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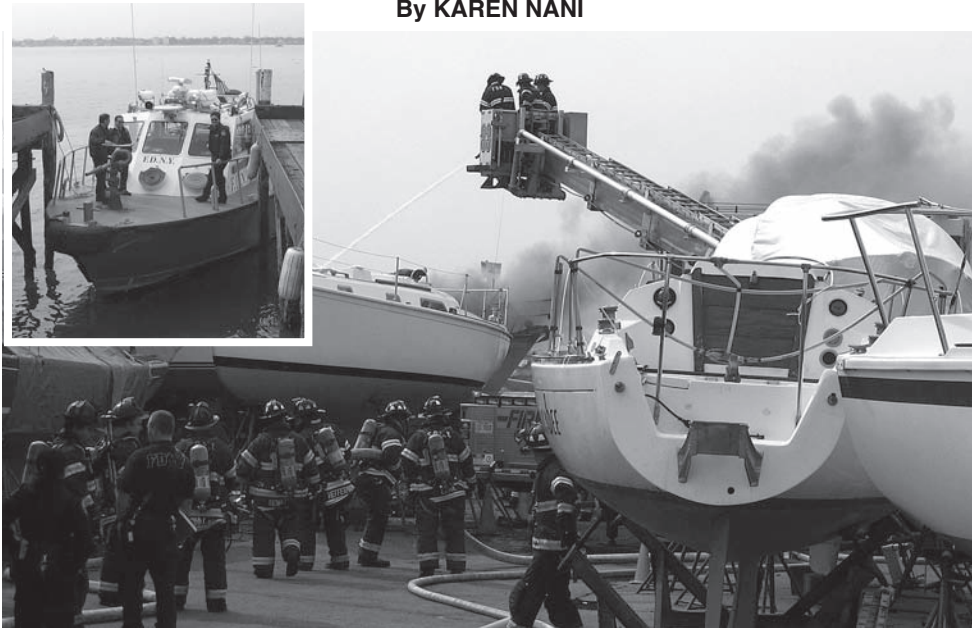
Volume 36 Number 3

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One Dollar

## FIRE AT STUYVESANT YC DESTROYS TWO BOATS

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

A fire broke out on the afternoon of March 14, 2007, at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, engulfing two sailboats and damaging others nearby.

A one-alarm fire broke out around 1 p.m. on March 14, 2007, consuming at least two sailboats in dry dock and damaging others at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club on Centre Street. There were no injuries and no apparent damage to the clubhouse, storage areas, docks or hauling equipment.

The NYFD received the alarm at 1:15 p.m. and responded quickly with nine units and 60 firefighters, according to Division Chief James Mulrenan, who was present at the scene. He told *The Current* that the fire started on one boat and spread to the adjacent sailboat, but the cause and origin were not known.

Among the firefighting units that responded were a fireboat (marine unit #6) and Engine #70 based at the City Island firehouse on Schofield Street. Ironically, Ladder #53, usually based at the house, was out on training. Luckily for Islanders

and members of the Stuyvesant, the NYFD substituted another ladder truck (#33) from Jerome Avenue in the Bronx to provide coverage.

It was this truck and crew that handled the bulk of the extinguishing using a "gun that puts out water equivalent to five hoses," one firefighter reported. The total amount of water needed was so great that firefighters grew concerned about the boats collapsing or toppling from their cradles onto adjacent crafts. Fortunately, all the boats remained upright.

The fire was contained within one hour, leaving eight boats damaged in total, according to Battalion Chief Bill Bonasera. Six sailboats sustained only peripheral damage, while the original two boats were "demolished." Members of the club who gathered to watch the effort and check on

*Continued on page 7*

## NEW POLICE COMMANDER GETS TO KNOW CI

By KAREN NANI



Photo by FRANK FITTS

The new commander of the 45th Precinct, Captain William McSorley, met with the editors of *The Island Current* on March 8, 2007, to discuss issues of concern to Islanders, including graffiti, traffic and crime reporting.

Captain William McSorley, the new commander of the 45th Precinct, has begun familiarizing himself with City Island and its police-related issues.

"City Island is unique in my precinct—only one way in and one way out," he told *The Current* in an interview at the precinct on March 8, 2007. "I drove around the Island several times on different days, and it seems like a close-knit community with neighbors watching out for each other."

City Island is one part of the commander's new precinct. The 45th encompasses most of the neighborhoods between Co-op City and the Whitestone Bridge and is the largest geographical precinct within the New York City Police Department.

Captain McSorley is familiar with a couple of boroughs in New York. Born in Queens, he was most recently executive officer of the 44th Precinct in the Highbridge section of the Bronx. As commander of the 45th Precinct, his goals are to continue the trends in crime reduction set by his predecessor, Captain James Alles.

In order to accomplish his goal, he made it clear that the officers of the 45th need the continued help of local citizens. "City Islanders need to continue watching out for their neighborhood and to report crimes to the police, either directly to the precinct, through the 311 or 911 call centers, or through the anonymous 1-800-577-TIPS line," he said.

The captain was asked about some specific issues plaguing Islanders. First, he was told of the recent rash of graffiti on storefronts and buildings along City Island Avenue. He advised residents and business owners to report the graffiti to the precinct (718-822-5411) before attempting to remove it. Police will photograph the graffiti (residents should take pictures as well) and try to match up the "artist" with previous incidents. (He made it clear that he does not consider these criminals artists but uses this term along with the police name "tagger"). This way they can add multiple charges to the arrest if a suspect is caught.

There are several programs to clean up the graffiti, including power washing and painting, but the captain advised Islanders that these will mostly be implemented in milder weather. He said Officer Pat Pappalardi is the precinct's coordinator with the citywide task force on graffiti and should be notified of any incidents.

The captain was told of the successful program last year that placed a group of

rookie officers, recently graduated from the Police Academy, on City Island to assist with various issues, including teenage crime, drug dealing and traffic problems. When asked if a new detail of rookie officers would be placed this year, the captain said that manpower allocation is under review for the precinct and is always an issue. The new class comes out of the academy just before the summer months, and he would like to assign some to City Island, but he cannot guarantee it at this time.

He noted that the arrests of teenagers who commit crimes will continue. "If young people commit crimes, they will go to jail," he told *The Current*. "I am not a fan of the recognition process, which returns a teenager to the parent to await a future court date." He also reminded residents that "policing cannot take the place of parenting."

Captain McSorley is aware of the Island's traffic problems, both while the construction is going on along City Island Avenue and during the summer months, when visitor traffic increases dramatically. He experienced it firsthand on one of his Island drive-throughs, when he "stopped a car for driving in the emergency fire lane." In addition to ticketing drivers for disobeying traffic laws, he said his officers will continue to work with the Parks Department to set up the summer traffic detail.

Barbara Dolensek of *The Current* asked Captain McSorley about reinstating the monthly 45th Blotter report of incidents, crimes and arrests on City Island. The blotter had been a regular column in the newspaper with help from the precinct. The captain said he would look into providing the information specifically of interest to Islanders.

He invited members of the community to consider attending the Citizens Police Academy Program held twice a year in the spring and fall. This 14-week course is designed to raise public awareness of the role of the police department and the workings of the criminal justice system. Special consideration is given to community members involved in civilian patrols.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, also welcomed the new captain and invited him to attend an upcoming Civic Association meeting. He also suggested that the captain consider holding town hall meetings on City Island periodically, as Captain Alles did. The new commander said he looked forward to meeting more Islanders in one or more of these venues.

## SHOOTING STARS



Photo Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2006–2007 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball season saw four teams advance to the Catholic Youth Organization "A" Division Playoffs: Boys Varsity, Boys Junior Varsity, Girls Debs and Girls Gidgets. Shown above are the proud members of the Girls Gidgets, coached by Anna and Bob Whelan, who also took over as program directors this season (kneeling l. to r.): Alba Borici, Francesca Strazera, Briana Whelan, Arianna Rodriguez and Anastasia Lacina. Standing are Alexis Candelaria, Catherine Graves, Brianna Reilly, Shannon Faulkner, Kaylin Fitzpatrick and Erin Schlottman. Not shown: Katie Moore and Tuva Rinaldo-Roos. See article in this issue for season results for all St. Mary's teams.

# BRIEFLY...

**THE LIVING ROCKS:** Jay Howard cordially invites everyone to view the "Living Rocks" documentary on Saturday, April 14, at 7 p.m. or on Sunday April 15, at 3 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

**APRIL AT BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM.** On Sunday, April 15, at 4 p.m. Curtis Barnhart, of Barnhart Restoration and Nate Shellkopf, of Southslope Woodworks, will give a presentation on Bartow-Pell's L'Orangerie, discussing the importance of preserving historic structures and the intricacies of restoring the Orangerie doors. Admission: \$8 per person. On Saturday, April 21, there will be a walk from Co-op City through Pelham Bay Park to Bartow-Pell led by Co-op City resident Jorge Santiago and Bartow executive director Clarissa Cylich. Stay and tour the property on a glorious spring afternoon. Meet at the Baychester Library at 11 a.m. Please wear comfortable shoes and feel free to bring a bag lunch. Optional transportation will be available for your return trip to Co-op City when you confirm your reservation. For more information and to make your reservation, call 718-885-1461.

**MEET AND GREET THE EASTER BUNNY** for kids aged up to 8 on Saturday, April 7, at 11 a.m. in Hawkins Street Park. Children, please bring your Easter baskets. Adults and children are invited to wear their finest Easter bonnets too! (In case of inclement weather, please go to the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street.)

**CITG PRESENTS COURTOOM COMEDY-DRAMA:** Reserve your tickets now for the new production of the City Island Theater Group, Ayn Rand's "Night of January 16th," about a murder trial in which members of the audience participate by serving as jurors. Performance dates on April 20, 21, 27, 28 and May 3, 4, and 5 at 8 p.m. and April 22 and 29 at 3 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Call 718-885-3066 for reservations.

**INDOOR TAG SALE:** The City Island Community Center will hold its next indoor tag sale for the year on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 190 Fordham Street. There are lots of vendors, and table space may still be available for \$10 a table. Call 718-885-1145 to check. There will be tons of stuff so come and buy!

**ST. MARY'S FLEA MARKET** will be on Sunday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors of merchandise who want to rent space should apply to Tina Ruggiero at 718-885-2503.

**CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON DINNER DANCE** will be held on Friday, April 13, to celebrate its 25th anniversary and its 25th annual change-of-watch. The festivities will take place starting at 7 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street and will include a five-course dinner with music and an open bar; the cost is \$70 per person. Call 718-792-2804 to make reservations. The City Island Power Squadron is a private arm of the U.S. Coast Guard. Its primary focus is boating safety through education, and the organization offers two public boating courses each year on City Island. Come to the dinner and help celebrate the important achievements of this organization over the past quarter-century.

**COMMUNITY WALL PART 2:** The P.T.A. of P.S. 175 is planning a second installment of the Community Wall, which was first unveiled to the community on Sept. 15, 2006, and is now on permanent display in the auditorium area of the school. All members of the community are encouraged to participate in this important public art project and fund-raising event. Proceeds will help support art, music and sports programs, as well as staff development. This year's tile painting party will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at P.S.175 from 6 to 8 p.m.. The suggested minimum donation is \$25. To reserve your tile in advance, post or drop off a check made payable to P.S. 175 P.T.A., 200 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. For more information contact project coordinator Susan Bellinson at 718-885-2109 or [Sbellinson@usa.net](mailto:Sbellinson@usa.net). Anyone wishing to view the Community Wall should call parent-teacher coordinator Tina Gisante at 718-885-1093.



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# CALL OF THE WILD

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

It has become apparent in recent months that not all wild off-Island visitors are of the human persuasion. Indeed, City Island has become increasingly attractive to a variety of species, and not just charming monk parakeets and beautiful mute swans.

Raccoons have made themselves at home here for years, and striped skunks have recently made their presence very well known here, thanks to their unpleasant defense tactic of releasing a musky odor when threatened. White-tailed deer have wandered onto the Island on at least two occasions, although they left quickly, thanks to the quick response of the New York Police Department.

During the month of February, there were even reported sightings of a coyote on Earley Street and near the cemetery on King Avenue, although it is likely that this wild canine, if that is what it was, made its own way back across the bridge into the park, where there are no houses, fences and humans to worry about.

Wildlife experts agree that as farms became housing developments upstate and as hunting and trapping decrease, regional populations of wild animals will grow until the younger animals disperse in all directions looking for food, if not peace and quiet. Pelham Bay Park has become home to at least two flocks of wild turkeys and what now appears to be a sizeable herd of deer. If we had a stream like the Bronx River, we would probably have our very own beaver by now as well.

The Department of Parks & Recreation keeps records of wildlife sightings, and David Kunstler, wildlife manager of Van Cortlandt Park and Pelham Bay Park, believes that coyotes have been in Pelham Bay Park since at least 1995. He told *The Current* that they have become accustomed to living in urban areas and that it would make sense for the coyotes to come over to City Island to raid garbage cans. They could also hunt for rodents and other small

animals.

## Prevention

Although none of these animals is likely to cause harm to a human being unless they feel threatened, they should all be considered dangerous to pets and they can do considerable damage to property. And skunks, of course, can make life extremely unpleasant for anyone who gets in the way of their spray. More significantly, because they are mammals, all of these species are capable of carrying rabies, although the incidence of rabies in this area is low (check statistics at <http://home2.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cd/cdrab.shtml>).

Prevention is worth a pound of cure, as everyone knows, and there are several ways to protect your pets and your property from these visitors. The first method is to make sure that your garbage cans are securely closed, and the second is to make sure that you do not leave out dishes of pet food and water. If you must feed an animal outside, pick up the dish after 15 minutes (but remember that all outdoor pets are at risk of being attacked and killed by a raccoon if not by a car) and do not leave any food outside at night, when these species are most active.

If you have a fruit tree on your property, be sure to clean up the fruit, which can be very attractive, especially to raccoons. They also like fresh vegetables so you might want to protect your garden as well, perhaps with netting or an animal repellent. Skunks love grubs, and if you find your lawn dug up here and there, you can be sure that a skunk was shopping for dinner on it. Remove piles of brush, which can serve as a hiding place for a wild animal.

Since these animals are active at night, they may not be visible during the day because they are hiding in your basement or under your porch. Once you are sure they are not in those places, try to seal off any access. Use hardware cloth or cement to close up any holes in your foundation, and put large balls of steel wool sprayed with ammonia under your porch to dissuade the animals from settling in. Keep in mind, however, that skunks are determined and skillful diggers, so make sure that the entrances are very tightly sealed, not only on the surface but also well below ground.

## Remedies

If you see a raccoon or a skunk (or just smell the latter), don't bother to call the ASPCA or Animal Care and Control (part of the New York City's Department

of Health, or DOH); they handle only dogs and cats. You may call 311, but there is little chance that anyone at DOH will be sent out to trap and remove a skunk or a raccoon. You may hire an exterminator or buy a Havahart trap yourself, but as a wildlife officer from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) told *The Current*, trapping and removing a raccoon or a skunk is both expensive and ultimately pointless. The animals will either make their way back to City Island or those that remain on the Island will simply increase their resident population, regardless of the removal of one or more of the animals.

If you want to remove an animal from a particular location, however, a Havahart trap is one solution. Bait it with peanut butter or dry cat food and when you capture the creature, you can drive it to a wild area and release it. If you have caught a skunk, be sure to put a towel over the trap since the animal will not be inclined to spray itself.

If, however, a raccoon or a skunk is seen in the middle of the day looking dazed or odd or over-friendly, you might be correct in suspecting rabies, since these animals are normally active at dusk, twilight and night and are quite leery of humans. If you suspect rabies, don't try to trap the animal but call 311 for assistance. You may also call the state DEC (718-482-4900) and report not only that you have seen such an animal but also the exact location where you saw it.

A coyote, because it is a relatively large predatory animal, could pose more of a threat than a raccoon or a skunk, and here

too DEC recommends that a call be made to 311 and to DEC. This animal can move around quickly, but any information about location will be helpful. For more information about this species, visit the Web site [www.desertusa.com/june96/du\\_cycot.html](http://www.desertusa.com/june96/du_cycot.html). Whatever you do, if you find yourself face to face with a coyote, behave as you would with any large dog. Stand still and wait for it to walk off. Don't panic by running away or by acting afraid or aggressive.

One more remedy that is worth noting is the removal of skunk odor, and this reporter writes from personal experience, thanks to the intrepid (and ill-advised) behavior of her resident guard dog. Do not stock up on tomato juice, which only masks the odor; do not buy extra cans of Febreze or other odor eliminators, for they too will have little effect. The best remedy to date seems to be a mixture of 3% hydrogen peroxide (1 quart) mixed with a quarter cup of baking soda and a teaspoon of liquid detergent. Soak the dog to the skin all over (except in or around the eyes) and rub for about five minutes; then rinse thoroughly. (This amount is sufficient for a dog the size of a Jack Russell terrier.) If you want to rid your lawn or porch of the odor, spray it with a gallon of cider vinegar mixed with a cup of liquid detergent. Or just be patient, because the odor will eventually dissipate.

Whatever you do, don't approach any wild animal aggressively or you will just be asking for trouble. Make your home as unappealing as possible, and hope that eventually the animal will move back to the park.

# NUNS' RESIDENCE BURGLARIZED

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Sister Kristen Wenzel (left) and Sister Bernadette Hannaway, victims of a recent burglary at their residence on City Island.

Sometime after 11 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2007, burglars broke into the residence of the Ursuline sisters at 596 Minneford Avenue. Both Sister Bernadette Hannaway, who is a pastoral associate and director of religious education at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and Sister Kristen Wenzel, who is a lector and Eucharistic minister at the church, have lived at the Ursuline residence, which is owned by St. Mary's, for 29 years. The break-in received extensive media coverage (see story in *City Island in the News*).

According to the sisters, the burglars gained entry by smashing open a basement window on the school side of the house. Once inside, the thieves made their way up to the two bedrooms, where the sisters were sleeping. The thieves opened the sisters' bedroom doors and removed personal property from their bureaus.

It wasn't until the morning that the sisters realized a burglary had occurred. Sr. Kristen noticed that her cell phone and car keys were not where she had left them, and Sr. Bernadette found a carton of eggs and some soda cans on the countertop in the

kitchen. Some other small items were also taken. The sisters called 911 immediately.

Sr. Bernadette said that "the police response was excellent and continues to be." Considering what was stolen, police believe that it was not the work of professionals. Sr. Kristen told *The Current*. Apparently the burglars first tried to enter through the front windows but were unable to do so. The incident was still under investigation at press time.

The sisters have received tremendous support from the community, including visits, telephone calls, prayers, offers of temporary relocation and help in restoring property that was damaged or missing. Even though the house was securely locked at the time, extra security measures have been put into place. Sr. Bernadette said, "We feel very secure now and plan on moving on with our lives."

In an ironic note, Sr. Bernadette is about to celebrate her 50th year in the religious life, and she is determined to not let this incident overshadow this joyful occasion.

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# SMSS Basketball Program Under New Direction

By KAREN NANI



St. Mary, Star of the Sea Boys Bantam League registered 26 boys for the 2006–2007 season. With such a large turnout, the coaches were able to field two separate Boys Bantam teams—Blue Bantam and Gold Bantam. Under the coaching of Lisa Labriola, Stan DeGrossielliers, Grace Nagy and Kenny Clancy Jr. (not shown), the hardworking Bantam Gold players include (top photo, kneeling): Michael Labriola, Sean Lyons, Nicholas Labriola, A.J. Carrión, Emmett Shanley, Justin Martinez and Patrick Legos. Top row standing: Jean Louis Gonzalez, Austin Cottam, Conner Saulnier, John Degrossielliers, Jabari Weste, Tremaine Brown and Johnathan Nagy. Coach Jack Grogan and assistant coach Johnny Valenti led the proud Bantam Blue team (bottom photo, kneeling): Graham Herrera-Murphy, John Valenti, Michael Pirraglia, Anthony Orzo, Scott Cruz, Thomas Mastracchi and Kreshnik Lajqi. Standing are Ryan Herrera Murphy, David Verghese, Robert Weyrauch, Emmett Foxe, Brandon Rosenblatt and John Branley.



In their first season as program directors, Bob and Anna Whelan reported that 90 children participated in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball 2006–2007 season.

Anna told *The Current* that it was a rewarding first season. “We had four teams make it into the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) ‘A’ Division Playoffs: Boys Varsity, Boys Jr. Varsity, Girls Debs and Girls Gidgets.”

In addition, they were able to make improvements to the gym, including new stage padding, made possible by support from local businesses: City Island Medical Group, JP’s Restaurant, Crab Shanty Restaurant, Beacon Financial Group, Verizon and Seafood City. Individual donations were also received from the McGuire, Orzo, Whelan and Volpe families, as well as Jay Savino. A “Thank You” banner hung in the gym all season with the names of all the contributors.

The Whelans added direction of the basketball program to their already busy sport schedule. Bob is also president of the City Island Little League baseball program, so he has little time to rest between the basketball awards breakfast on March 25 and the start of the baseball season in April.

The Whelans are looking forward to next season and even more improvements (like new backboards) made possible with the help of contributors.

At the awards ceremony, the Whelans welcomed and thanked new coaches Mark Amos, Stan DesGroseilliers, Lisa LaBriola, Grace Nagy and John Valenti, as well as those coaches who return faithfully year

after year. They acknowledged the many volunteer parents who helped with scoreboard, concessions, tickets and scorekeeping. Pat Kulka, in particular, will be missed; she was a scorekeeper for many years.

A summary of each team’s season follows.

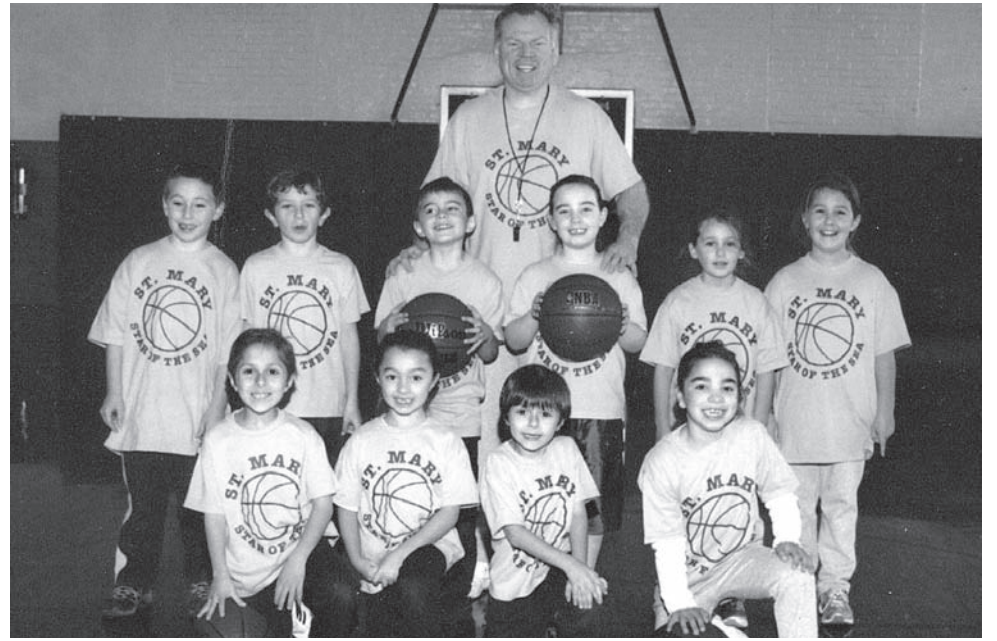
### Boys Junior Varsity

After a slow start, the fifth- and sixth-grade boys had a terrific year, winning the last seven games of the season; they even won a playoff game in the “A” division before losing in the semi-finals. The team was lead by point guard Amir Smith, who had great support from the starting lineup, which included Makai Hawkins, Kevin Saulnier, Robert Pirraglia and Daquain Williams. The supporting cast coming off the bench included Devin Navarro, Michael Candelaria, Cian Byrne, Dylan Cullen, Edward Carey, Haxhi Lajqi, Ryan Henning and Ty Mankiewicz.

### Girls Gidgets

The St. Mary Gidgets, made up of 8- to 10-year old girls, had another spectacular season with a league record of 9–3 and an overall record of 19–6, which taught them to compete and learn the meaning of teamwork. The team came in second place in the first annual St. Claire’s Tournament, and Arianna Rodriguez received a trophy for Most Valuable Player; she scored an overall total of 24 points in the games played.

Coach Bob Whelan noted that “The girls worked extremely hard this season and their hard work paid off as we advanced to the “A” Division Playoffs.” Although they were defeated in the first round, Bob said that the girls were all winners. Assisting



The Intramural program was directed by George Spencer and included both boys and girls for the 2006–2007 season. Pictured above are the future shooting stars (kneeling): Joseph Mancuso, Julianna DeMarco, Michael Mancuso and Lorena Gonzalez. Standing are Connor Piri, Anthony Ramos, Eleon Borici, Deirdre Spencer, Sydney Saulnier and Shannon Saulnier. Missing from picture: Michael Valentine, Alana Zayas and Megan Ploch.

him with coaching was his wife, Anna.

The coaches noted that all of the girls have a bright future in basketball. Particularly noteworthy were high scorers and defense powerhouses Brianna Reilly, Arianna Rodriguez, Francesca Strazzera, Katherine Graves and Briana Whelan. The team also welcomed several newcomers including Erin Schlottman, Katie Moore, Shannon Faulkner, Alexis Candelaria, Alba Borici, Tuva Rinaldo-Roos and returning favorites Anastasia Lacina and Kaylin Fitzpatrick, who all contributed to the team’s success.

### Boys Bantam Gold

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Boys Bantam League registered 26 boys for the 2006–2007 season. With such a large turnout, the coaches were forced to split into two separate Boys Bantam teams—Blue Bantam and Gold Bantam.

The coaches of the Gold team were Grace Nagy, Lisa LaBriola, Stan DesGroseilliers and Kenny Clancy Jr., who put fire into the team.

Throughout the season the team continued to amaze coaches and spectators. They always greeted each opposing team and coach with respect, and whether they won or lost, were gracious to all. Unfortunately they didn’t win as many games as their coaches had hoped, but they showed winning enthusiasm and team spirit all the time.

The entire coaching staff would like to thank this team and make mention of each player for they were “all stars:” Michael LaBriola, Nicholas LaBriola, Jabari Weste, Jonathan Nagy, John “Jake” DesGroseilliers, Sean Lyons, Emmett Shanley, A.J. Carrión, Jean-Luis Gonzalez, Tremaine Brown, Justin Martinez, Patrick Legos, Austin Cottam and Conner Saulnier.

Catch them next year, they can only get better!!

### Boys Bantam Blue

Thanks to a group of returning fourth-

graders and an enthusiastic group of third-graders, the Boys Bantam Blue Team got off to a great start winning their first game. They also won their last games and played many games in between. The coaches hope that next year’s returning fourth-graders will continue the St. Mary’s tradition of hard play.

### Girls Debs

The St. Mary’s Girls Debs basketball team had yet another successful year. All nine players were an integral part of a winning regular season record of 20–4. They entered the St. Brendan’s tournament, which included 16 teams, and they finished in second place. The high scorers of the team, Vittoria Volpe and Brianna Saunders, received Outstanding Player Awards. The Most Improved Player Award was given to Birla “Storm” Gonzalez. Coach Volpe and Coach Strazzera are extremely proud of what the girls accomplished this year and are already looking forward to next year.

The Girls Debs also entered the St. Clare’s and St. Brendan’s tournaments, coming in second place in both tournaments. The coaches would like to thank the girls and the parents for their participation and continued support.

### Boys Varsity

The seventh- and eighth-grade Boy’s Varsity team had a fantastic season, with a record of 10 wins and 8 losses. Coach Mark Amos told *The Current* that the boys were great to work with and eager to learn and win, always giving 100 percent on the court.

The team went to the “A” Division playoffs and also came in second in the St. Theresa’s tournament held in March.

He expressed thanks to the eighth-graders, including Most Valuable Player Salvatore Kulka, All Defense Player Henry Sanchez, Sportsmanship Award winner Nicholas Euvino, Most Improved Player

*Continued on page 11*



Photos Courtesy of CONCEPCION PHOTOGRAPHY

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball Boys Varsity team was coached by newcomer Mark Amos. They came in second in the St. Theresa’s tournament. Shown above are (kneeling, l. to r.): Gus Berger, Kevin Whelan, Avery Haley, Henry Sanchez and Jahsi Weste. Standing are Sal Kulka, Nick Peluso, Oshea Bell, Ryan Pena, Jack McCabe and Nick Euvino. Not pictured: Poli Tas.



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.

In a studio behind Lickety Split at 295 City Island Ave, an exciting mosaic project is unfolding. This studio is the workshop of the husband-and-wife team of Neil Corwin and Dale Eggers, who are known to many Island residents as the **Paint Pals**. They have worked in many media, including faux finish painting, carpentry and creative tiling. Their artistic tiling techniques have led them to this newest project, a huge abstract piece for Omonia Café in Queens. The Paint Pals have combined two glass media for this mosaic, small glass mosaic tiles called Smalti tiles and larger stained-glass pieces, which they have developed with the help of City Island's own stained-glass expert John Corona. This amazing team has worked countless hours over the past seven months to create what is sure to be a buzz in the art world. Assembled on three 4 x 8-foot panels of acrylic, the piece will stand 8 feet high and span 12 feet. The theme of the mosaic is an abstract evoking water, beach and sky, with an "Eye of the Storm" type illusion at its center. Once it is lit from the back and the front, the piece will come alive. In early May the mosaic will be installed at its permanent home, Omonia Café, 32-20 Broadway in Astoria.

For the month of April, the **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) does some foolin' around, some jestin', some jazzin' and always the best in music and art. The artwork of Elizabeth Hallett remains at the cafe/gallery in the early part of this month, and on Sunday, April 1, at 3 p.m., join guitarist/singer Peter North for a performance of silly songs—"I'm being eaten by a boa con-



Neil Corwin and Dale Eggers, the Paint Pals, with their latest project, an ambitious mosaic that is taking shape in a studio behind Lickety Split.

strictor," for example—as we celebrate April Fool's Day. That Friday, April 6, at 8 p.m., Midnight Jester, a band of teachers, a pack of fun, makes its musical debut with rock/country bluegrass tunes. Then on Saturday, April 7, teenage talent Anthony da Costa takes the stage with his original songs at 8 p.m. Friday, April 13, at 9 p.m. features the sizzling rock/blues duo Twin Flame; that Saturday, April 14, Allan Chapman brings his audience-participation rock jam to our stage, starting at 8 p.m. On Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m. Asher Burstein, the songwriter whose first album is "City Island Nocturne," returns to the Starving Artist. On Friday, April 20, it's singer-songwriter Julie Corbalis at 8 p.m. There are still a few seats left at the 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. shows of Rubber Soul, the Beatles tribute band, on Saturday, April 21, but call right away! Then on Sunday, April 22, it's the debut of Lou Volpe's Starving Artist Jazztet at 4 p.m. The last Friday of April (the 27th), it's "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night for songwriters, actors, poets and comics, starting at 8 p.m. On Saturday, April 28, join us at 8 p.m. for songwriter

Lawrence "Lipbone" Redding and his trio. Then on Sunday, April 29, from England, comes Claude Bourbon, making his debut at 3 p.m. And be with us as May begins and Elliott Glick, the Starving Artist himself, returns to the stage with his original songs, to begin the month-long celebration of Starving Artist's 10th anniversary on City Island.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
73 Schofield Street	9/12/06	\$160,000	1 Family
14 Windward Lane	10/25/06	\$541,000	Condo
140 Reville Street	11/1/06	\$585,000	1 Family
719 King Avenue	11/7/06	\$435,000	1 Family
170 Schofield Street	11/9/06	\$420,000	Condo
197 Beach Street	11/17/06	\$875,000	2 Family
39 Winters Street	11/27/06	\$735,000	2 Family
393 City Island Ave.	12/13/06	\$334,750	1 Family
325 Fordham Place	12/28/06	\$342,500	1 Family
7 Deepwater Way	1/23/07	\$1,140,000	Condo
163 Fordham Street	1/12/07	\$662,000	1 Family
149 Carroll Street	1/30/07	\$730,500	2 Family
170 Schofield Street	2/7/07	\$475,000	Condo

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Monroe College culinary professor and chef Wilson Njenga (far right) owns and operates Caribbean Island Restaurant, a City Island hotspot at 435 City Island Avenue. Chef Njenga employs Monroe College Hospitality and Culinary students in both the back and front parts of the restaurant's operation. On, Jan. 31, 2007, a busy Wednesday night at the restaurant, FOX-TV Reporter and WWOR news anchor (and City Island resident) Mike Gilliam (rear, center) stopped by to share a few smiles with the staff and enjoy some first-rate Caribbean cuisine. For more information call Caribbean Island at 718-701-3736.

# Celebrate Mother's Day

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Sunday, May 13, 2007

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Fresh From The Sea - Shrimp Cocktail, Mussels Fra Diavolo,  
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**FIRE**

*Continued from page 1*

their own boats speculated that it could have been a lot worse had the southwest winds been more than light and variable.

The chairman of the Stuyvesant's board, Dick Smythe, said that Stuyvesant member Ed Brennen, a former police chief from New Jersey, was at the club working on his boat and saw the black smoke rising from one of the boats nearby. "He immediately called 911 and moved his car out of the way. If he hadn't been on the premises, it would have been catastrophic. We would have lost half the fleet. As it was, three boats were probably totaled, with some damage done to two or three others."

Firefighters were backed up by an EMS unit and officers from the 45th Precinct, including the new commander, Captain William McSorley (see article this issue). When asked if this was his first visit, he

said no, but it was his "first fire" on City Island. He said that, luckily no one needed medical attention and his officers secured the perimeter of the scene until the fire was completely extinguished.

One firefighter who lives on City Island was relieved that damage was contained to a few boats and the fire was put out quickly. He told *The Current* that there are concerns about response time because of the crowded conditions in the fire house on Schofield Street. He said that there is a "reserve pumper" parked in the house which makes it difficult for the truck and ladder to exit quickly. He spoke on the condition of anonymity, but said that he and other community leaders have voiced their concerns to NYFD headquarters and tried to get them to remove the unused rig.

According to routine procedures, the fire will be investigated by the NYFD to determine the cause.

**Resident Receives Dharma Transmission**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Longtime City Island resident Francisco Lugoviña was conferred succession in the Soto Zen Lineage and the Zen Peacemaker Order when he received Dharma Transmission as a senior teacher in a ceremony on Feb. 25, 2007.

Rev. Lugoviña, who is known as "Paco," was ordained as a Buddhist priest in the Soto Zen lineage in 1996. He was born in Puerto Rico and came to New York with his parents when he was six; he attended Morris High School in the Bronx and graduated from Iona College. He has a property management office in the Bronx and is a governmental relations and organizational development consultant to various firms.

The Zen Buddhist branch of which Rev. Lugoviña is a member, was started in 1978 as the Zen Center of Los Angeles. Bernie Glassman from Brooklyn succeeded the founder and moved east, founding the Zen Center of New York and later the Zen Peacemakers. For the past 25 years the group has developed new forms in areas of peacemaking, social enterprise and Zen practice emphasizing the transformation of the individual and the community.

Rev. Lugoviña says of his new role that "For me it is the bringing of vocation and avocation together within a spiritual practice that accommodates all paths. My teacher, Bernie Roshi, has charged me with developing a track for social enterprise, drawing on my many years of work as a social activist and as a businessman. . . I see more and more businesses seeking to recognize that the workplace needs to



Island resident Rev. Francisco Lugoviña (left) became a successor in the Soto Zen Lineage and the Zen Peacemaker Order on Feb. 25, 2007, when he received Dharma Transmission as Senior Teacher from his teacher of 12 years, Roshi Bernie Glassman.

be more than just a place to make money. People need a deeper gratification and corporate America seems poised to take this next step."

He has served on the boards of many not-for-profit organizations, participated in pilgrimages to Tibet and elsewhere and conducts weekly evening meditation at the Hudson River Peacemaker Center, 21 Park Avenue in Yonkers. For more information, visit Rev. Lugoviña's Web site at [www.zenhoop.org](http://www.zenhoop.org).

**CITY ISLAND IN THE NEWS**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

March was a busy month for the media, which made every effort to keep up with the doings of City Island and various residents.

The first event that attracted media attention was the burglary at the residence of Srs. Kristen Wenzel and Bernadette Hannaway on March 2 (see story). The fact that the burglars entered the home and stole objects while the sisters were asleep added a particularly upsetting note to the incident, which was covered in detail by ABC News (Channel 7) and Bronx 12.

Although the next television appearance of a City Island resident, on March 7, was not related to the break-in, it did deal with burglary prevention and featured a remarkable presentation by Bill Stanton of King Avenue. With great charm, Bill demonstrated for the audience of NBC's "Dateline" how easy it is for thieves to break into a house, steal a car or kidnap a child, even in the middle of the day as neighbors look on.

Bill, known as "Wild Bill," served for three years as a police officer but now has his own private investigation firm and is a security consultant for the "Today Show." He worries that many of us are vulnerable to such crimes because of apathy and because people don't like to get involved,

even if they witness or suspect they have witnessed a crime. He believes that he can alert more people to potential danger in one television segment than he would have able to do in a lifetime as a police officer. For information about the show, visit the Web site [www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17508172](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17508172).

On March 8, Barbara Dolensek appeared on a radio program called "Nora's Neighbors," which is broadcast on Thursdays 1 to 2 p.m. on WVOX, which is in New Rochelle. Representing both *The Island Current* and the City Island Historical Society, Barbara talked about the history of the Island and what makes it a unique community today.

The City section of the *New York Times* ran a front-page story on Sunday, March 18, called "They Break for Summer," about the sewer project on City Island and the much-discussed summer moratorium. The fact that the sewer installation work will be discontinued for four months in order to accommodate the restaurants and shops is a subject that has upset some Island residents, who would like to see the work completed sooner rather than later. On the other hand, the usual summer traffic will be chaotic if the work isn't temporarily stopped, so the businesses are happy for a break in the project.

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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

#### MARCH

**Little League Opening Day**, Sat., March 31 at Astor Field.

#### APRIL

Week before April 8 (Easter Sunday), **Boy Scout Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sun., April 22, **50th Jubilee Mass** for Sr. Bernadette Hannaway OSU, 12 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Reception following in the school gym.

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

Sat., April 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: cooked ham sliced with potatoes.

Sun. April 29, **Mass of Installation** for Fr. Michael Challinor as pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, 12. p.m. Reception following in the school gym.

#### Temple Beth-El

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

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew. Reb David Daniel will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on April 6, and Rabbi Shohama will lead on April 20. (Mort Ellis or Bob Berent will lead on the other Friday nights.)

Aliza Erber, our rabbinic intern, leads the Saturday Torah Study on April 28 at 10:30 a.m. Our lively discussions are insightful. We welcome you all to enjoy this time to share.

Our Community Passover seder will be conducted on Tuesday, April 3, the second night of Passover at the temple. As in the past, glatt kosher food for Pesach will be served during this warm and congenial seder, which will be conducted primarily in English. The seder will be led by Rabbi Shohama. Please call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 for information or to make reservations. (\$45 for adults; \$15 for children).

Rabbi Shohama's SHOHAM Class on spiritual healing, Kabbalah and meditation begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16.

Sunday school for children ages 4 through 12 is on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. (Call 718-885-3502 for more information.)

Tai chi/yoga classes on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. will resume on April 12. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

And finally, come celebrate our 73rd anniversary, when we will be honoring Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. Our gala dinner-dance at the City Island Yacht Club on Saturday, April 21, will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature entertainment by D.J. Ray, Sharon's fine wine and food and the warmth and fellowship of friends and members of "Your Shul by the Sea." (Contributions are \$70 per person.) Make your reservations by calling Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820.

We wish all our friends and neighbors a happy Passover and a joyous Easter. Visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

**Bob Berent**

#### Garden Club

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

Next month we will be doing our spring clean-up at Hawkins Street Park, as well as plantings at Veterans' Memorial Triangle and at our new "Welcome to City Island" sign.

Our annual spring luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 23, at 12 noon at the City Island Yacht Club. Make your reservations early by calling Ruth at 718-885-1361. We will have many wonderful prizes for our raffle, including great gift baskets and gift certificates from our local restaurants.

**Garden tip:** Be sure to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations covering the disposal of yard waste. All branches must be in securely tied bundles no more than two feet high and four feet long. Yard waste must be gathered in paper lawn and leaf bags or in unlined rigid containers. Visit the Department of Sanitation Web site for more information: [www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/collection/bulk.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/collection/bulk.shtml).

**Phyllis Goodman**

#### City Island Republicans

Despite the snow and cold over the last month, the City Island Republicans have been hard at work getting the club ready for our second year. We have come a long way over the past year. Currently, we are putting the final touches on our first newsletter, which will go out shortly before our first meeting of the year, which will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue. The dues for 2007 are \$20. The dues help us pay for our newsletter and meeting notices. Anyone interested in joining can contact Fred Ramftl at 718-885-0984 or Patrick Rocchio at 718-885-1850.

I attended two Bronx Republican party meetings during the month of March. The first was on Tuesday, March 6. At that meeting, top party officials discussed how the Bronx party is trying to find candidates to be screened for Bronx District Attorney. Furthermore, possible upcoming events were discussed. In addition, one of the district leaders spoke about the three upcoming special elections at the end of March, two on Staten Island and one in Nassau County, along with how they affect not just the Bronx, but the entire state as well.

The second meeting was held on Tuesday, March 20. Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson, at his request, stopped by Bronx Republican headquarters to speak before the screening committee. He spoke about his tenure over the past 20 years. He also informed us that he is now the longest-serving Bronx District Attorney in the history of Bronx County. This was the first time I have ever personally met Mr. Johnson and he is a nice man. Most likely, a Republican will receive the Republican line for Bronx District Attorney, since the chairman and the board members want to build the party and feel that the best way to do that is to keep the party's identity by giving the Republican line to a Republican.

Party chairman Jay Savino informed me that we will have an easy ballot this Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, since only two spots are up. Besides Bronx District Attorney, Bronx Civil Court District 1, which covers the eastern half of the borough including City Island, has one vacancy. He also wants me to inform everyone that the party is looking to screen candidates for both positions. If anyone is interested, please call 718-792-5800.

Our vice president, Patrick Rocchio, informed me that I forgot to remind everyone to stop by the Urban Elephants Web site, which gives the latest Republican news and information along with a calendar of events. The site is interesting and informative. The Web site is [www.urbanelephants.com](http://www.urbanelephants.com), and our meetings are also posted on the site's calendar.

The City Island Republicans wish a happy Easter and a happy Passover to all of our fellow City Islanders and hope to see some of them at our first meeting in April.

**Fred Ramftl**



Photo by JOEL ABRAMS

Following the tradition of bringing the story of the Book of Esther to life in a Purim play using silly song, rhyme and monologue, members of Temple Beth-El of City Island celebrated the holiday of Purim on Sunday, March 4, to the delight of all. Shown here are: (l to r.) Queen Esther (Marc Kaplan), Narrator (Steve Slotnik), Director, Singer and Puppeteer (Cheryl Berent), Haman (Olga Berdét), the King (Alan Dattner), Queen Vashti (Rabbi Shohama), Mordechai (Bob Berent) and Poll Taker (and children's director Amy Gottlieb McElroy).

#### Holiday Services

##### St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge  
March 31, Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.

April 1, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

April 5, 6, 7, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 8 a.m. Tenebrae, psalms and readings. No morning mass.

April 5, Holy Thursday: Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Procession to the Repository; adoration to 10 p.m.

April 6, Good Friday: Stations of the Cross, 12 noon, Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 4 p.m.

April 7, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae: Service at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, 8 a.m. Confessions, 9 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 8, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

##### Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

April 1, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

April 5, Maundy Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

April 6, Good Friday: Ecumenical Service with Trinity Methodist at Grace, 7:30 p.m.

April 7, Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:30 p.m.

April 8, Easter Sunday: The Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

##### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

April 1, Palm/Passion Sunday: 10 a.m.

April 5, Holy Thursday: 7:30 p.m.

April 6, Good Friday: Service at St. Stephen's Church, 146 West 228th Street, Bronx, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Ecumenical service with Grace Episcopal Church at Grace Church, 8 p.m.

April 7, Tenebrae: Service at St. Mary Star of the Sea, 8 a.m.

April 8, Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship, 10 a.m.

##### Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

April 3, Second Night Passover Seder.

#### Cub Scout News

Cub Scout Pack 211 is chugging along, with many exciting events and functions. This year the pack has gone on several exciting and rewarding family trips. Our next

adventure is going to be a family trip to our nation's capitol. The pack will visit the White House, the Washington Monument and the Smithsonian Institution.

The scouts are also planning their community projects. As we are all well aware, any project or trip costs money, so this year's fund-raiser will be a raffle. The raffle prizes are: first place, an Apple iPod (2g) with a iHome station; second place, a Ryobi five-piece cordless tool set; third place, an HP digital camera; fourth place, a \$50 Home Depot gift certificate. The ticket prices are \$1 for one and \$5 for seven.

Please help us out by buying as many raffle tickets as you can. Anyone who would like to purchase tickets can e-mail us at [cubscoutpack211@aol.com](mailto:cubscoutpack211@aol.com) or call us at 718-885-2169; delivery is free. The drawing date will be held at our annual Blue and Gold Family Dinner on May 4, 2007.

**Angelo Bellocchio**

#### City Island Theater Group

This spring, suspicion takes to the stage in the City Island Theater Group's upcoming production of Ayn Rand's "Night of January 16th," a courtroom comedy/drama that enlists the help of audience members to serve as jurors in rendering the verdict. A woman is accused of murdering a wealthy financier with whom she has had "shady" dealings. Wacky witnesses and grieving family members all provide testimony that leads to the question: was it murder or suicide? The jurors will decide!

"Night of January 16th" stars Bill Castro, Justine Costanza, Tee Cotter, Jerry Demers, Barbara Dolensek, Carol Donner, Eileen Fox, John Garcia, Beth Holden, Bob Livingston, Christopher McGowan, Liz McIntyre, Bob Mulroy, Natalie O'Connell, Anthony Patrick, Susan Rauh, Tom Smith and Lindy Tabano. The City Island Theater Group is happy to welcome back Madeline Balmaceda as director. Each night audience members will be selected to sit on stage in the jury box! There will also be special guest jurors, which will be announced shortly.

Performance dates for "Night of January 16th" are April 20, 21, 27, 28 and May 3, 4, and 5 at 8 p.m. and April 22 and 29 at 3 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Don't miss this show, which is guaranteed to keep you talking! Reserve your tickets today by calling 718-885-3066. The City Island Theater Group is also looking for volunteers to help during the performance dates. Call if you are interested! See you at the theater!

**Nick Sala**





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, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Session:** Storytime Art for Children. Details below.

**New Class:** Cut It Out—Art for Kids Stick it together, glue things on it, paint it, put it on the wall. April 24 – May 22. Tuesdays from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Five classes \$60.

**Indoor Community Tag Sale:** Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you're interested in reserving a table, call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

**Living Rocks:** Jay Howard cordially invites everyone to view the documentary and The Living Rocks. Saturday, April 14, at 7 p.m. or Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

**2007 Membership Drive:** Our 2007 membership drive is under way. With a membership, you will receive a membership card and various mailings throughout the year, including discount coupons for many of our events and activities! 2006 members should already have received their renewal forms. If you didn't get one, please call 718-885-1145 and we will send you one.

**Web site:** Our new Web site is up and running. Please check it out at [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com).

**E-Mail Address:** Our e-mail address has changed. We can now be contacted at [cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com).

**Drue Breen Spelling Bee:** Check your mailboxes for more information about this exciting event coming soon!

#### 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](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

**Storytime Art for Children:** Ages 2-4, Tuesdays 12:45 to 2 p.m., April 24-June 12. Read stories, learn songs, rhyme with puppets, story-based art projects. \$60 for 8 classes. Limited to 10 children. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 to register.

**Cut It Out-Art for Kids:** Stick it together, glue things on it, paint it, put it on the wall. April 24-May 22. Tuesdays from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Five classes \$60. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

**Martial Arts:** Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Three days weekly: Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays ages 4 up, 5 to 6 p.m. (Saturday at 11 a.m.) Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

**Sally's Playground:** Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. \$6 per child; \$4 for siblings. Call 718-885-0349 for more information.

**First-Grade Brownies and Girl Scouts:** Mondays after school. If you are

interested or if you have questions, call Brenda at 718-885-9040.

**Girl Scouts "Where girls grow strong" Troop #1075:** A place for girls to come together and develop strong friendships to last a lifetime. Camping, sweet-heart dance, Girl Scout cookie sale, Hall of Science and sleepovers are just a few exciting things that will take place throughout the year.

**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

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

**Belly Dancing with Miriam:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. Basics class 8 p.m. and Sunday evenings 6 p.m. Call Miriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

#### FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

**Vilma's Music Together:** Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Fridays 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.vilmasmusictogether.com](http://www.vilmasmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

**Knitting Club:** A club for women/children to learn and share their knitting skills. Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

**Chess Club:** Monday evenings, due to start again soon. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message if you are interested.

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

With spring finally here, Trinity is as busy as ever. Our services are at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Our Sunday school meets at the same time. All are welcome to join us.

On April 18 from 7:30 to 9 p.m., a course will be given on the hearing impaired. If you think you have a problem or know someone with a hearing impairment, you are welcome to join us. Joyce Rizzuto, RN, ECRN, TNCC, will give the class. If you have a hearing aid, please bring it with you. If you need a ride, please call 718-885-0957.

On April 25 through May 30 Joyce Rizzuto will give a course on sign language and the deaf culture every Wednesday night. The class will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. We will be using the book "The Joy of Signing" by Lottie Riekehof, which can be purchased at Barnes and Noble. The cost of the course is \$35; please bring a notebook and pencil with you. Join us if you are interested in learning the third most used language.

The Budget Shop is in the process of putting out spring and summer merchandise. Please come and pay us a visit. Our hours for the month of April are Tuesday, April 3 and 17, and Saturday, April 14 and 28. As usual, we are in desperate need of volunteers. If you are interested, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7242.

Anne Sill

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

As the Lenten season comes to an end, we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. Our Holy Week services will begin on Palm Sunday with the blessing and distribution of palms at all the masses. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have the service of Tenebrae, consisting of psalms and readings and the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah.



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

**Cub Scout Pack 211 went on their annual family trip to Medieval Times in February. The scouts went dressed up in the costumes they each made for the occasion to help defend the king from his archenemies. Then on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church 10 a.m. mass, Father Michael Challinor presented the "Parvuli Dei" Medal to Webelos Scouts Conner Saulnier and Salvador Cornejo, and the "Light of Christ" Medal to Bear Scout Nicholas Gvonaj and Tigers Scouts John Tomsen, Joseph Kramer, Joseph Gvonaj and Matthew Lovera. Shown below at the ceremony are (bottom row, l. to r.): John Tomsen, Joseph Kramer, Joseph Gvonaj and Matthew Lovera. Top row: Fr. Challinor, Nicholas Gvonaj, Conner Saulnier and Salvador Cornejo.**



The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday, we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon, to be followed by the solemn commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus at 4 p.m.

After a day of silence and waiting on Saturday, the solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. that evening. The joyful alleluias will continue at our Easter masses on Sunday at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

During the month of April, we will celebrate two major joyful events. Sister Bernadette Hannaway, OSU, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of her religious profession at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 22, at 12 noon. Sister has been a member of our parish for 29 years and has served as our Pastoral Associate for the past eight years.

The second event will be the formal installation of Father Michael Challinor as Pastor of St. Mary's. This will take place at a special Mass of Installation on Sunday, April 29, at 12 noon. Monsignor Edward Barry, Vicar of the area, will preside at the ceremonies. Father Michael has been at St. Mary's since February 2005. At the ceremony, he will be officially presented with the symbols of his pastorate and warmly welcomed by his parishioners.

Sr. Bernadette, OSU

#### Legion News

Some of you old-timers might recall the April Fool's issue produced by *The Current* staff a few years ago. Unfortunately, a number of Islanders accepted them as gospel. I recall one article that reported City Island was sinking into Long Island Sound. People with homes on the water lined up at local realtors to put their properties on the market. The Post met the challenge by extending the bar hours and providing six-man tents in the parking lot for those whose domiciles faced inundation. The crisis never came to pass, although waterfront property did show a sharp decline in value for months. Local politicians were asked to provide disaster relief, but City Island received zilch as a result of partisan politics. The lesson learned; no more April Fool's stories.

For those of you who attended, I've been told that the St. Patrick's party was a success, both finally and socially. The Post thanks all who participated as workers and attendees.

Our last meeting, on Monday, March 19, was Post Everlasting. This is the occasion on which we transfer recent members who have passed on from the Hawkins Post to Post Everlasting. It is a somber ceremony and was even more so since several Islanders were among the departed, including Rickard O'Keefe, who was a past commander, a past state commander and one who strived to maintain tradition at the Post, and John Bonicoro, who was my friend for any years and also a WWII veteran and radio man with the 15th Army Air Corps, a prisoner of war and the recipient of myriad decorations and

medals. In addition to the above, the following were also transferred: Alfred Reeves, James Matta, Ralph Savarese and William Kennelly.

Two of our officers traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with our esteemed congressional representatives to present veterans' concerns. You have probably been reading about the shoddy treatment tendered to the sick and wounded at military hospitals and veterans administration facilities. Comrade Goonan gave a scintillating report on the Washington meeting, and Comrade Clancy, who sashayed to Albany to meet with state politicians, reported on the agenda that the Legion left with our state representatives.

The National Commanders Dinner will be held at Anton's Restaurant in Queens on Friday, April 20.

There will be two regular meetings in April: Monday, April 2, and Monday, April 16. The latter is membership recognition night, when homage is paid to those whose membership has been continuous for five years or more in increments of five years.

You may have noticed that the Post is getting a new roof. Following this formidable task, replacement of the siding on the structure will soon begin. Work should be completed by Memorial Day.

At a recent meeting Comrade Shipp suggested new bar stools to accommodate enlarged butts. Creating a more comfortable environment would induce patrons to stay longer. It is estimated that the new stools would cost about \$350. Comrades Bartelles and Sullivan, who frequent the bar, applauded the recommendation. Since the generosity of members knows no bounds, a suggestion was made to ask for donations.

I don't have the details, other than those from an unreliable source, but it was reported to me that Buddy Pontecorvo broke an arm. If true, we wish him a speedy recovery and place his name on sick call.

And for you WWII buffs, who was Kilroy? It is said that he was an U.S. Army sergeant who, after checking equipment, would write "Kilroy was here." He might have been the first graffiti artist.

Members concerned that the newsletter staff has not produced a letter for many moons, please rest at ease. The hiatus was the result of the staff's suffering from writer's cramp and carpal tunnel syndrome. They are now back on track.

Russell Schaller



**Remembering Gene**

February marked the 21st anniversary of the death of screen choreographer/actor/singer/dancer Gene Kelly. He made his film debut as Harry Palmer in **For Me and My Gal** (1942), where he teamed for the first time with Judy Garland, who played Jo Hayden, a vaudeville trouper who has left her act to partner with Harry. This period piece is set during World War I, when Harry joins an overseas entertainment troupe after losing Jo's respect when he fractures his hand to avoid serving as a soldier. This film was a major break for both stars.

In **Cover Girl** (1944), Gene stars as Danny McGuire, a nightclub manager who is secretly in love with Rusty Parker (Rita Hayworth). Rusty is a chorus girl who is offered her big chance by wealthy magazine magnate John Coudair (Otto Kruger), but she is reluctant to leave the club. Phil Silvers is on hand as Genius, Danny's best friend; and Eve Arden is Cornelia, Coudair's sarcastic assistant. This film features one of my favorite songs, "Long Ago and Far Away."

**Anchors Aweigh** (1945) puts Gene together with Frank Sinatra for the first of their three films together. Gene and Frank are Joseph Brady and Clarence Doolittle, two sailors on leave in Hollywood. Joseph has bragged that he knows many glamorous movie starlets, but the only one on his radar is Susan Abbott (Kathryn Grayson). This film features Gene dancing with a cartoon mouse by animators Hanna and Barbera.

Frank and Gene team up again in **Take Me Out to the Ball Game** (1949), this time as Dennis Ryan and Eddie O'Brien, two baseball players who would much rather be on the stage performing their off-season vaudeville act. However, the ball club sees a lot more of them when they both fall in love with the new owner, K.C. Higgins (Esther Williams).

**On the Town** (1949) is the third pairing of this fabulous duo. When sailors Gabey (Gene Kelly) and Chip (Frank Sinatra) are on leave in New York City, they take the subway, where Gabey is smitten by the picture of "Miss Turnstyles" Ivy Smith (Vera-Ellen). Meanwhile, in a taxi Chip meets his romantic interest, Brunhilde Esterhazy (Betty Garret), the cab's driver.

**Summer Stock** (1950) reunites Gene with Judy Garland (who was recovering from a suicide attempt during the filming). Judy is Jane Falbury, a farmer engaged for five years to nerd Orville Wingait (Eddie Bracken). When her sister, Abigail (Gloria de Haven), brings home a troupe of actors to put on a show in their barn, Jane insists that they help out around the farm to earn their keep. Abigail's boyfriend, Joe Ross (Gene Kelly), is the head of the troupe. When he tires of Abigail's arrogant airs, he finds himself attracted to her hard-working older sister, Jane. Phil Silvers is again cast in the best friend role as Herb, a member of the troupe. When Judy Garland performs "Get Happy" near the end of the film, it's hard not to notice that she lost a tremendous amount of weight during the filming.

The next three films are true classics. In **An American in Paris** (1951), Gene is Jerry Mulligan, a painter whose patron is the wealthy Milo Roberts (Nina Foch), who is interested in more than just his paintings. To her dismay, Jerry falls for a young French girl, Lise Bouvier (Leslie Caron). However, Jerry discovers that Lise

is already engaged to cabaret singer Henri Baurel (Georges Guetary). This film features the classic ballet choreographed to the title song.

To many people, **Singin' in the Rain** (1952) is considered one of the great movie musicals of all time. The film takes place during the silent film era and features the film stars Don Lockwood (Gene Kelly) and Lina Lamont (Jean Hagen). Although he is passionate on the screen, Don cannot stand Lina, and he falls for singer/dancer Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds). The advent of talking pictures spells disaster for the on-screen couple, because Lina has such a terrible voice. Donald O'Connor plays Don's closest friend, Cosmo Brown, and has one of the best numbers in the film, "Be a Clown." Those who enjoy cinema trivia will know that when Kathy is supposedly lip-synching for Lina at the end of the film, it is actually Jean Hagen's voice we hear.

**Brigadoon** (1954) is the story of two Americans, Tommy Albright (Gene Kelly) and Jeff Douglas (Van Johnson), who come across a magical Scottish town while on vacation abroad. The town is under a spell and the townspeople wake up for 24 hours every hundred years and then go back to sleep for another hundred years. Tommy falls in love with villager Fiona Campbell (Cyd Charisse), but he is convinced by his hard-drinking friend to return to New York, where his fiancée, Jane Ashton (Elaine Stewart), is waiting for him. Filled with regret, Tommy prays for a miracle.

Among Gene's many other films, two dramas are of note. In **Marjorie Morningstar** (1958), which is set in the Catskills, he stars with Natalie Wood. In **Inherit the Wind** (1960) he portrays journalist H. L. Mencken at the 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial." As fine a dramatic actor as he was, however, Gene Kelly will always be remembered as the ultimate song-and-dance man, an inspiration to many generations of talented young people.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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**Public School 175**

There has been a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March! Students in Grades 3 through 8 finished taking their New York State mathematics assessments and are continuing their academic studies.

Students in all grades worked diligently on their science fair projects, which were displayed during parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 20. Students in the lower grades worked on group projects and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. Students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our phenomenal Parent Teacher Association held its first card party in four years. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success! We were very pleased that funds raised from the event will enable the PTA to provide more exciting and enrich-

ing experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks to the businesses in our community that supported the party!

The Eighth-Grade Graduation Committee has been busy planning for all of the end-of-year events that will be taking place. Parent meetings are being held in preparation for graduation and senior activities. We look forward to seeing all of the eighth-grade parents at these meetings.

Upcoming April events include: Students in kindergarten through third grade will see a Lincoln Center klezmer music performance; Grade 1 trip to Green Meadows Farm; Grade 2 trip to Queens College to see performance of "Harry the Dirty Dog"; Grade 4 trip to Bartow Pell Mansion; Grade 5 trip to see "Hairspray!" on Broadway; Grade 6 trip to Greenkill.

Please keep in mind these important dates: On-going kindergarten registration for City Island residents will take place on Thursday mornings, beginning April 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Grade 7 will go to Boston on May 3; eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 22, at 10 a.m.; the eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m.; the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., will take place May 30-31; the kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 21, at 10 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.

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2 Corinthians 5:17

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**Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

+ Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 5th, 7:30 PM:  
The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

+ Good Friday, April 6th, 7:30 PM (at Grace):  
Ecumenical Service with Trinity Methodist Church

+ Holy Saturday, April 7th, 7:30 PM:  
The Great Vigil of Easter

+ Easter Sunday, April 8th, 10:00 AM:  
Festival Holy Eucharist

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**SMSS Basketball**

Continued from page 5

Nick Peluso, and Poli Tas, Jahsi Weste, Ryan Pena and Jack McCabe. He wishes them all the best and told them they will be missed!

Next year the coach looks forward to working with returning team members All Offense Player Oshea Bell, Kevin Whelan and Gus Berger, as well as new teammates, in what he knows will be another exceptional season.

**Intramurals**

The 2006-2007 Intramural Program returned some grizzled veterans and welcomed several newcomers to the program. Second-year veterans included the following players: Joseph Mancuso, Anthony Ramos, Deirdre Spencer and Michael Valentine. Donning the blue and gold for the first time were Eleon Borici, Julia DeMarco, Juliana Gonzalez, Michael Mancuso, Con-

nor Piri, Megan Ploch, Shannon Saulnier, Sydney Saulnier and Alana Zayas.

The players were put through a vigorous training regimen for the first half of the season. Each practice started off with stretching and calisthenics. By the end of the season, the players were able to do 120 jumping jacks during warm-ups. After stretching, the players then focused on skill-building exercises that included both offense (dribbling left and right handed, passes and shooting) and defense (zone, man-to-man).

The second half of the season saw the players utilize what they had learned in the first half by playing full court games.

The season came to a close with the highly anticipated parent-player game. The players' hard work during the season culminated in a total thrashing of the parents. Coach George Spencer would like to thank all of his players and their parents for a great year.



The Girls Junior Varsity Debs finished an exciting season with a winning record of 20 and 4 under the direction of coach Carlo Volpe and assistant coach Frank Strazzera. Pictured above are (kneeling): Amber Tudor, Gabby Vitiello, Burla Gonzalez, Marlyn Sanchez and Brianna Saunders. Standing are Victoria Strazzera, Jennifer Branley, Paige O'Donnell and Victoria Volpe.



The Boys Junior Varsity team advanced to the "A" Division playoffs under coach Paul Saulnier and assistant coach Chris Hawkins. The JV hoopsters included (kneeling): Cian Byrne, Kevin Saulnier, Devin Navarro, Makai Hawkins and Ty Mankiewicz. Standing are Haxhi Lajqi, Robert Pirraglia, Amir Smith, Brandon Reilly and Edward Carey. Not pictured are Ryan Henning, Michael Candelaria, Dylan Cullen and Daquian Williams.



The St. Mary's Basketball Girl Gidgets team came in second in the St. Clare's tournament on March 17, 2007.



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

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has identified 12 of the most blatant scams that affect American taxpayers and are warning people not to fall for schemes peddled by scam artists.

This year the "Dirty Dozen" highlights five new scams that IRS auditors and criminal investigators have uncovered. Topping off the list are fraudulent refunds being claimed in connection with the special Telephone Excise Tax Refund available to most taxpayers this filing season. The IRS is actively investigating instances of this scam involving tax preparers who are preparing inflated refund requests.

Also new to the Dirty Dozen this year are abuses pertaining to Roth IRAs, the American Indian Employment Credit, domestic shell corporations and structured entities.

"Taxpayers shouldn't let their guard down," IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson said. "Don't get taken by scam artists making outrageous promises. If you use a tax professional, pick someone who is reputable. Taxpayers should remember that they are ultimately responsible for what is on their tax return even if some unscrupulous preparers have steered them in the wrong direction."

Involvement in tax schemes leads to problems for scam artists and taxpayers. Tax return preparers and promoters risk significant penalties, interest and possible criminal prosecution.

The IRS urges taxpayers to avoid these common schemes:

**1. Telephone Excise Tax Refund Abuses:** Early filings show that some individual taxpayers have requested large and apparently improper amounts for the special telephone tax refund. In some cases, taxpayers appear to be requesting a refund of the entire amount of their phone bills, rather than just the three-percent tax on long-distance and bundled service to which they are entitled. Some tax preparers are helping their clients file apparently improper requests. The IRS is investigating potential abuses in this area and will take prompt action against taxpayers who claim improper refund amounts and against the return preparers who help them.

**2. Abusive Roth IRAs:** Taxpayers should be wary of advisers who encourage them to shift undervalued property to Roth IRAs. In one variation, a promoter has the taxpayer move undervalued common stock into a Roth IRA, circumventing the annual maximum contribution limit and allowing otherwise taxable income to go untaxed.

**3. "Phishing"** is a technique used by identity thieves to acquire personal financial data in order to gain access to the financial accounts of unsuspecting consumers, run up charges on their credit cards or apply for loans in their names. These Internet-based criminals pose as representatives of a financial institution—or sometimes the IRS itself—and send out fictitious e-mail correspondence in an attempt to trick consumers into disclosing private information.

A typical e-mail notifies a taxpayer of an outstanding refund and urges the taxpayer to click on a hyperlink and visit an official-looking Web site. The Web site then solicits a social security and credit card number. It is important to note the IRS does not use e-mail to initiate contact with taxpayers about issues related to their accounts. If a taxpayer has any doubt whether a contact from the IRS is authentic, the taxpayer should call 1-800-829-1040 to confirm it.

**4. Disguised Corporate Ownership:**

Domestic shell corporations and other entities are being formed and operated in certain states for the purpose of disguising the ownership of the business or financial activity. Once formed, these anonymous entities can be, and are being, used to facilitate underreporting of income, non-filing of tax returns, listed transactions, money laundering, financial crimes and possibly terrorist financing. The IRS is working with state authorities to identify these entities and to bring their owners into compliance.

**5. Zero Wages:** In this scam, which first appeared in the Dirty Dozen in 2006, a Form 4852 (Substitute Form W-2) or a "corrected" Form 1099 showing zero or little income is submitted with a federal tax return. The taxpayer may include a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by the payer to the IRS. An explanation on the Form 4852 may cite statutory language behind Internal Revenue Code sections 3401 and 3121 or may include some reference to the paying company refusing to issue a corrected Form W-2 for fear of IRS retaliation.

**6. Return Preparer Fraud:** Dishonest return preparers can cause many headaches for taxpayers who fall victim to their schemes. Such preparers make their money by skimming a portion of their clients' refunds and charging inflated fees for return preparation services. They attract new clients by promising large refunds. Some preparers promote filing fraudulent claims for refunds on such items as fuel tax credits to recover taxes paid in prior years.

Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. As the old saying goes, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Remember that no matter who prepares the return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for its accuracy. Since 2002, the courts have issued injunctions ordering dozens of individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has filed complaints against dozens of others. During fiscal year 2006, 109 tax return preparers were convicted of tax crimes and sentenced to an average of 18 months in prison.

**7. American Indian Employment Credit:** Taxpayers submit returns and claims reducing taxable income by substantial amounts citing an American Indian employment or treaty credit. Although there is an Indian Employment Credit available for businesses that employ Native Americans or their spouses, there is no provision for its use by employees. In a somewhat similar scam, unscrupulous promoters have informed Native Americans that they are not subject to federal income taxation. The promoters solicit individual Indians to file Form W-8 BEN seeking relief from all withholding of federal taxation. A recent "phishing" variation has promoters using false IRS letterheads to solicit personal financial information that they claim the IRS needs in order to process their "non-tax" status.

**8. Trust Misuse:** For years unscrupulous promoters have urged taxpayers to transfer assets into trusts. They promise reduction of income subject to tax, deductions for personal expenses and reduced estate or gift taxes. However, some trusts do not deliver the promised tax benefits. There are currently more than 150 active abusive trust investigations under way, and 49 injunctions have been obtained against promoters since 2001. As with other arrangements, taxpayers should seek the advice of a trusted professional before entering into a trust.

**9. Structured Entity Credits:** Promoters of this newly identified scheme are setting up partnerships to own and sell state conservation easement credits, federal rehabilitation credits and other credits. The purported credits are the only assets owned by the partnership and once the credits are fully used, an investor receives a K-1 indicating the initial investment is a total loss, which is then deducted on the investor's individual tax return. Forming such an entity is not a viable business purpose. In other words, the

investments are not valid and the losses are not deductible.

**10. Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions:** The IRS continues to observe the use of tax-exempt organizations to improperly shield income or assets from taxation. This can occur when a taxpayer moves assets or income to a tax-exempt supporting organization or donor-advised fund but maintains control over the assets or income. Contributions of non-cash assets continue to be an area of abuse, especially with regard to overvaluation of contributed property. In addition, the IRS is noticing the return of private tuition payments being disguised as charitable contributions to religious organizations.

**11. Form 843 Tax Abatement:** This scam rests on a faulty interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code. It involves the filer's requesting abatement of previously assessed tax using Form 843. Many using this scam have not previously filed tax returns, and the tax they are trying to have abated has been assessed by the IRS through the Substitute for Return Program. The filer uses the Form 843 to list reasons for the request. Often, one of the reasons is: "Failed to properly compute and/or calculate IRC Sec 83-Property Transferred in Connection with Performance of Service."

**12. Frivolous Arguments:** Promoters have been known to make the following outlandish claims: the 16th Amendment concerning congressional power to lay and collect income taxes was never ratified; wages are not income; filing a return and paying taxes are merely voluntary; and being required to file Form 1040 violates the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination or the Fourth Amendment right to privacy. Don't believe these or other similar claims.

These arguments are false and have been thrown out of court. Although taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law.

#### IRS Still Watches Scams That Fall Off the List

Five of last year's Dirty Dozen tax scams rotated off the list for 2007. Although the IRS has seen a decline in the occurrence of some of these scams—abusive credit counseling agencies, for example—other problems, such as offshore abusive transactions, continue to be an area of particular concern for the agency. The absence of a particular scheme from the Dirty Dozen should not be taken as an indication that the IRS is unaware of it or not taking steps to counter it.

#### How to Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity

Suspected tax fraud can be reported to the IRS using IRS Form 3949-A, Information Referral. Form 3949-A is available for download from the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or by mail by calling 1-800-829-3676. The completed form or a letter detailing the alleged fraudulent activity should be addressed to the Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888. The mailing should include specific information about who is being reported, the activity being reported, how the activity became known, when the alleged violation took place, the amount of money involved and any other information that might be helpful in an investigation. The person filing the report is not required to identify himself, although it is helpful to do so. The identity of the person filing the report can be kept confidential. The person may also be entitled to a reward.

## 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.

### Eleanor Fedako

Eleanor Fedako, who spent all of her life in the Bronx and the last 14 years on City Island, passed away on Feb. 25, 2007, at the age of 77.

During the early 1940s, Mrs. Fedako received a scholarship to study dance with the American Ballet Theater under George Balanchine, and in 1947 she danced on Broadway in "The Chocolate Soldier," which was choreographed by him. She later became a Conover model before she married and raised her son. Her most recent return to dance was in 2001, when she did the choreography for "Zelda Inside Out," presented by the City Island Theater Group.

Mrs. Fedako was predeceased by her husband, Steve, in 1961 and by her son, Steve Jr., in 1981. Her family wishes to thank all her friends and acquaintances on City Island for the years of happiness and contentment she found there. As she did not wish any public services, those who knew her kind and gentle soul are asked to keep her in their memories and prayers.

### Dorothy Marie Hellstrom

Dorothy Hellstrom, a lifelong resident of City Island, died on Feb. 13, 2007, at the age of 82.

She was born on June 1, 1924, to Thomas and Evelyn (Cronk) Delise of City

Island, making her a true clamdigger, like her mother before her. She attended P.S. 17 and Columbus High School and worked for years at Ratsey & Laphorn, where she remembered sewing sails that were used in the America's Cup races. She later worked at Hild Sails.

Mrs. Hellstrom was a proud member of Trinity United Methodist Church and volunteered for a time at the Budget Shop. When she had free time, she enjoyed the water, whether it was fishing, boating or going to the beach. She was one of the first residents at Pilot Cove Manor, where she moved after the death of her second husband, Oskar Hellstrom.

Mrs. Hellstrom is also predeceased by her daughter, Elaine Fiederlein. She is survived by her daughters Betty Ann Kelchner of North Carolina and Diane Hellstrom of City Island, as well as two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

**APRIL 2007**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0607	0.0	1209	7.5	1822	0.3			Sun 01
02 Mon	0020	7.8	0643	-0.1	1243	7.4	1849	0.4	Mon 02
03 Tue	0048	7.7	0712	0.0	1311	7.2	1902	0.5	Tue 03
04 Wed	0103	7.6	0730	0.1	1328	7.0	1912	0.6	Wed 04
05 Thu	0117	7.6	0745	0.2	1345	6.9	1940	0.7	Thu 05
06 Fri	0145	7.6	0814	0.4	1415	6.8	2016	0.8	Fri 06
07 Sat	0220	7.6	0851	0.5	1453	6.8	2058	1.0	Sat 07
08 Sun	0302	7.6	0935	0.7	1538	6.7	2145	1.2	Sun 08
09 Mon	0350	7.5	1025	0.9	1630	6.6	2238	1.4	Mon 09
10 Tue	0444	7.3	1121	1.1	1729	6.7	2339	1.5	Tue 10
11 Wed	0545	7.2	1226	1.1	1834	6.8			Wed 11
12 Thu	0048	1.3	0653	7.2	1338	0.9	1942	7.2	Thu 12
13 Fri	0206	0.9	0804	7.4	1448	0.5	2046	7.6	Fri 13
14 Sat	0321	0.3	0911	7.6	1547	0.0	2142	8.1	Sat 14
15 Sun	0423	-0.4	1011	7.9	1639	-0.4	2233	8.6	Sun 15
16 Mon	0518	-0.9	1104	8.0	1727	-0.7	2321	8.8	Mon 16
17 Tue	0610	-1.2	1156	8.0	1814	-0.8			Tue 17
18 Wed	0009	9.0	0702	-1.3	1246	7.9	1902	-0.6	Wed 18
19 Thu	0057	8.9	0755	-1.2	1339	7.7	1951	-0.3	Thu 19
20 Fri	0148	8.6	0851	-0.8	1435	7.3	2046	0.1	Fri 20
21 Sat	0244	8.1	0952	-0.3	1540	7.0	2151	0.6	Sat 21
22 Sun	0350	7.7	1058	0.2	1654	6.8	2308	1.0	Sun 22
23 Mon	0515	7.3	1204	0.5	1807	6.8			Mon 23
24 Tue	0024	1.2	0633	7.1	1308	0.8	1912	6.9	Tue 24
25 Wed	0132	1.2	0740	7.1	1407	0.8	2011	7.1	Wed 25
26 Thu	0233	1.0	0838	7.2	1501	0.8	2103	7.4	Thu 26
27 Fri	0326	0.7	0930	7.3	1549	0.7	2151	7.6	Fri 27
28 Sat	0415	0.5	1017	7.3	1632	0.7	2234	7.8	Sat 28
29 Sun	0459	0.3	1100	7.3	1711	0.7	2313	7.8	Sun 29
30 Mon	0538	0.1	1140	7.3	1745	0.7	2347	7.8	Mon 30

**MAY 2007**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Tue	0614	0.1	1216	7.1	1809	0.8			Tue 01
02 Wed	0013	7.7	0644	0.1	1245	7.0	1821	0.9	Wed 02
03 Thu	0025	7.7	0706	0.2	1302	6.9	1841	0.9	Thu 03
04 Fri	0044	7.7	0724	0.3	1321	6.9	1913	0.9	Fri 04
05 Sat	0116	7.8	0753	0.4	1352	6.9	1952	1.0	Sat 05



[www.cityislandbirds.com](http://www.cityislandbirds.com)

"Sights and Sounds" interviewed Island resident Jack Rothman for this month's column. Jack is an avid birder, with his own Web site about the birds of City Island. We hope you enjoy it.

SS: How long have you been a City Islander?

J: I have lived on City Island since 1970.

SS: Were you always interested in the birds here, or was that something that came along later in life?

J: I have always been interested in the outdoors. My wife, Jane, and I have spent our vacation time camping in the wilderness as much as possible. In the early 1990s, I began walking quite a bit because of a terrible back problem I was experiencing. That's when I began to rediscover the birds in the area. My wife bought me a new pair of binoculars, and my friend Steve took me on an organized walk. I was absolutely hooked after that. Each day, for years, after work, I walked the woods of Pelham Bay observing and listing birds. Jane and I have also had some exciting birding experiences in Costa Rica and then again two years ago, when we spent some time in Vera Cruz, Mexico, watching thousands and thousands of hawks migrate overhead.

SS: What has been your most exciting City Island birding experience?

J: It's hard to say which is the most exciting. The spring migration each year is a joy. All of the birds return, and my favorites, the warblers, stream in for about two glorious months following the insects. That would be the top of my list. Finding an owl is always a thrill no matter how many times I see them. I love doing the Christmas Bird Count each year, too. Groups of birders count every bird they see on one specific day. It's a lot of fun and a day of serious birding. The statistics go to Audubon where this has been going on for 107 years.

SS: Where did the idea for your Web site come from?

J: A close friend of mine lives in a small town in New Mexico. He developed a Web site about the birds of his area ([www.rioembudobirds.com](http://www.rioembudobirds.com)), and I decided this would be fun for this area as well. His site was my inspiration. I think this area is mostly unappreciated by birders and that every borough except the Bronx has a birding club centered on its park: NYC Audubon in Manhattan based in Central Park; the Brooklyn Birding Club based in Prospect Park; the Queens Club in Alley Pond Park and there's one in Staten Island, but not the Bronx! I was hoping that perhaps the Web site might stir some interest and maybe even a City Island Birding Club.

SS: What can you tell us about the site?

J: The site went up in early December 2006. I began by learning and trying to write HTML code. I realized that it was taking too long, so I bought an inexpensive program online. It was really quite simple and lots of fun. Like any program, it took time to learn. I love changing and altering the site, and I'm always looking for new and interesting things to put on it. The site needs to be updated frequently or it will get stale. Soon the duck page will be taken down and then I'll include more information about the nesting, migration and spring bird rituals. It's an ongoing process. Since the medium is mostly visual, it's the pictures that are most important. Anyone can put up a birding Web site. There are hundreds of fabulous sites online, but mine is the only one that covers City Island and Pelham Bay Park. Suggestions from City Islanders are always appreciated.

SS: We understand that you have had some interesting visitors to [www.cityislandbirds.com](http://www.cityislandbirds.com). Would you care to elaborate?

J: I have a hidden counter on my site that gives me statistics on the people who



Photo by JANE ROTHMAN

Jack Rothman, City Island's resident birder, on a recent trip to Costa Rica.

visit the page. I've had visitors from all over the globe, Thailand, Germany, Ireland, Great Britain, India, Brazil, France, Japan, Kenya and Indonesia, to name a few. Visitors from all over the United States return several times. I find it incredible. I think people are surprised to learn that there are so many species of birds in a park in the Bronx!


SS: What can City Islanders expect to see in their own backyards this April and May?

J: City Islanders can expect a variety of nesting birds this spring in their backyards: house sparrows, starlings, mourning doves, goldfinches, white-throated and maybe tree sparrows, robins, house finches (noisy), mockingbirds, cardinals, grackles, monk parakeets, catbirds, red-winged blackbirds, for sure, to name a few. Many warblers may also be seen. I've seen ruby-crowned kinglets lots of times in my own backyard, along with a variety of warblers, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers and Baltimore orioles. This list is limited to my own observations in my own backyard on Reynolds Street. I'm sure there are many other species as well on other parts of the Island. Our beaches also have a variety of shorebirds. Two years ago there were two glossy ibis foraging in a mud rut along City Island Road as the cars moved alongside. One never knows what can be seen here.

SS: What about a coyote? We've been hearing about one making its way onto City Island.

J: My neighbor Danny saw the coyote firsthand—with an egret in its mouth. I guess the deer are here, so why not coyotes, their natural predators. On my Web page I comment about the loss of the ring-necked pheasant in this area. Who can tell how we impact different animal populations when we urbanize different areas? Some populations die out and others flourish when we change one seemingly insignificant aspect of the environment. In 1890, 100 European starlings were released in New York City. They are fierce competitors and have caused huge declines in other nest cavity dwellers, like bluebirds. Right now the flora of Pelham Bay Park is inundated with invasive plant species. This will eventually cause a change in bird populations.

If you are interested in a City Island Birding Club led by Jack, he would love to hear from you at [jack@cityislandbirds.com](mailto:jack@cityislandbirds.com). So would we, here at "Sights and Sounds." As always we can be contacted at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).



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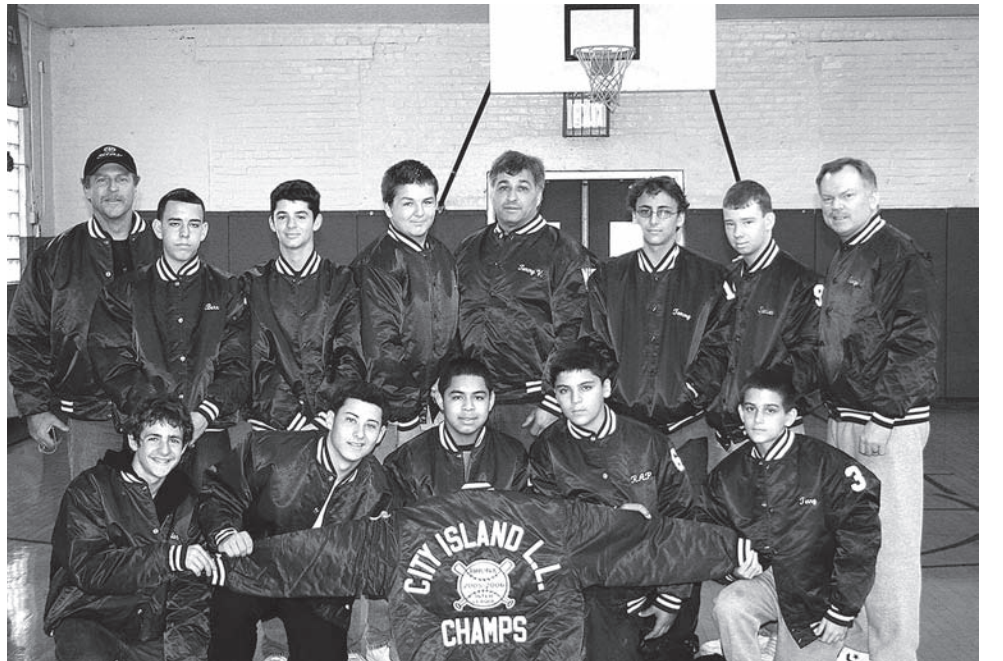
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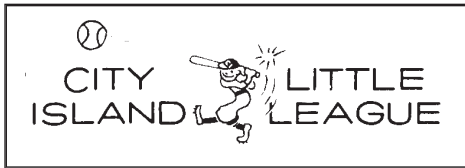
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**City Island Little League 2006 Interleague Champs. Front row (l. to r.): Brandon Esola, Robert Vivolo, Omar Salas, Ryan Pena and Terry Leonard; standing: coach Bill Esola, Andrew McGuire, Alex Cebek, Sal Kulka, manager Tom Vivolo, Tommy Lott, Kieran Spencer, coach George Spencer. Missing: Keith Costanza, John Mazzella, Sean Cullen, Hart Deese, Alex Skokas and Fabrice Diaz.**



Anyone who has passed Ambrosini Field in the past six months cannot help but notice the desolate landscape of dirt mounds and construction equipment. The temporary loss of the field has upset many a Millennium Mom play date, pick-up basketball game and Sunday morning soccer match. It has also left City Island Little League homeless for the 2007 season.

However, CILL was fortunate to be invited to play in the Astor Little League program. The Astor field on Bruner Avenue just off I-95 consists of two minor league fields and one major league field. All three fields are completely fenced in with stadium lighting for nighttime play. The facility also has a full service concession stand and men's and women's restrooms.

CILL has played against many of the teams in Astor Little League via inter-league and tournament play in the past few years, and the positive feedback on both sides led to our invitation to play there. "We look forward to the challenge," said City Island Little League president, Bob Whelan. "Astor runs a competitive league, and that type of atmosphere can

only enhance the level of play for our teams."

This year CILL be fielding two Minors teams; JP's managed by Kurt Ebinger and AER Raiders, managed by Maria Piri; two Junior Majors teams, Sammy's Fish Box, managed by John Valenti and Jack's Bait & Tackle, managed by John Lyons; two Majors teams, Ruggiero's Funeral Home managed by Joe Nochese and American Legion managed by Kenny Clancy. The Juniors team will be deftly managed by George Spencer. We will also run a T-Ball program beginning in late April. If you have a five- to six-year-old child who is interested in our T-Ball program, please e-mail Bob Whelan at [whelan19@yahoo.com](mailto:whelan19@yahoo.com).

Opening Day is Saturday, March 31, 2007, at Astor Field. All City Islanders are welcome to come and support our teams. Attendance is free. The schedule of games is posted on our Web site <http://eteamz.active.com/cityisland/>. We'll see you at the game!

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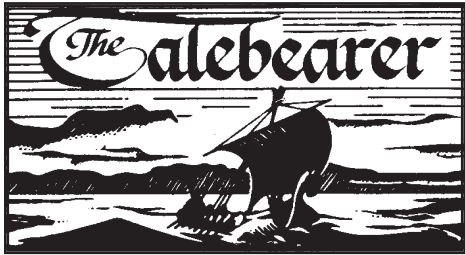


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

*Buon compleanno* to Rose Nani from her grandson, Islander Mark Nani, who is studying abroad in Italy for his spring semester at Sacred Heart University. Mark is working hard in Pisa, as shown in the photo on this page, but took time out to wish his grandmother a happy 80th birthday on April 13.

Happy 14th wedding anniversary to Tommy and Ida Orzo on April 24.

Happy April 25 birthday greetings to Candy Mancuso, with love from your family. And birthday wishes also to Joey Mancuso who turns eight on April 19. With love from Mom, Dad, Alaura and Michael.

Belated happy birthday to Devon Zapata, who celebrated his third birthday on March 28. April birthday wishes go out to his mom, Kim, and two sisters, Emily and Madison. Love and kisses, Great Grandma Terry Carmody.

Happy birthday, Eleanor Tomi, with best wishes from Pilot Cove's S.H.

Happy birthday on April 14 to Mari Doyle with love from your family. And more birthday wishes to her mom, Cathie, on April 24.

Happy 14th birthday to Marine Street's David Butterworth on April 30 with love from your family.

April 28 is the big day for Jack Strnad, who turns 12.

Happy birthday to Bay Street's Anne McIntyre on April 22, with love from your gang.

Best wishes to Peggy Eberhart, who celebrates her big day on April 26.

Birthday wishes to Fordham Street's Suzanne Anderson, who celebrates her birthday on April 14, with love from the girls.

Happy April 23 birthday to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from her sister-in-law Maria Swieciki, who celebrates her big day on April 25.

Happy birthday on April 25 to Chase Bank's Brenda Winston, with best wishes from your City Island friends and co-workers.

Thank you, Frank Ring, Sr. for your kind words and good wishes!

Editor's Note: And congratulations to Talebearer Maria Swieciki, who celebrates her 200th column for *The Island Current* this month. Way to go, Maria!

Maria Swieciki




Photo by MELISSA DEAN

Mark Nani is in Italy for his spring semester at Sacred Heart University.



Photo by NOEL APONTE

The needle crafters of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island have formed a group called Hugs 'n' Stitches. They are on a mission to provide a small measure of comfort and warmth to youngsters in need by way of making child-size comforters, which may be quilted, knitted or crocheted. Shown above with their first round of comforters donated to New York City Homeless Services are (l. to r.) Reverend Patricia Alexander, Carole Sullivan, Candida Feliu-Gonzalez, Ann McGuire and Alice Stuttgart (not shown, Ken Anders, Brook Packard, Eyvonne Baker and Marilyn Johnson). The group has pledged long-term participation and encourages others to join them. For more information, call Grace Church at 718-885-1080.

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