Helen Keller Institute visits the school again to conduct educational outreach and services, such as eye exams for our children. In addition, they provide glasses for students who need them but can't afford the cost.

We wind up the month of November with

our fabulous indoor carnival on Nov. 25 supporting Mission Awareness Day. There are games, food and arts and crafts for sale, with the whole school participating, and all proceeds go to support charities with special missions serving children in need.

A happy and blessed Thanksgiving to all!

Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start!

Our Extended Day Program, which began the second week of school, provides students in all grades with academic support, as well as test preparation for the specialized high school exam and the TACHS for eighth grade students.

Once again, we have received a grant from the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation for an after-school program. This year's program, which serves students in Grades 5 through 8, includes cooking, a sports component that changes throughout the year, homework help, sewing and art. Our art teacher, Ms. Lopez, is also working with the eighth-graders applying to LaGuardia H.S. to prepare their admissions portfolios. Another component of the Sports & Arts Program is the series of trips that students attend during school holidays. So far this year, the students have gone apple picking at Stuart's Farm in Granite Springs, New York, and on the Circle Line Tour, where they were able to get a glimpse of the "Waterfalls" project.

On Oct. 18, our committed and dedicated PTA and the City Island Theater Group collaborated to hold a benefit performance of the show "The Dining Room." Proceeds from the event will go toward the upgrading of the sound system that is used for performances in the school. We are grateful to all the parents who participated by purchasing tickets and baking delicious goodies for the intermission snack sales. A special thanks to all of the actors and members of the CITG who gave up their time on a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon to benefit the students of P.S.175!

We are having several exciting events in the weeks to come. They include our fourth annual Family/Pajama Night for the kindergarten through the third grade, a Halloween movie and snacks for our fourth- and fifth-graders, and the Halloween Dance for Grades 6 through 8. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale, which promises to be a huge success since this is a presidential election year. As always, we are greatly appreciative for all of the support we get from our community!

The Citizens-of-the-Month for September were Joseph Goonan and Rasmus Pedersen (kindergarten), Nicholas Kola and Caitlin Knapp (first grade), Anthony Masella and Grace Connolly (second grade), Connor Hanley-Piri and Lydia McElroy (third grade), Shemar Myrie and Julia Ejli (fourth grade), Francesca Paradiso and Amanda Beqiraj (fifth grade), Latoya James and Alba Borici (sixth grade), Brendan Patterson and Nicole De Rosa (seventh grade), Jennifer Branley and Johnathan Mora (eighth grade).

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 4 is Election Day and the school is closed for students; Nov. 20 is parent-teacher conferences from 12:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. and 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Class Actions

Based on the true story of an employee at an Oklahoma nuclear facility, **Silkwood** (1983) is the tragic account of Karen Silkwood, who died under suspicious circumstances while she was on her way to meet with a reporter to expose safety hazards at her workplace and to generate a class-action suit against the company. The excellent cast includes Kurt Russell and Cher as her co-workers, Drew Stephens and Dolly Pelliker, with whom she shared a house. Expertly directed by Mike Nichols, this slow-paced drama garnered five Academy Award nominations.

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

John Travolta stars as attorney Jan Schlichtman in **A Civil Action** (1999), written and directed by Steven Zaillian (Oscar-winning screenwriter for Schindler's List). Like Schindler, Schlichtman is a greedy man who is "seduced" into being good and working for justice for his clients. At first, his small and sleazy but highly successful law firm takes only cases that are certain to bring in the big bucks, but he cannot bring himself to turn his back on a desperate community, 12 of whose children have died of leukemia. Robert Duvall gives a very strong performance as the rather laid-back lawyer Jerome Facher, who represents the corporation whose companies were responsible for pollution that caused the deaths of the

children. This is a very disturbing, complex and thought-provoking reality-based film.

In **Erin Brockovich** (2000), Julia Roberts earned an Academy Award in the title role as a divorced mother of three with few options to support her family. She talks her way into a job with a law firm and winds up investigating Pacific Gas & Electric, whose industrial chemicals may have polluted a town's water supply. Ed Masry (Albert Finney) is the owner of the law firm and is continuously upstaged by Erin and her outrageous mouth and seductive way of dressing. Yet she is very bright and caring, and she wins the respect of the clients involved in the class action suit and, finally, even the grudging respect of her co-workers.

North Country (2005) is a film inspired by the first sexual harassment class-action suit in the United States. Josey Aimes (Charlize Theron) is hired by a Minnesota mining company when it is forced to employ women. However, the abuse perpetrated by the resentful men on these women, who desperately need their salaries, is vile indeed. Frances McDormand gives an outstanding performance as Glory, a fellow mineworker and the only female on the union negotiating committee. Woody Harrelson plays Josey's lawyer, Bill White, whose handling of the case is ultimately the basis for establishing new law. Sissy Spacek and Richard Jenkins play Josey's disapproving parents. Theron and McDormand received Oscar nominations for Best and Supporting Actress, respectively.

Michael Clayton (2007), with George Clooney in the starring role, works as a "fixer" for a very powerful law firm run by Marty Bach (Sydney Pollack). Karen Crowder (Tilda Swinton), the chief legal executive for the firm, represents a corporation that is the guilty target of a pollution class-action suit. The story revolves around Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson), a top partner in the firm and close friend of Clayton, who stopped taking his medication and freaked out during a deposition. Clayton's job is to bring Edens back under control before the class-action suit comes tumbling down. This film received seven Academy Award nominations with Tilda Swinton winning for her outstanding supporting role.

And until next time, happy viewing . . .

CHAMBER DINNER

Continued from page 1

couple decided to move to City Island in 2001 and have settled very nicely into the community. Music is a big part of their lives and has provided Islanders with many hours of enjoyment. Skip and his band perform regularly at the Arts and Crafts Fair, as well as at the Chamber awards dinner. In accepting their award, Skip thanked "everyone on City Island for being such good neighbors. It is a wonderful place to be."

The Catherine Scott Achievement Award was given to Deana Weyhrauch, a lifelong resident of City Island and a busy wife and mother of three children. Deana, who worked at various City Island yacht clubs as a girl, noted that community has always been an important part of her life. She is a Girl Scout leader, a director of the Community Center's Youth Program and a member of the Center's board of directors. When Chamber president Peter La Scala presented her with a \$500 check from an anonymous donor, Deana immediately donated it back to the Girl Scouts. In addition to thanking Trinity Methodist Church, the Girl Scouts and the Community Center, Deana praised her family for their patience and support. One of the evening's surprises came when Deana's father, Dennis Rosa, presented his daughter with the Tony Palangi Fellowship Award, which "helps underprivileged children attend Kamp Kiwanis."

Sports, particularly baseball, have always been a passion for Little League coach George Spencer, who is treasurer of the City Island Little League and received the Service to the Community Award. George thanked fellow honorees and Chamber members and said that it is "easy to be a volunteer because of the great people here. Baseball is my true

love." He also thanked Frank Sena, "who got me started in City Island Little League." George, who is married to Moira Carter-Spencer and is the father of Kieran and Deirdre, also shares his athletic talents as a coach in the St. Mary's basketball and softball programs. When not on the field or in the gym, George can be found serving on the executive committee of the Civic Association or enjoying the beach near his home, where he helps with repairs and maintenance.

"A personal friend of mine and the hardest working man in Albany" was the description Mr. Benedetto gave of his colleague Senator Jeff Klein as he presented the senator with the Exemplary Community Service Award. Cited for his distinguished career in Albany, Senator Klein called City Island one of the few places that is very important to me." He confessed to "favoring" City Island, at least in part because two dedicated members of his staff, John Doyle and Adam Haight, live on City Island. Senator Klein sponsors a variety of programs throughout our district, including a graffiti removal program and Senior Appreciation Days at the Westchester Broadway Dinner Theater.

It was an exciting moment for everyone in the room when Senator Klein presented a check for \$100,000 as a grant to the Chamber of Commerce for the purchase of video surveillance cameras to protect local businesses and the community.

After the awards were given, those attending enjoyed a lavish dinner and danced enthusiastically to music, sponsored by Verizon.

All of the recipients honored embody the leadership, spirit and dedication to the City Island community that each award represents. Keep up the good work!

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LOSING WEIGHT THE EFFECTIVE WAY

By BRUCE NIEVES

How many times have you told yourself that you need to lose weight? I'm not talking about a couple of pounds. I'm talking about 20 or more pounds of extra fat that you would like to see disappear.

I have noticed that most people psych themselves out before they ever start losing the weight. It's as if the enormity of the goal simply puts them into shut-down mode, and they give up on the idea entirely.

Has this ever happened to you? You try out a diet or exercise plan for a week or so, and then you get frustrated when your body looks the same as before. So you give up.

Weight loss isn't a speedy thing, and neither is weight gain. Many people put on weight over a period of years and then expect to lose it in a few weeks or months. It doesn't work that way.

So instead of pressuring yourself into losing 50 pounds in two months, how about sticking with a realistic, proven way for long-term weight loss? Small changes to your life-style over time will make the difference.

In practical terms, make it your goal to drop one pound a week. This may not seem like that much, but if you did this consistently for one year, it would result in 50 pounds lost. All it takes are small changes in your daily life-style. Let's break the process down.

The way to shed a pound a week is to burn 3,500 extra calories. It really is that simple. Try the following three steps:

Record your normal weekly exercise. Look at everything from walking to participating in sports to exercising in the gym. This is your starting point. You need to burn an additional 3,500 calories a week on top of your normal weekly exercise. If you don't currently exercise, then this step is really easy for you. A simple blank page will do.

Record your normal weekly food intake. This may be hard to do honestly, but remember that you are only cheating yourself by not recording everything. Calculate

the total number of calories that you eat in an average day. In your quest to drop inches, you should not exceed your normal daily caloric intake. Instead, you should work at slowly decreasing that number. Remember, we are going for a 3,500-calorie deficit each week. This can be done by a combination of increased calorie exertion (exercise), as well as a decrease in calories consumed (eating less).

Chart the difference. Now that you know your starting point for both calorie exertion and calorie intake, it is time to turn the tables in your favor. Take every opportunity to exert more calories by increasing your physical activity, and to decrease your calorie consumption by eating fewer calories and making healthier selections. Record your progress in a notebook and refer back to it often. You will be surprised how encouraging it is to see your progress written down on paper.

Remember, if you burn up 500 calories a day you will drop a pound in a week.

Here are some practical ways to lose calories:

If you normally drink regular soda pop. **Do this instead...** drink water or diet soda pop (160 calories lost).

If you normally eat a snack from a vending machine. **Do this instead...** enjoy an apple (180 calories lost).

If you normally hit the snooze button in the a.m. **Do this instead...** jog for 30 minutes before work (150 calories lost).

If you normally skip your workout. **Do this instead...** see me for an invigorating workout (changes your life!).

Weight loss doesn't have to be elusive. Make small changes each and every day toward a healthier, fitter you. Remember that small changes make a big difference.

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



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The American Legion held its annual pumpkin sale, organized by Ed Shipp, over the weekend of Oct. 10-12. Sister Mary Shepard was assisted by Legion worker John Muhlfeld (top photo), while three Island children—Joseph Goonan at the left and the twins Gerard and Jonathan Mazzella enjoyed being part of the holiday decor.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

By SCOTT MEYER

Blood donors save lives every day, literally giving the gift of life. Many people are not aware that the New York Blood Center (NYBC) needs nearly 2,000 people every day to roll up their sleeves to donate a liter of blood. There is simply no substitute for voluntarily donated blood, and without volunteer donors, our community would not have an adequate blood supply.

Four million Americans each year benefit from life-saving transfusions. In fact, one of every three people will need a life-saving transfusion at some point during their lifetime.

The act of donating whole blood, or specific blood products, is a relatively simple procedure, but it is best to be prepared before your donation and know what to expect. Before donating, be sure to eat at your regular mealtimes and drink plenty of fluids. It is recommended that you not take aspirin, or products containing aspirin, for at least 72 hours before your scheduled appointment because of their blood-thinning effects.

The first step in giving blood is to fill out a donor registration form. This entails providing some basic information, such as your name, address, age and Social Security Number and answering a series of questions regarding disease history, medication usage and recent travel. You must also show us your photo or signature identification or a bar-coded NYBC Donor ID Card. A brief medical history is taken, including a check of your pulse, blood pressure and temperature, and a drop of blood is analyzed for hemoglobin (iron) content.

After meeting all of the donor requirements, you will move on to a donor bed. The procedure is done by skilled, specially trained technicians and takes 10 to 12 min-

utes for a donation of whole blood. (Other procedures, such as platelet donation, may take a little longer.) All materials, including the needle used for your donation, are new, sterile and disposable and are used only once. There is no risk of any disease transmission to a donor.

The standard donation is a liter (a little less than one pint). The average adult has between eight and twelve pints of blood and can easily spare one. The blood volume, or plasma, is replaced by the body within 24 hours; red cells need about four to eight weeks for complete replacement.

The whole procedure may take an hour or so. Afterwards, donors are given a chance to rest and to receive refreshments. Most people feel fine after donating blood and can resume full activity, although donors are advised to avoid heavy lifting, pushing or picking up heavy objects for at least four or five hours after giving blood.

All blood is typed after donation and tested for hepatitis, HIV (the AIDS virus), syphilis and several other transmissible conditions. Some test results may temporarily or permanently prevent someone from donating blood. Most donated pints of blood are separated into various components (red cells, platelets, plasma) in order to benefit several patients. This takes place in NYBC component labs, which are located in Manhattan and Westbury.

After testing, each blood component is labeled according to blood type and any other special characteristics. Blood products are delivered to hospitals on a daily and emergency basis, and the rest is stored or frozen for a period of time before being transported to one of nearly 200 New York or New Jersey hospitals.

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Obituaries

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



Armand Rivalsi

Armand Rivalsi

Armand Rivalsi, age 95, died quietly in his sleep at the King Avenue home of his son, Gerald, and his daughter-in-law, Susan (Statkowski), with them at his bedside, on Sept. 26, 2008.

He was born May 14, 1913, in Manhattan to Albert and Tina (Bertuzzi) Rivalsi. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Throggs Neck. Armand attended P.S. 14 and James Monroe High School. In 1936 he married Isabelle (Nelson), also from Throggs Neck. In the mid-1960s, they moved to Westchester. Isabelle (Bella) predeceased Armand by 11 years.

After high school, Armand followed in his father's footsteps by working in the field of construction. He became a member of the Cement Mason's Union Local 780 (and continued that membership until his death). Early in his construction career, he

helped build the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and Rockefeller Center, including Radio City Music Hall. He then founded Rivalsi Paving Corporation, which served residential and commercial customers in Westchester and the Bronx.

Armand lived independently until December 1996, when, at the age of 93, he moved into his son's and daughter-in-law's home on City Island. He could often be seen sitting on the front porch reading his Daily News; and he would proudly take his daily constitutional or "run" errands around the Island with the assistance of his shiny blue walker.

He felt very much at home spending his final days on City Island, since his (and subsequently his son's) company paved most of the Island's residential driveways and sidewalks, as well as a number of Island restaurant and yacht club parking lots. He and his son were honored that their company was hired to lay the concrete pad on which the America's Cup racing yachts designed by Olin Stephens were built at the Minneford Yacht Yard. This was no small feat, as such pads must be installed and remain perfectly level.

In addition to Gerald and Susan, Armand is survived by his grandson, Steven, and his wife, Philomena; his great-granddaughter, Isabella, and soon-to-be-born second great-grandchild; as well as many loving family members and friends. He was predeceased by his siblings George and Walter Rivalsi, Anita Golden, and Flora Cahill. Armand was entombed with his beloved Bella at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla, New York.

Doris Lane

Doris Lane, 87, a longtime resident of City Island, passed away on Oct. 4, 2008.

Known as Dee Dee, she was the oldest daughter of Ida and Frank Mullen of the Bronx and had five brothers and one sister. She attended James Monroe High School, where she first met Mildred Falci, to whom she remained close for the rest of her life.

One summer the Mullens rented a cottage on City Island next to Lane's Beach, owned by the family of Fred (Skippy) Lane. When Skippy saw her, he decided that this "girl next door" was the best swimmer he had ever seen, and he announced to his mother: "I'm gonna marry her!" The couple married in 1943, and after living for a while in Pelham Bay, they moved to City Island and resided for many years on Horton Street.

Dee Dee worked at Ratsey and Lapthorn Sailmakers and at Charlie Rodstrom's liquor store, but she was first and foremost a proud and loving mother to her son, Larry, and her daughter, Jackie. With another longtime friend, Mildred Jewett, Dee Dee formed a partnership that operated D & M Payroll and then D & M Fabrics, which was located on Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

She also gave a great deal of her time to various Island activities, including St. Mary's Mothers Guild, for which she ran many fund-raisers; the Girl Scouts, where she was a much-loved leader; and the AARP, where she and Mildred Jewett ran the dinner theater program for many years. The two ladies also spent many years happily involved in a bowling league in Pelham Bay, the Bowlerettes!

Her husband, Skippy, died in 2004. She is survived by her son, Larry Lane, of the Bronx; her daughter, Jackie Taylor of White Plains, and Jackie's husband, Brian Taylor; and four grandchildren, Tracy and Kristin Lane and Devin and Kyle Taylor, to whom she was devoted.

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard 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

NOVEMBER 2008									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sat	0204	6.91	0742	1.08	1351	7.57	2036	0.70	Sun 02
02 Sun	0134	6.78	0715	1.23	1324	7.38	1956	0.91	Sun 02
03 Mon	0206	6.71	0756	1.42	1404	7.22	2034	1.11	Mon 03
04 Tue	0247	6.68	0844	1.59	1450	7.06	2120	1.25	Tue 04
05 Wed	0334	6.70	0937	1.68	1542	6.91	2211	1.31	Wed 05
06 Thu	0427	6.79	1035	1.64	1639	6.82	2306	1.26	Thu 06
07 Fri	0523	6.99	1138	1.43	1740	6.83			Fri 07
08 Sat	0003	1.08	0619	7.28	1244	1.04	1842	6.93	Sat 08
09 Sun	0059	0.84	0711	7.70	1351	0.56	1939	7.15	Sun 09
10 Mon	0153	0.51	0801	8.10	1447	0.03	2033	7.34	Mon 10
11 Tue	0243	0.18	0849	8.48	1539	-0.44	2124	7.52	Tue 11
12 Wed	0332	-0.08	0938	8.77	1630	-0.78	2214	7.63	Wed 12
13 Thu	0421	-0.22	1026	8.93	1721	-0.95	2305	7.67	Thu 13
14 Fri	0512	-0.22	1115	8.93	1814	-0.93	2357	7.60	Fri 14
15 Sat	0605	-0.08	1207	8.73	1911	-0.74			Sat 15
16 Sun	0052	7.46	0705	0.18	1302	8.37	2013	-0.45	Sun 16
17 Mon	0153	7.27	0815	0.48	1403	7.90	2119	-0.13	Mon 17
18 Tue	0306	7.10	0936	0.69	1519	7.41	2226	0.12	Tue 18
19 Wed	0428	7.07	1053	0.71	1654	7.10	2331	0.27	Wed 19
20 Thu	0541	7.19	1202	0.55	1811	7.01			Thu 20
21 Fri	0031	0.30	0644	7.40	1305	0.27	1915	7.03	Fri 21
22 Sat	0128	0.27	0740	7.62	1402	-0.04	2011	7.08	Sat 22
23 Sun	0221	0.23	0831	7.80	1455	-0.30	2101	7.11	Sun 23
24 Mon	0309	0.20	0918	7.90	1543	-0.46	2149	7.11	Mon 24
25 Tue	0354	0.24	1002	7.93	1628	-0.50	2232	7.08	Tue 25
26 Wed	0435	0.34	1042	7.88	1710	-0.42	2312	7.01	Wed 26
27 Thu	0513	0.50	1117	7.77	1749	-0.24	2349	6.94	Thu 27
28 Fri	0544	0.69	1144	7.64	1824	-0.01			Fri 28
29 Sat	0021	6.86	0605	0.86	1202	7.54	1853	0.24	Sat 29
30 Sun	0044	6.82	0621	0.97	1225	7.49	1910	0.44	Sun 30
DECEMBER 2008									
01 Mon	0104	6.84	0651	1.04	1258	7.44	1929	0.55	Mon 01
02 Tue	0135	6.91	0730	1.09	1337	7.37	2002	0.63	Tue 02
03 Wed	0213	6.98	0814	1.12	1421	7.25	2043	0.68	Wed 03
04 Thu	0256	7.07	0903	1.12	1509	7.09	2128	0.70	Thu 04
05 Fri	0344	7.17	0956	1.06	1601	6.92	2217	0.70	Fri 05
06 Sat	0435	7.31	1054	0.92	1658	6.79	2311	0.64	Sat 06



Hands and Hawks

Landing a 20- to 30-pound striped bass has become the kind of event around here lately that is so regular it's almost not worth reporting. Unless, of course, it is landed with one's bare hands! That's what Tommy V. did off the Fordham Street pier last month. We were there. Actually, the fish was at first hooked but then became tangled in another line. That's when Tommy took to the water to bring the fish home with his hands, Native-American style. Of course, he had to cut the line first, which he did—with his teeth!

Another occurrence that we have increasingly witnessed lately is one kind of bird, such as a crow or blue jay, raiding the nest of another kind, such as a sparrow, in search of food. The latest incident happened in September. This time the aggressor was a grackle. We watched one making its move on a sparrow's nest in a shrub up against a neighbor's home. The young sparrow and its very extended family all around made more than enough racket to scare the grackle away. But grackles can be persistent, especially when they are hungry. Later on, we watched and listened to a grackle with a hatchling sparrow in its beak flying overhead for home.



Common grackle

Sparrow hawks, otherwise known as American kestrels, are making their presence on City Island known, too. Perhaps some more of our readers have noticed.

Janette has. A sparrow hawk is small for a raptor, about the size of a pigeon, without the plumpness. Like the pigeon, it is a colorful bird, but its individual feathers are much more apparent from a distance, as opposed to the painted-on look of pigeon feathers.

We read recently of four rehabilitated sparrow hawks that had been released into Pelham Bay Park. They were nursed back to good health by licensed rehabilitators, Bobby and Sue Horvath. City Island's own Jack and Jane were on hand for the joyous occasion, and judging from the pictures Jack sent us, a wonderful time was had by all.

These birds could be the ones we've been watching recently at the very top of another neighbor's very tall evergreen tree. The mockingbird that used to sing from the same perch has gone into hiding since the arrival of the sparrow hawk. He has nothing to worry about, though, as it is the house sparrow that is this hawk's prey of choice. And we have plenty of those on City Island, for sure.

As always we invite your input and welcome your feedback. We can be contacted at our e-mail address, jdsstrat@msn.com, or by snail mail, care of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.



Anyone missing a home-made heroin pipe? This object was found on a ledge next to the seawall at the end of Ditmars Street at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, along with some little plastic bags and lots of cigarette debris. It had been left there between 1 and 2 that afternoon, and whoever was using it fled in a hurry, leaving the street-end gate open. When notified, the 45th precinct agreed to make more frequent visits to the area.



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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.



Victoria Barron and Adam Lodewick

Happy Nov. 8 anniversary to Horton Street's Lorraine and Ducky Rauhauser, who have had smooth sailing for 61 years!

Happy Nov. 12 birthday greetings across the miles go out to Seaman Bobby Swieciki, who is attending Coast Guard school in Virginia.

Caren Stark and Rick Bonocora announce the birth of their daughter, Harlow Sofia, born on Sept. 20. Caren is the daughter of Beth and the late Herb Stark, formerly of Carroll Street.

Belated happy birthday wishes to little Bob Carmody, who turned 12 on Oct. 10. With love from Mom, Dad, Kelly and Cricket.

Long distance 18th-birthday hugs and kisses go out to Kelly Carmody on Oct. 20. Kelly is a freshman at St. Leo's University in St. Leo, Florida. We love you and are very proud of you! Mom, Dad, little Bob and Cricket.

A warm City Island welcome to Pete Verma and Conor L. Seyda, who recently joined the team at our local Chase branch bank.

Congratulations to Christina Rogone in Albany on her 60th birthday on Nov. 14, with love from Vic, Christine, Sarah, David and Mom.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Victoria Barron and Adam Lodewick, who were married in a beautiful garden ceremony on Aug. 23, 2008. The wedding party included Victoria's brother and sister-in-law, Jason and Annie Barron; former classmates Gina and Justine Shanahan; and neighbors Sydney and Shannon Saulnier. After honeymooning in Nevis, Victoria began her new teaching position in North Salem, New York. Congratulations to the newlyweds.

Happy birthday wishes are making their way overseas to Richard Ferris, who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy. Richard, we wish you nothing but happiness on your big one with many more to come! Wish you were here, but we're glad we were able to celebrate with you while you were home over the summer. Be happy and always safe. We love you and miss you very much. Mom, Joey and Marissa.

Happy 21st birthday to my first-born, Richie Ferris. Enjoy your big one. Stay safe. We love you and miss you a lot! Dad, Linda, Tommy, Ryan and Tyler. Birthday wishes are also sent from Aunt Maria, Jessica, Stephanie, Maria, Jamie, Aunt Angela, Uncle Mario, Stephen, Michael, Stephen, Helen and Nick. We miss you!

Birthday greetings on Nov. 15 to Pell Place's Rosette Dietz, with love from your family and friends.

Maria Swieciki



Richie Ferris

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Tickets may be purchased at any Bronx Rotary meeting, Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m. at the Harbor Restaurant on City Island Ave. Mail-in requests for tickets should be postmarked no later than Dec. 5, 2008. The drawing will be held on Dec. 16, 2008.

Mail checks to: The Rotary Club of the Bronx, c/o Igina DeMichele, 2 Gould Ave., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 and please include your name, address and phone #. Inquiries: 718-617-1600. The Rotary Club of the Bronx is a 501(c)(3) organization and ticket purchases are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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