

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Second Class Permit  
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.  
USPS 114-590

Volume 36 Number 8

October 2007

One Dollar

## CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2007 AWARD WINNERS

By KAREN NANI

This year's recipients of the City Island Chamber of Commerce 2007 community service and business awards give new meaning to the term multitasking. The five winners, many of whom have dual occupations and community roles, will be honored at the Chamber's annual dinner on Friday, Oct. 26, at the Lido Restaurant.

### Captain Christopher J. Cullen: Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award

Captain Chris grew up in a small community along the Long Island Sound where he started fishing at a very young age. The love of fishing has stayed with him throughout his adulthood.

He started working on City Island when he was a freshman in high school as a mate aboard a local party boat. He continued to work through his college years, graduating Iona College with a B.A. in 1995 and later completing an M.S. in Elementary Education with a Specialty in Science in 1997. Captain Chris is currently an elementary school teacher for the Irvington School District and has successfully taught for 12 years.

In May 2000, Capt. Chris purchased the *Island Current* fishing boat (no relation to this newspaper). Five years later he acquired the new *Island Current II*, which was custom built in Kennebunk, Maine, to round out the *Island Current* fleet for party and charter fishing. Captain Chris lives on Minneford Avenue, with his lovely wife, Peggy, and two beautiful daughters Marie and Lorelei.



Barbara Burn Dolensek

### Barbara Burn Dolensek: Exemplary Service to Community Award

Barbara Dolensek moved to City Island in 1976 with her husband, Dr. Emil Dolensek, who was chief veterinarian at the Bronx Zoo until his death in 1990. A graduate of Smith College with a degree in art history, Barbara has worked for many years in book publishing, 15 of them as executive editor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also the author of 13 books.

She has been active in the City Island community for many years, starting with the PTA at P.S. 175, when her son, Philip, was a student there. She has been on the staff of *The Island Current* since 1985, recording secretary of the City Island Civic Association since 1992, secretary of the City Island His-

torical Society since 1995, an active member of the Grace Church parish since 2005 and a member of the new not-for-profit organization, the City Island Architectural Heritage Preservation Foundation. In her spare time, Barbara enjoys writing, riding horseback and working in the garden of her landmark house on Tier Street.



Arlene Byrne

### Arlene Byrne: Service to Community Award

Arlene Giorno Byrne was born in Holy Rosary Parish in the Bronx and attended both public and parochial schools nearby. When she finished high school, she worked for Guarantee Trust Company and then for Eastern Securities in Manhattan. She moved to City Island when she married John Byrne, a clam digger. She worked at Ray's Chris Craft and raised two children, Clare Louise and Thomas John.

With Patty Grendahl, also from City Island, she started the Thrift Shop at St. Mary's in 1981. As everyone knows, it is a thriving entity, thanks in large part to Arlene's heartfelt commitment to its success.

### Robert Whelan: Catherine Scott Achievement Award

Robert Whelan has been a resident of City Island since 1976. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Fordham Prep. After graduating from high school, Bob attended John Jay College and then joined the New York Police Department. After retiring from the department, Bob joined Verizon Communications, where he is currently employed as a systems technician.

Bob and his wife, Anna, and their three children, Kevin, Briana and Christine, live on Fordham Place. He joined the coaching staff of the City Island Little League in 1997, and today, in addition to coaching, he is president of the organization. He is also co-director of the St. Mary's basketball program and sits on the Parish Council as youth coordinator. When Bob is not busy with Little League or basketball, he volunteers at the Mt. Vernon hockey program.

He is the only City Islander to date who has completed the Community Emergency Response Team Certification Program (CERT). Bob rises to the challenge of influencing and helping children become all that

they can be. His job is made easier by the wonderful support he receives from the parents, coaches and volunteers.



Shukri Islamovic

### Shukri Islamovic: Tom Cerreta Accomplished Business Service Award

Born in Ulquin, Montenegro, Shukri Islamovic traveled to New York City with his family in 1972. After settling in the Little Italy section of the Bronx, Shukri spent his time between school working in the neighborhood and playing soccer, his favorite sport. At 22, Shukri and his younger brother decided to open their own business, and in 1981, Joe's

Pizza was up and running. After successfully operating the pizzeria for 12 years, the brothers decided to split up and follow other business ventures.

In the late 1990s, war broke out in Yugoslavia. Feeling the need to help his old home, which was tearing itself apart, and to support his new home, which had been so good to him and his family, Shukri joined the United States Army. In 1999 he was assigned to the Army's military intelligence unit as a translator and took part in Operation Joint Guardian. For exemplary service during these operations, Shukri was awarded the NATO Medal of Service.

In the fall of 2000, Shukri returned home, and he and his brother went back into the restaurant business. With more than 30 combined years of cooking experience (from Little Italy no less), the brothers set their sights on City Island, a place they had frequently visited with friends and family while growing up.

In November of 2000, just three months after returning from Europe, the Tree House Restaurant opened. Thanks to the wonderful support and patronage from the residents of City Island, Shukri opened a café and catering hall in the summer of 2006. He continues to operate both establishments with his wife, Tatiana, and their son, Alex.

The Chamber invites all to the annual dinner dance to honor these deserving award recipients at the Lido Restaurant. For tickets and reservations, please call Mrs. Jane La Scala at 718-885-9100.



Photos by RICK DeWITT

A small fire broke out at 267 City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Carroll Streets on the morning of Sept. 20, 2007. The vacant storefront was under renovation, but no one was present or injured as a result of the blaze. Firefighters responded to a knock on the Schofield Street firehouse door at 6:43 a.m., according to Battalion Chief Paul Wanamaker. City Island's own Engine 70 and Ladder 53 were the first to respond, followed by six additional companies. Although the fire was quickly brought under control with only minor damage to the property, a morning traffic jam snarled City Island Avenue and caused more than a few Islanders to be late for work. Construction crews working on the sewer replacement helped direct traffic around fire and police vehicles.

**BRIEFLY...**

**A BREAST CANCER WALK**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, at Orchard Beach. The event starts at 10:15 a.m. with registration from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk is free, but many participants make donations or obtain sponsorship. If you raise donations from family, friends and co-workers, make checks payable to The American Cancer Society. For more information, email [Bronx.Strides@cancer.org](mailto:Bronx.Strides@cancer.org) or visit [www.cancer.org/stridesonline](http://www.cancer.org/stridesonline). You may also call 1-800-ACS-2345.

**COMMUNITY CENTER INDOOR TAG SALE** Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tables are available at \$10 each. Call 718-885-1145 for more information and leave a message.

**SAFE BOATING COURSE:** The City Island Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will conduct an eight-week safe boating course at the City Island Yacht Club located at 63 Pilot Street beginning Monday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Participants must be 12 years of age and older and will receive certification upon completion. Topics include boat handling, charts, navigation rules, piloting techniques, engine troubleshooting, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio usage and more. Instruction is free. The cost of student materials is \$75. Call Jim at 718-863-3855 (before 10 p.m.) or email Peg at [pegfmorton@aol.com](mailto:pegfmorton@aol.com).

**FALL FAIRS:** Get out in October and shop at one of the fairs being held on City Island. First up, on Saturday, Oct. 6, is the Grace Church Tag and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parish hall at 116 City Island Avenue near Pilot Street. Home-baked goods, new and used crafts and household items, and raffles will be available. For more information, call 718-885-1080. Later in the month, the Minneford Chapter A.A.R.P. 3303 will hold its Annual Fair on Thursday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall at the corner of Bay Street and City Island Avenue. You can shop at the dollar table, the white elephant table and the jewelry table. Cakes and baked goods will also be available. For more information, call Karin Duwel at 718-885-1740.

**HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE.** The City Island Community Center's Haunted House will once again be taking place Halloween night! Come for a good scare if you dare! Our Haunted House is one of the best, so please come support and enjoy it! Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to midnight. Entrance fee \$5.

**CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP** presents "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," a wildly comic romp that pokes fun at the ridiculous aspects of show biz. Performances are Oct. 26, 27 and Nov. 1, 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. at Grace Church parish hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your tickets now!

**GANG ASSAULT RESULTS IN SERIOUS INJURIES**

By KAREN NANI

A fight involving at least five Island youths and five off-Islanders erupted on City Island Avenue near Ditmars Street on Friday, Sept. 7, just after 11 p.m. At least three people were seriously injured and required medical attention, including surgery, following the melee.

According to police reports and witnesses, a group of off-Island males, ages 17 to 43, drove up to a group of Islanders gathered on the corner of Ditmars Street near the Sunoco station. One witness reported hearing one of the adults say, "I heard you were messing with my son" just before the fighting started. A chaotic brawl developed, with weapons involved, and three Islanders were stabbed, kicked or punched.

Islander Matthew Vaughan was stabbed in the lower abdomen and slashed about his head and neck. His injuries required more than 100 stitches at Jacobi Hospital in the Bronx, and he was hospitalized for three days, according to a family member.

His brother, Ryan Vaughan, had his jaw broken in two places, and he also required surgery to wire the jaw in place. A third Islander, John Stiene, received a stab wound to his lower abdomen and thigh, which also required surgery at Jacobi.

Police made five arrests in conjunction with the incident. Robert Grant was arrested and charged with two counts of gang assault in the first degree, criminal possession of a weapon, assault in the first degree and harassment. Also arrested for acting in concert with Mr. Grant were Hector Cabrera, Joshua Cabrera, Leonard Shoulders and Michael Fox.

The defendants are charged with "intent to seriously and permanently disfigure a person . . . and when aided by two or more other persons . . . intentionally cause serious physical injury by means of a deadly weapon or a dangerous instrument," according to the Bronx District Attorney's office.

The report further states that Hector Cabrera allegedly stabbed John Stiene in the stomach with a screwdriver and slashed Matthew Vaughan in the neck. Mr. Vaughan was also repeatedly kicked and struck with "closed fists" by several of those arrested.

It is not clear what precipitated the fight. Some residents told *The Current* that one or more Island teens had been "harassing" a boy of Dominican descent at the Dunkin' Donuts on City Island Avenue before Sept. 7. Sources believe that some of the attackers may be related to this boy.

John Stiene denies any knowledge of this. "[We] did not know the perpetrators who made an unsubstantiated claim that some City Island teens were harassing one of their relatives earlier in the week who worked in the Dunkin' Donuts," he told *The Current*.

According to a member of the Vaughan family, Matthew and Ryan Vaughan were not present at the start of the confrontation, but "came to the aid of their younger brother, along with some other City Island teenagers."

The defendants were arraigned in court on Sept. 14 and four of them, Robert Grant, Joshua Cabrera, Michael Fox and Leonard Shoulders, pled not guilty and were released on their own recognizance (ROR). The fifth defendant, Hector Cabrera, age 43, was ordered to post bail of \$150,000 cash or bond. All five are due back in court on Dec. 4, 2007.

According to a source in the police department, the incident is being investigated as a hate crime by the Bias Crime Unit in the NYPD. In addition to investigating the events surrounding Sept. 7, they are looking into racially threatening remarks allegedly made by Islanders before and after the event.

Traffic was stopped on City Island Avenue in both directions for over an hour as police investigated the incident on the evening of Sept. 7.

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**THE ISLAND CURRENT**  
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City Island, N.Y. 10464

  
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**CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS:** Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribaldo, Melissa Koller, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464  
Printed by Hi-Speed Printing Co., 1123 Worthen Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10474  
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$10.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0984 or 885-0760. Copyright 2007 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
**PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.**  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.



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# NAUTICAL MUSEUM UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although the front of the P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street looks the same as it did the day after the fire, some progress has been made toward the restoration of the porch. Travelers Insurance, which holds the policy with the condominium board of the building, has reassured the condominium board that their obligation is to restore the façade to its original condition, as it was before the fire on July 13. The condo board has asked the City Island Historical Society to supervise the project, and the first order of business is to arrive at a reasonable but realistic cost estimate for the work to submit to the insurance company.

In the meantime, a Travelers representative has advised that the museum remain closed to the public until the porch is rebuilt,

which may take several months. Tom Nye, president of the City Island Historical Society, which operates the museum, reassures interested individuals that special appointments can be made for those who need to do research on items in the collection. Please call 718-885-0507 for more information or to make a special appointment.

In the meantime, Mr. Nye told *The Current*, a special fund is being set up to pay any expenses not covered by insurance. Those who wish to contribute are asked to send checks made out to the City Island Historical Society and mail it to P. O. Box 82, City Island, NY 10464. The board of the museum will be very grateful for any and all contributions (which are tax deductible).

# BARTOW-PELL EVENTS

On Friday, Oct. 5, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m., the Bronx Seaside Trolley will travel between the Pelham Bay Station, Bartow-Pell Mansion on Shore Road and City Island. At the museum, stop and listen to light classical guitar musician Anthony Purdy, savor refreshments, engage in limited guided tours and purchase items in the gift shop. Refreshments and music are free with admission (\$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children under 6 years old).

Anthony Purdy was born and raised in Kenya and began studying classical guitar at the age of nine. A three-time consecutive first prize winner at the Kenya Music Festival, he furthered his education in London at the Guildhall School of Music. After graduation, he headed the guitar department at the Kenya Conservatoire of Music and performed extensively throughout East Africa. In 1980 Anthony moved to New York City, and in 2006 he was awarded the Brio prize for music composition by the Bronx Council on the Arts.

The free Bronx Seaside Trolley is made possible through the City Island Chamber of Commerce and Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's joint partnership with the Bronx Borough President's Office and the Bronx Tourism Council. For more information about the Trolley, call Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum at 718-885-1461 or the City Island Chamber of Commerce at 718-885-9100.

On Sat., Oct. 13, at 10:30 a.m., a walking tour to Bartow-Pell will be led by Jorge Santiago, local history buff, and Tom Casey, a local historian. They will share the history of Co-op City, Freedomland and the northeast Bronx as they walk from the Baychester Library in Co-

op City to Bartow-Pell. Wear good walking shoes! \$8 per adult, \$5 per seniors and students, free for children under 6. Free admission to the museum with this tour. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org)

A Harvest Festival will be held at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children and families can partake in such activities as making corn-husk dolls, practicing Native American cording techniques and face painting. An expert pumpkin carver will help visitors make their own jack-o-lanterns. Ghost stories will be told on tours of the mansion, and one may also learn about Native American food preparation and the history of American Halloween celebrations. The fees are \$10 per child; \$5 per adult; children under 4 are free (members pay only \$8 per child; \$3 per adult). The event coincides with the New York City Parks & Recreation Department's It's My Park Day.

The museum's joint programs with the Pelham Art Center during the month of October include:

Nature's Notebook with Janet Shearn: Five sessions for children ages 8 to 14, on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m., from Oct. 2 through 30. The fee is \$125 (\$113 for PAC and Bartow Pell members).

Yoga in the Garden with Sydney MacInnis for adults will be held on Tuesdays from 8:45 to 10 a.m. October 9, 16, 23 and 30. The fee is \$100 (\$90 PAC and Bartow Pell members).

Tai Chi with Master Domingo Colon for adults will be held on Thursdays: from 8 to 9 a.m. on Oct 4, 11, 18 and 25. The fee is \$140 (\$126 PAC and Bartow Pell members).

For more information about these events, call the Bartow-Pell Museum at 718-885-1461 or e-mail [info@bpmm.org](mailto:info@bpmm.org).

# FALL CLASSIC



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Warm, sunny weather greeted shoppers at the Fall Arts and Crafts Fair during Sept. 8 and 9, 2007, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce. The bi-annual fair gives Island artists and off-Island vendors the opportunity to showcase their wares. Music in Hawkins Park topped off the event.

# NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED TO PRESERVE HISTORIC C.I.

Peter La Scala recently announced the formation of a new not-for-profit foundation that will be dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historic buildings on City Island: the City Island Architectural Heritage Preservation Foundation.

"The purpose of the organization," Mr. La Scala told *The Current*, "is to identify structures on the Island that are at risk of being torn down or allowed to deteriorate and to provide necessary funds to enable and encourage owners to restore them to their original beauty."

The foundation's board members include Madeline Provenzano, Nathan Simmons, Paul Klein, Jo Heck, Kristen Wenzel and Barbara Dolensek. They have developed a preliminary list of buildings of historic and

architectural significance but they are continuing to comb the Island looking for more.

One of the foundation's first projects will be to assist in the restoration of the façade of the P.S. 17 building, which was recently damaged by fire. The committee plans to work closely with the City Island Historical Society, which will be supervising the project, in order to make sure that sufficient funding will be available.

Anyone who has a house or a building and would like it to be considered by the foundation for funding support is asked to call 718-885-0507 for more information. Because the foundation has a tax-exempt status, it will be able to raise money or obtain low-cost loans for the purpose.

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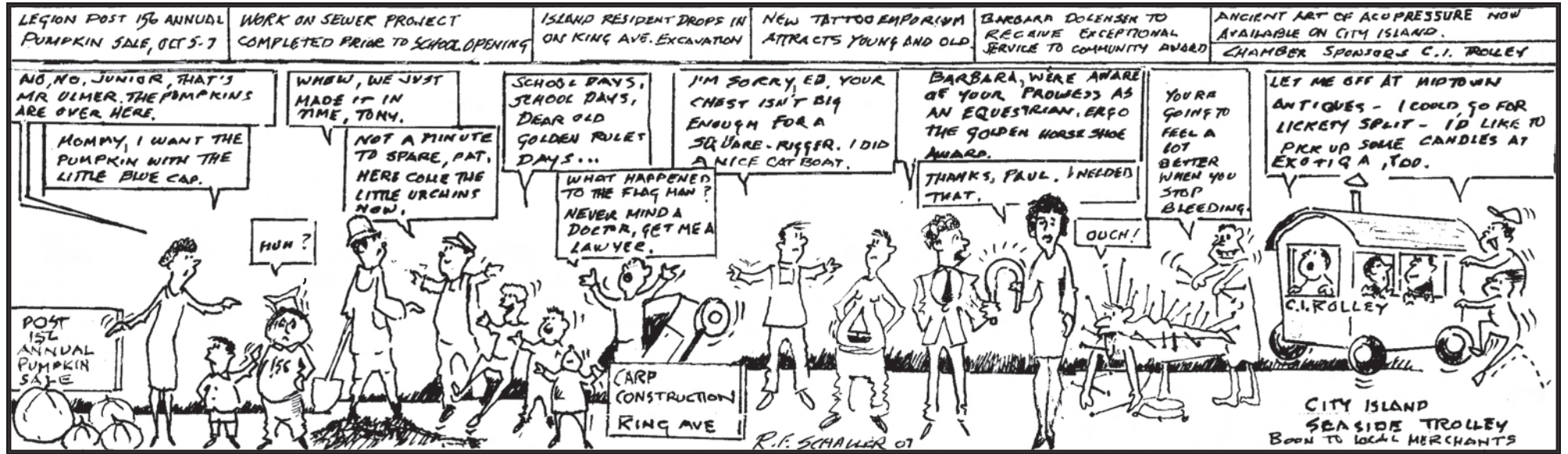
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**Thanks from Dianne & John O'Sullivan**



We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

**Legions of Thanks**

To the Editor:

Our family would like to give a huge shout of appreciation to the folks at the American Legion Post 156.

On Sept. 2, my husband and I had the opportunity to take my father, George W. Bunyea and his wife, Florence, for a drive down memory lane. George was raised on City Island in the 1930s. He first lived with his mother and father, Irene and George Bunyea, on Bay Street. We drove down to the end of the block looking for a house with a turret on its top and we found it.

Then his family moved to 45 Schofield Street, where he lived until he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He served during World War II, engaging in battles in Europe. Driving past P.S. 17 conjured up memories of years gone by, including his working on the boatyard down the street when the first landing craft was built.

But our most recent positive experience came when we visited the American Legion Post 156. The people couldn't have been more welcoming and genuine in their good wishes. What a great group! The hospitality displayed by these folks is, obviously, part of what makes City Island so unique.

Our family wants to express our gratitude for the wonderful experience and pleasurable memories.

If anyone remembers George Bunyea and would like to contact him, please feel free to email us at [goldie211@msn.com](mailto:goldie211@msn.com).

**Irene Bunyea Magnani-Kelley**

**Respect One Another**

To the Editor:

Racism is alive and festering in City Island. There have been a number of incidents here in which young people have

been hurt or threatened because of their ethnic background. This nonsense must stop!

This hatred is being bred right here on City Island, which is no longer the all-white enclave of yesteryear. It's an island filled with all races and ethnicities, and we should respect and embrace one another's differences. First and foremost, we are Americans, then City Islanders. Let's stop this madness now.

**Annette Cornier-Lopez**

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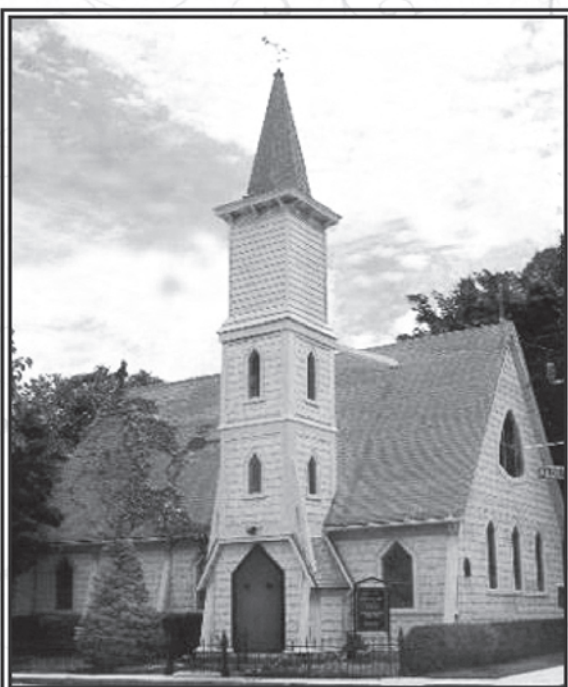
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Morning Prayer ~ Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

*The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, Vicar*

# Paving the Way for School Days!

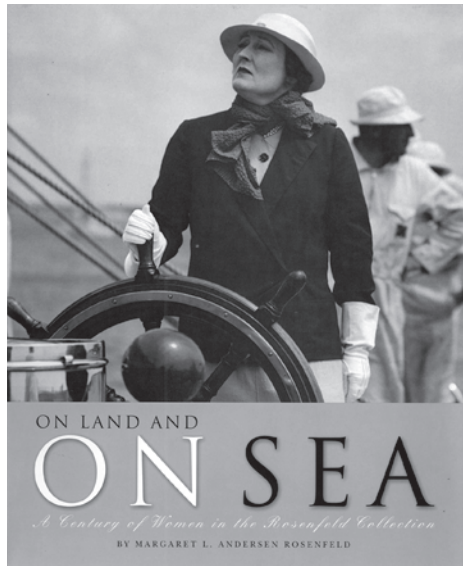


*Photos by KAREN NANI*

**Sewer work in front of P.S. 175 was completed just in time for the opening day of school in September 2007. Carp Construction, the contractor engaged by Department of Design and Construction (DDC), worked hard during July and August to replace the water main, as well as the storm and sanitary sewers along City Island Avenue in front of the school. They also avoided any major traffic tie-ups by suspending work during summer weekends and providing clear traffic lanes for restaurant-goers. According to Andy Macagnone of DDC, "the asphalt overlay was laid down in time for the arrival of teachers the week before Labor Day and new traffic lines (striping) were painted one day later." The next phase of work along City Island Avenue near Carroll and Schofield Streets started the second week in September. Mr. Macagnone reminds Islanders to drive slowly around the construction and obey the no parking signs when posted. "Most Islanders have been compliant and only one car had to be towed during the summer," he told *The Current*.**

# A Current Review ON LAND AND ON SEA

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



the photographs taken by Morris Rosenfeld and Sons, a maritime photography team headquartered here on City Island for many years. Best known for brilliant photographs of sailboats and sailing races, the Rosenfeld Collection includes nearly a million photographs, some nautical and some not. Margaret L. Andersen Rosenfeld, daughter-in-law of Stanley Rosenfeld, has compiled from that collection a group of images of women that provides a special insight into the social history of women during the 20th century.

Here are women at sea—from little girls in dinghies to women caulking hulls and sportswomen at the helm—and women on land, modeling clothes at fashion shows and advertising automobiles. The author, a professor of sociology at the University of Delaware, with a specialty in women's studies, provides a readable text that interprets these images by giving the photographs a social and historical context.

The book would make a handsome gift not just for collectors of Rosenfeld photography books, but also for Island residents who may find old friends in some of the pictures or are interested in learning more about this amazing family of photographers.

Now that summer is coming to an end and everyone is getting boats ready to put away for the winter, what better time to curl up with a good book about boats than now, especially if that book is "On Land and On Sea: A Century of Women in the Rosenfeld Collection" by Margaret L. Andersen Rosenfeld, recently published by Mystic Seaport.

Many Island residents are familiar with

# Senator Klein Acts on Homeowner Insurance Issues

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Senator Jeff Klein recently announced that New York State's Insurance Department had succeeded in preventing Allstate Insurance from tying their homeowner insurance policies with other lines of coverage by threatening to cancel policies. Thanks to the senator's efforts in alerting the superintendent of the department to the situation in his senate district, the department began an investigation and issued a directive explicitly banning this practice as a violation of the insurance law. Section 2324 of the law bans the use of any inducements in the making or renewal of a contract that are not expressly specified in that policy or contract.

Beginning in the spring of 2006, Allstate declared that it wished to reduce its exposure in the coastal New York insurance market, and in 2006 alone, the company cancelled, or "non-renewed," more than 26,000 homeowner policies throughout the coastal portions of New York City, Westchester County and Long Island. However, Allstate continued to cover homeowners in the same neighborhoods who had purchased other Allstate insurance products. Since this practice increased rather than diminished Allstate's potential risk in the event of a disaster, Senator Klein was convinced that the company was not acting in good faith. "It was unbelievable to me that homeowners who had faithfully paid their premiums for decades were suddenly being penalized for not having purchased automobile insurance from Allstate."

One Island resident told *The Current* that Allstate informed her by mail in March 2007

that it had decided not to renew her homeowner policy, although she had been a client for 30 years. When she called to protest, pointing out that she had never filed for any damages caused by the fact that her house was near the water, the Allstate representative noted she no longer insured her car with Allstate, so there was no way the company could keep her as a client.

Under the terms of the state Insurance Department's order, Allstate will rescind letters of non-renewal and offer to reinstate homeowners' insurance policies that had not expired as of Aug. 28, 2007, in any case where the reason for dropping the policy was homeowner's lack of automobile or life insurance with the company.

Senator Klein said: "This case proves that New York State is no longer going to turn a blind eye to the impermissible tying of homeowners' insurance with other lines of insurance, and provides strong support for legislation that I have already introduced in the State Senate to better protect policyholders."

His bill, S2269, would reduce the number of policies that insurers can cancel in a single year without having to gain the approval of the Insurance Department. Under current law, an insurance company can cancel up to 4 percent of its statewide policies each year without any official scrutiny. This can amount to thousands of policies for a large insurer, which can cause a major disruption in the local insurance market if an insurer targets all of its cancellations to a small geographic area. S2269 would halve that amount to 2 percent and require the insurer to provide a financial or risk analysis justification for any future large-scale cancellations to make sure that no unlawful criteria are being used.

If this bill becomes law, it will affect all insurance companies, including State Farm and Liberty Mutual, which have also failed to renew many homeowner policies on City Island in recent months. Senator Klein urged any policyholder whose homeowner insurance is canceled or not renewed for this reason in the future to contact either the State Insurance Department at 1-800-342-3736 or his office at 1-800-718-2039.

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The line-up at the **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779) includes laughter, an eclectic array of music and "all that jazz." The fun starts as the month does, literally, with a comedy night, "an hour to laugh," set for Friday, Oct. 5, at 8:30 p.m. Then on Saturday, Oct. 6, it's the awesome acoustic jazz duo Two Guitars, beginning at 8 p.m. That Sunday, Oct. 7, harmonic singer Timothy Hill takes the stage at 3 p.m. The following weekend includes blues-acoustic performer Amura (Friday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m.), singer-songwriter Allan Chapman and his newest CD for signing (Saturday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.) and Great American songbook performer Peter C. North (Sunday, Oct. 14, 3 p.m.). Singer-songwriters fill the following weekend: Rich Deans, Friday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m.; the "wicked, awesome, brilliant" Nicola, Saturday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.; Sonya Heller, Sunday, Oct. 21, 3 p.m. The month ends with the usual "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night on Friday, Oct. 26, at 8 p.m. for poets, comics and songwriters. On Saturday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m. it's Port O'Monkeys with Spanish/Middle Eastern fare and our own Dr. Chris Wertebaker. Finish off the month with the City Island Jazz Quartet on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 4 p.m., led by City Island's Roger Scala and featuring the "jazz man" Lou Volpe.

**Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will present an exhibition of "Friends and Family" portraits by Island artist Laury Hopkins from Oct. 5 through Oct. 28. There will be an opening reception on Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 718-885-1403.

Former Island resident **Dr. Harold H. Osborn, M.D.**, is pleased to announce the opening of an office in New Rochelle, with a primary focus on holistic health counseling and holistic health care. Holistic health counseling involves providing assistance to individuals in one-to-one sessions that seek to answer general questions about health, illness, diet and exercise. In addition, specific questions about illnesses, medications and remedies will be addressed. Non-allo-

pathic, complementary healing techniques (such as vitamin and mineral therapy, herbs, acupuncture and chelation) will be suggested whenever appropriate. The health counseling and treatment sessions will be grounded in an "evidence-based" approach, which will attempt to avoid the dogmatic tradition of Western medicine and recommend healing modalities that have proven efficacy. Whenever a holistic approach is utilized, it will be fully integrated with each patient's individual treatment plan. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 914-235-8385 to schedule an appointment. Fees are based on a sliding scale. Dr. Osborn has practiced medicine for 25 years; he is licensed to practice medicine in New York, is board certified in internal medicine, emergency medicine and toxicology, and has formal training in pediatrics. He is the founder of the Oaks, a holistic healing arts center in New Rochelle.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

A group exhibition at **Focal Point Gallery** drew admiring crowds in September. Next up at the gallery, an exhibition of paintings by Islander Laury Hopkins from Oct. 5 to 28 with an opening reception on Oct. 5 at 7:30.

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# The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about  
Bronx County  
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

## Quiet on the Set: The Bronx and the Silent Film Industry.

When one thinks of the motion picture industry, Hollywood is obviously the first place that comes to mind. But the Bronx holds its own spot in film history. Not only have many films been set here, but in the infancy of the movie business, the Bronx also played an important role. About a century ago, the Bronx was home to two well-known silent film studios, the Edison Studios on Decatur Avenue and Oliver Place (a few blocks from where I used to live) and Biograph Studios located at 807 East 175th Street and Prospect Avenue.

Inventor Thomas Edison built the Edison Studios between 1906 and 1907 in response to the growing demand for films. Edison had been the pioneer of kinetoscopes and later projected motion pictures. His first film studio, located near his laboratories in Orange, New Jersey, was too inconvenient for the majority of actors based in New York City, so he opened a studio on the roof of a building on 25th Street in Manhattan, but this

space proved too small to keep up with the growing demand for more elaborate productions.

The Bronx location was designed to be a state-of-the-art facility capable of handling all of the Edison Company's production requirements, and Bronx Park would soon become the primary location for much of the outdoor filming. The studio's proximity to the end of the recently constructed Third Avenue El subway system meant that actors could slip away from Manhattan's theater district to make films without attracting the attention of their peers, many of whom disapproved of the new medium. By 1908 the studio was in full operation, putting out several short and one-reel films a week. The motion picture arm of Edison's business quickly became its most profitable.

As the popularity of motion pictures grew, many film industry insiders began to relocate to the Bedford Park neighborhood. Film producer William Fox (founder of Fox Film Company, later to become 20th Century Fox) lived in a private house between Briggs Avenue and Bainbridge Avenue on the south



Edison Studios on Decatur Avenue and Oliver Place, about 1910.

side of Bedford Park Boulevard. Many actors and film crew lived in the Mosholu Arms, a very fashionable apartment building just one block south, on 199th Street. The Mosholu Arms was a full-service building complete with a doorman, concierge and an intercom system, which the studio used to summon the actors and crew back to the set.

The Edison Studios produced nearly 1,200 films, some of the most notable being "Rescued from an Eagle's Nest" (1908), the first Frankenstein film (1910), the first-ever serial, entitled "What Happened to Mary?" (1912), "The Land Beyond the Sunset" (1912) and "Vanity Fair" (1915).

At the time, Edison Studios made only about 40 prints of each of their productions to be sent out for distribution. After the films had circulated for seven months or so, they were returned and stripped of their silver content. Only a handful of Edison Studios films still exist, thanks mainly to the efforts of private collectors. The American Film Institute declared the 1910 production of Frankenstein to be one of the top ten most "culturally and historically significant lost films."

The Biograph Company was the other prominent film studio in the Bronx. Biograph was originally located at 11 East 14th Street in Manhattan but moved its facilities to the Bronx in 1913. The company made films at this facility until 1916, when it ceased production. The space became a rental studio in 1917 and was used by most major production companies of the silent era, including Metro Film Corporation, Fox Film Corporation and Warner Brothers.

Biograph launched the silent-film career of director D.W. Griffith, along with careers of cameraman Billy Bitzer and many actors, including Mary Pickford, Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Lionel Barrymore, Blanche Sweet and Harry Carey. Carey, who was the first cowboy actor, was born and raised on City Island. He got his first roles in the silent films that were filmed in Pelham Bay Park, where he rode horses owned by his father, Judge Carey, who used them to operate the City Island streetcar line. Another City Island silent film actor was Bruce McRae, who lived on the island until his death in 1927.

In early 1910, the Biograph Company sent director D.W. Griffith to the West Coast with their star troupe, which consisted of actors Sweet, Gish, Pickford and Barrymore. They started filming on a vacant lot near Georgia Street in downtown Los Angeles. The company decided to explore new territories and traveled several miles north to a little village that was friendly and enjoyed the filming that took place there. This place was called "Hollywood." Griffith then filmed the first movie ever shot in Hollywood, "In Old California," a Biograph melodrama about California in

the 1800s, when it still belonged to Mexico. Biograph stayed in California for months and made several films before returning to the Bronx. After hearing about this wonderful place, many moviemakers headed west in 1913 to avoid the fees imposed by Thomas Edison, who owned patents on the movie-making process. Filmmakers gravitated to southern California in increasing numbers as the industry developed, attracted by the mild climate and reliable sunlight, which made it possible to film movies outdoors year-round, and by the varied scenery that was available.

Back in the Bronx, the Edison Studios ceased film production in 1918, and the studios were sold to the Lincoln and Parker Film Company and later to a number of small, short-lived companies. When it converted to sound in the 1930s, the facility was occasionally used to make animated films, industrial films and short-subject films well into the 1960s. It was eventually demolished in the early 1970s.

Sound stages were also added to Biograph Studios in the 1930s. That decade saw a few important feature films produced there including; "Midnight" (1934), "Woman in the Dark" (1934), "The Crime of Dr. Crespi" (1935), "Manhattan Merry-Go-Round" (1937), the Yiddish-language folk drama "Tevye" (1939) and the Oscar Micheaux production "The Notorious Elinor Lee" (1940). However, the studio's principal activity back then was the production of shorts for Universal Studios, Columbia Pictures and RKO, most of them involving New York-based actors and entertainers

Martin Poll, who later became New York's Commissioner of Motion Picture Arts, restored Biograph Studios and reopened it in 1956 as the Gold Medal Studios, making it the largest film studio in America outside the Los Angeles area. The television series "The Naked Truth," "Car 54, Where Are You?" and "East Side, West Side," as well as such movies as "A Face in the Crowd" (1957), "Odds Against Tomorrow" (1959), "The Fugitive Kid" (1959), "Butterfield 8" (1960) and "The Incident of John and Mary" (1969) were all filmed there. Some scenes from these films were actually shot on City Island, including "Car 54" and "Butterfield 8." The studio went dormant again in the 1970s before it burned down in 1980.

When studying the history of the American film industry, one cannot ignore the fact that the Bronx played a very important role. Indeed, the early film industry was also an important part of the history of the Bronx.

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

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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

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 5 to 7, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale.** Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

Sat., Oct. 6, **Grace Church Tag and Bake Sale,** 116 City Island Avenue near Pilot Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 18, **AARP Fall Fair,** Trinity United Methodist Church Hall at the corner of Bay Street and City Island Avenue, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 18, **Community Board 10 meets,** 7:30 p.m., Schuyler House, 2077 Cross Bronx Expwy, Bronx.

Fri., Oct. 26, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner,** Lido Restaurant. Call 718-885-9100 for reservations.

Sat., Oct. 27, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Wed., Oct. 31, **Halloween Haunted House,** City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, 6 p.m. to midnight.

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 6, **Election Day,** P.S. 175, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### Chapter 3303 AARP

On Thursday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Minneford Chapter will hold its annual fair at the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on City Island Avenue at Bay Street. As in the past, we will have various tables, including Dollar, Cake, White Elephant and Jewelry Tables. Raffles will include restaurant certificates, grocery baskets and various gift items. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. All proceeds go to City Island organizations and other charities.

On Thursday, Nov. 8, we will go to an Octoberfest celebration at Ehrhardt's on Lake Wallenpaupack in Hawley, Pennsylvania, for a full day of food, drink and entertainment.

On Friday, Dec. 7, we will go to the Atlantic City Hilton. Included are coin package of the day and a Tribute to Liberace show.

For further information, call Karin Duwel at 718-885-1740.

**Karin Duwel, Secretary**

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

October here at Trinity brings a beginning to another season of activities. Oct. 21 will be Laity Sunday, and our lay leader, George Cavalieri, will lead the service. All are welcome to participate with us on that day. George's bible study is also continuing, and anyone who is interested is welcome. The study begins after services. There will also be a church-wide bake sale at Trinity on Oct. 13. If anyone is interesting in contributing or just helping out, please call Joyce Rizzuto at

718-885-0957. We look forward to seeing you there.

Everyone is invited to join us in our regular Sunday services at 10 a.m. Sunday school is also in session at that time.

Budget Shop will be open on Tuesday, Oct. 2, and Tuesday, Oct. 16, as well as on Saturday, Oct. 13, and Saturday, October 27. Some potential customers approached me on a Tuesday when we were not open and seemed upset since it was, after all, a Tuesday. We too, feel the same frustration, but we are on limited hours as we have limited workers. I asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering, and one person told me that she could not afford to do so. I feel that I cannot afford *not* to volunteer, as that is the only way for Budget to stay open as a service to both the church and the community. I also know that when I give of myself I get back twofold, so I appeal to all our loyal customers: please continue to come to Budget and please consider helping us out. If you are interested, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241.

#### Group Bible Study Fall 2007

The 2007 fall group bible study resumes with the New Testament, "Letter to the Hebrews." Six Sunday sessions, from Oct. 14 to Nov. 18, will be held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall at 113 Bay Street from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hebrews chapters 8 to 13 will complete this study of the "Letter."

All interested in group bible study are invited to attend, whether or not you have attended before. No prior registration is required, and text and all materials are provided. George Cavalieri, Trinity's lay leader, will moderate and guide the discussions, focusing on the scripture texts being read and the subjects presented in them.

The purpose is to understand what the "Letter" originally meant to those to whom it was addressed and the meaning for us today. Every session begins with a short video and light refreshment.

The "Letter to the Hebrews" shows the need for living by faith demonstrated by the many Old Covenant heroes and heroines of faith highlighted in it. They all overcame insurmountable circumstances by their faith. In the "Letter" we are called upon to look to Jesus, who is both the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, because his is the one true Mediator of the New Covenant between us and God. Jesus at the Passover supper said of the cup, "this is the cup of the New Covenant in my blood, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Come open your heart and mind to the life of faith, which alone is what pleases God. It is those who live by faith that God counts as being right with him. These are some of the many wonderful truths you'll discover in the study of "Letter to the Hebrews." Will we see you there?

For further information, feel free to call Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218.

**Anne Sill**

#### Cub Scout News

Cub Scout Pack 211 is off and running, with a good start and enrollment. The pack is looking forward to an exciting season with many educational and exciting trips scheduled. Our first trip is aboard the *Riptide* for a day of family-filled fun fishing. Registration continues. If anyone is curious, come and join us on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church on Bay Street.

**Angelo Bellocchio**

#### City Island Theater Group

This fall the City Island Theatre Group will raise the curtain on the laugh out loud comedy, "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," an ingenious and wildly comic romp that enjoyed a long and critically hailed run both on and off-Broadway. Poking antic fun at the more ridiculous aspects of "show biz" and the corny thrillers of Hollywood's heyday, the play is a non-stop barrage of laughter as those assembled (or at least those who aren't killed off) untangle the mystery of the Stage Door Slasher.

Featured in this hilarious comedy are City Island Theater Group favorites: Justine Costanza, Carol Dooner, Eileen Fox, John Garcia, Eileen Marcus, Liz McIntyre, Robert Mulroy and Anthony Patrick. Newcomers to CITG, Connieann DelVecchio and John Geil fit right in with this talented cast. CITG's president, Nick Sala, directs this production. Performances at Grace Church parish hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street, are Oct. 26/27 and Nov. 1, 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. Call 718-885-3066 to reserve your tickets!

CITG is pleased to announce that we are installing a brand new stage curtain to replace a curtain that has been unusable for years. Both Grace Church and CITG shared the cost of this curtain, which will be raised for many more CITG productions to come. We are also happy to announce that we will soon launch a new Web site, so be on the look-out for it! We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping CITG, please call us!

Call us now at 718/885-3066 to reserve your tickets and be on the look-out for the Stage Door Slasher!

**Susan Rauh**



#### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

Our ongoing outreach ministry, "Hugs and Stitches," dedicated to making quilts and blankets for infants and toddlers in New York City's Homeless Services, meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Please join us! No experience is necessary.

Here's what's happening at Grace during the busy month of October:

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.: Book Group resumes. Newcomers are always welcome; call the Parish Office for information about the book currently under discussion.

Thursday, Oct. 4, and Friday, Oct. 5, 6 to 8 p.m. Drop-off for Tag Sale.

Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. Taizé Worship Service. Taizé worship includes candlelight, prayers, readings, silence, and soft music with repetitive words. The service is gently meditative and offers a wonderful opportunity to be silent and center on the Lord. Come as you are!

Saturday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fall Tag and Bake Sale.

Sunday, Oct. 7, 12 noon: The Fourth Annual Blessing of the Animals. All pets are invited to come to the Grace Courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we do ask that attendees leashed, caged or otherwise restrained!

Sunday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.: Children's church school.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.: Children's church school.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m. Prison Ministry Volunteer Training. Come learn about our new ministry, the "Circle of Care," dedicated to writing monthly letters of support and encouragement to incarcerated men and women.

Sunday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.: Children's church school.

**Rev. Patricia Alexander**

#### City Island Republicans

I am happy to say that over the past month we have been filling our poll worker slots. This is a slow election year, so turnout will be lighter than normal, but we encourage everyone to come out and vote this November since the district attorney and a few judgeships will be voted on. This will give the poll workers time to prepare for the big election year in 2008, which will kick off with the presidential primary on Feb. 5. Furthermore, it has been reported to me that county committee vacancies are down countywide and have been drastically reduced in the northeast Bronx. This is yet another sign that the party is growing once again in Bronx County.

I would also like to report that the Bronx County Republican Party's historical masquerade gala will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Marina del Rey in Throggs Neck. Tickets are \$160. The cocktail hour is from 6 to 7 p.m., and the formal dinner seating begins at 7. Anyone who attends can come as their favorite historical figure or in formal business attire; call 718-792-5800 for more information. Several guests will be honored, including the state chairman.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue.

**Fred Ramftl**

#### Garden Club

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. We will have a special slide presentation on the subject of secret or hidden gardens in our area, given by educator Barbara Davis of New Rochelle. The meeting will be open to the public, so anyone who is interested in the subject will be welcome to attend.

Club members planted chrysanthemums at various spots on City Island, including at the memorial triangle, around the "Welcome to City Island" sign and in Hawkins Street park.

**Phyllis Goodman**

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

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Halloween Haunted House-Phobias:** The City Island Community Center's Haunted House will once again be taking place Halloween night! Come for a good scare if you dare! Our Haunted House is one of the best, so please come support and enjoy it! Halloween Night: 6 p.m. to midnight. If you would like to donate money or volunteer your time, please call 718-885-1145 ASAP! For more information, visit [www.cicchauntedhouse.4t.com](http://www.cicchauntedhouse.4t.com).

#### NEW CLASSES

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

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

**Class Forming:** "Shimmy By The Sea" is a group of women learning and dancing together. We are planning future workshops and classes in the art of belly dance. For information about classes, call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

#### Weekly Schedule

##### YOUTH PROGRAM

**Wonderkind Preschool:** Where learning is child's play. Ages 2½ to 5 years. Monday through Thursday, 12 noon to 3 p.m.; Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Eight-week sessions. Class size is limited to six children per session. To register and for continuous and up-to-the-minute information, go to [www.wonderkind-preschool.com](http://www.wonderkind-preschool.com).

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

**Art Class: Creature Feature** Grades 4 through 7, Tuesdays 3:30 to 5, starting Sept. 18. Students will use taxidermy models to create their own mythological creatures, adding scales, wings, claws, eyes, fake fur, and other materials. 10 classes \$10 per class plus \$40 materials fee; \$140 total. Limited to eight students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

**Art Class: Experiments with Paper and Paint.** Grades K through 3, Thursdays 3:30 to 5 p.m. starting Sept 20. Students will do a variety of projects, learning about color, pattern, paper folding, weaving, and creating texture. 10 classes \$8 per class; \$80 total. Limited to eight students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202.

**Art Class: Storytime Art.** For children ages 2½ to 5. Tuesdays, 1 to 2:15

p.m. starting Sept. 18. or Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. starting Sept. 20. The same projects will be done on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so sign up for one day only! \$60 for ten classes, \$8 for individual classes (please call the day before). Call 718-885-3202 and leave a message. This is not daycare; caregivers are expected to stay. No more than three children per caregiver, please.

**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.deirdreamara.com](http://www.deirdreamara.com).

**Sally's Playground:** Birth to 5 years. Beginning Sept. 17; Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Playground available for party rentals. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

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

#### ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

#### FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

**Vilma's Music Together:** Music and movement for children ages birth through five and the adults who love them! Fridays or Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.vilmasmusictogether.com](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 from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up! Call Bill at 718-541-3995 for more information.

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5768).

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

A Simchat Torah celebration will be led by Reb David Daniel Klipper on Friday evening, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m. A Shabbat morning service and Torah study will be conducted on Saturday, Oct. 6, at 10:30 a.m. It will be led by our rabbinic intern, Aliza Erber. Aliza will also be conducting Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes for adults and children at the temple and also in White Plains. It's never too late for a life-changing experience by reclaiming your Jewish heritage. Contact her for more information at 914-761-5114.

For information about our Sunday school

for children (ages 4-12), call Violet at 718-885-3502.

Tai Chi - Yoga Classes will continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in October, led by Marc Kaplan. His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available.

Visit our website at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Legion News

Meetings for the month of October will be as follows: Monday, Oct. 1 and Oct. 15, will be regular meetings; Monday, Oct. 8, will be an executive board meeting. The Oct. 15 meeting will be a Post Everlasting Service.

Our annual pumpkin sale will be held Friday, Oct. 5, through Sunday, Oct. 7, in the Post parking lot. Should it rain, the gourds will be sold inside. Help is always welcome; report to the Post.

The annual legislative breakfast will be held Oct. 7 at the Merchant Marine Academy at 9 a.m. You will have an opportunity to hobnob with the local politicians, ask questions and pick their brains.

The annual Octoberfest will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Aside from the usual pork products, a larger porker than last year's will be roasted. Refreshments of beer, wine and soda will be available. Hard liquor will be available at a cash bar. Admission is \$27.

Looking ahead, the Military Ball will be held Friday, Nov. 9, at the Villa Barone. The price for this elaborate event is \$50. This shindig is always a festive occasion and gives old soldiers a chance to dust off their service ribbons and medals of battles both real and imaginary.

The annual Servicemen's Dinner-dance will be held at the Post on Nov. 17. As always, you are asked to bring a good appetite. Head chef for this extravaganza will be Robert Mennona, a.k.a. the General. There will be an open bar. The cost: \$30. Chance books associated with the dinner will soon be available.

I was surprised Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, to find that Tom McMahon had tendered his resignation as bar chairman. We all thank Tom for his years of dedicated service. I don't know what precipitated this decision on his part, but we wish him luck in whatever endeavor he pursues.

Attending the meeting on Sept. 10 were three members of Sons of the American Legion, all of them with suggestions as to what could be done to improve the Post. They recommended forming a committee that would consist of Post members, SAL members, the Ladies Auxiliary and possibly a representative of the social members. The committee's function would be to address financial and social matters, and they will probably be very proactive in determining the future of the Post.

Ed Shipp reported that the Renaissance Fair excursion was a flop; the event was poorly attended, which resulted in a financial loss. In the future a survey will be made before we commit monetary resources to such an event.

We mourn the loss of Carol Ann Lane and Comrade Hugh Cuccinello. Michael Jawski is on the mend after serious surgery.

Mike Treat piped aboard the new members at our last meeting: Edward De Nabe and John Stebe.

Until next month, at ease...

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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### Public School 175

Principal Amy Lipson and assistant principal Josephine Rondi would like to welcome back the children, parents and faculty for the 2007–2008 school year. Ms. Holzmann and Mrs. Miskimmon are teaching kindergarten, and Mrs. Cambria and Mrs. Stevelman will be working with the first-graders. The second- and third- graders are fortunate to have Mrs. Carter-Spencer, Mrs. Eisen, Mrs. McManus and Ms. Stanford. Grade 4 teachers are Mrs. DiMaio and Ms. Maryl, and the fifth grade will be taught by Ms. Minor and Ms. Wiehler. The homeroom teachers for the sixth grade are Ms. Rodrigues and Ms. Tighe. Math teachers are Ms. Ramos and Mr. Lafreniere; Mrs. Horowitz and Ms. Jensen are teaching literacy; seventh- and eighth-grade science is being taught by Ms. Heil and social studies by Ms. Goulian.

Ms. Crawford will guide the computer/technology program, and Mr. Fecht will teach physical education. The marine wildlife program will be taught by Ms. Bottjer, and the art program will be headed by Ms. Lopez. The guidance counselor is Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Weis supervises speech services.

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Mrs. Jane Dennehy, principal, welcomes the following faculty members for the 2007–2008 school year. The Pre-K teacher is Mrs. Joyce Ocasio, who will be assisted by Mrs. Birla Gonzalez. Ms. Beth Nesheiwat will teach kindergarten, aided by Mrs. Maria Torres. The first-graders will be taught by Sr. Joan McKinney, and the second grade will have Mrs. Janice Guarino. Mrs. Theresa Bivona is the third-grade teacher, and Mrs. Helen McMahan and Mrs. Lisa Moore will teach grades 4 and 5, respectively. The sixth-graders will again have Mr. Robert Garrison; Mr. Evan Beskin will teach Grade 7 and Mrs. Audrey Cabbell-Delgado will have the eighth-graders.

Mrs. Diane O'Halloran will head the computer program; the art instructor is Ms. Bilma Garcia; Mr. John Domenick will teach music, and Miss Rachel Mirabito will teach physical education. The school nurse is Mrs. Maria E. Torres.



### Chefs

The foreign and U.S. independent film market, as well as mainstream Hollywood producers, have over the years cooked up some succulent food offerings for us. From Japan there is **Tampopo** (1986), which means “dandelion” and is also the name of the main character. Tampopo (Nobuko Miyamoto), a widow with one son, has one great ambition—to become a noodle chef, no easy task. She is befriended by a truck driver who puts her through a rigorous and comical training program. This wonderful plot is set within a number of other satirical food vignettes, including one that combines food with sex and another about a dying mother who rises from her death bed to prepare one last meal for her family. This is a sometimes strange and generally enjoyable movie.

From Taiwan, we have **Eat, Drink, Man, Woman** (1995), directed by Ang Lee, who also brought us the marvelous **Wedding Banquet**. It is the story of Chu (Sihung Lung), the greatest chef in the country, who is a

widower with three grown daughters still living at home. Every Sunday he prepares for his daughters a great feast, which they experience as a terrible ordeal. His tastebuds are deteriorating, and he can only succeed at work if his old friend Wen (Jai Wang) is there to taste everything. The three daughters are Jia-Jen (Kati-Mei Yang), the oldest who is a teacher; Jia-Chien (Chien-Lien Wu), a successful business executive who would rather be a chef; and the youngest, Jia-Ning (Ye-Wen Wang), who is a student. This absorbing film is about their quest for independence and love, with mouth-watering food as a backdrop. The American re-make of this charming film is **Tortilla Soup** (2001), which stars the superb Hector Elizondo as Martin Naranjo, a widowed chef whose grown daughters, Carmen (Jacqueline Obradors), Leticia (Elizabeth Pena) and Maribel (Tamara Mello), live with him. Carmen is a successful businessperson, Leticia a spinster schoolteacher and Maribel is a rebellious student. Raquel Welch is on hand as Hortensia, a very annoying widow with Martin in her sights.

We now move to Denmark, which offers us **Babette's Feast** (1987), a film that spans two decades in the latter half of the 19th century. Two sisters, Philippa (first Hanne Stensgaard/then Bodil Kjer) and Martine (first Vibeke Hastrup/then Birgitte Federspiel), are completely devoted to their father, the head of a religious sect in their tiny village. When a soldier and an opera singer seek respite there, each is smitten with one of the sisters, but to no avail. Eventually, Babette Hersant (Stephane Audran) arrives, having fled political unrest in France, and she works for the sisters for many years. To thank them for giving her shelter in her time of need, Babette prepares a feast for them in this touching film of a simpler time.

Next we come to Mexico with the lovely romance **Like Water for Chocolate** (1992), a fantasy of tradition, passion and magical recipes. A family custom has it that the youngest sister, Tita (Lumi Cavazos), can never marry because she is expected to care for her shrewish widowed mother (Regina Torne). When Tita and Pedro (Marco Leonardi) fall in love, he marries her sister Rosara (Yaveli Arizmerdi) in order to stay near Tita. Throughout the movie, Tita cooks magical food which profoundly affects all who partake.

An American classic film of the 1970s is **Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe** (1978), which stars Robert Morely as an international connoisseur of fine food whose physician has warned him of the mortal dangers of being overweight. This very quirky film also stars Jacqueline Bisset as Natasha, a desert chef and former wife of Robby (George Segal), a fast food tycoon. When many 4-star European chefs are murdered in ways related to each chef's specialty, Robby becomes very concerned about his ex-wife's well-being.

**The Big Night** (1996) is an American independent film about two Italian immigrant brothers, Primo (Tony Shaloub) and Secundo (Stanley Tucci), who have been struggling to make their restaurant succeed. Through the encouragement of Pascal (Ian Holm), a neighboring restaurateur, the brothers put all their resources into cooking for one big night when the famous Louis Prima is supposed to come to dine at their place. The cast also features Minnie Driver as Phyllis, Secundo's girlfriend; Isabella Rossellini as Gabriela, Pascal's seductive wife; and Allisan Janey as Ann, a florist with whom the shy Primo is infatuated.

**No Reservations** (2007) is a recent American comedy-drama about Kate (Catherine Zeta-Jones), a perfectionist whose utter obsession is cooking. As head chef at a restaurant run by Paula (Patricia Clarkson), she is rattled by the presence of the very easy-going sous-chef Nick (Aaron Eckhart). Although this film is promoted as a comedy, it turns rather poignant when Kate's orphaned niece Zoe (Abigail Breslin) comes to live with her. This movie is a re-make of the German comedy, **Mostly Martha** (2002), which was well received and favored by some critics.

For a terrific family film, be sure to see **Ratatouille** (2007), which was reviewed in my previous column, “The Best of Pixar.”

And until next time, happy eating. . .



## Holistic Health Care

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Dr. Harold H. Osborn, M.D., is pleased to announce the opening of an office in New Rochelle, NY, with a primary focus on Holistic Health Counseling and holistic health care.

Holistic Health Counseling involves providing assistance to individuals in one-to-one sessions which seek to answer general questions about health, illness, diet, and exercise. In addition, specific questions about particular illnesses, medications, and remedies will be addressed. Non-allopathic, complementary healing techniques (such as vitamin and mineral therapy, herbs, acupuncture, and chelation) will be suggested whenever appropriate.

The health counseling and treatment sessions will be grounded in an “evidence-based” approach which will attempt to avoid the dogmatic tradition of Western medicine and recommend healing modalities that have proven efficacy. Whenever a holistic approach is utilized it will be fully integrated with each patient's individual treatment plan.

**Office hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11 am to 4 pm.

**Phone:** Call 914-235-8385 to schedule an appointment.

**Fees:** Fees are based on a sliding scale.

**About Dr. Osborn:** Harold H. Osborn, M.D., FACP, FACEP, ACMT, has practiced medicine for 25 years. He is licensed to practice medicine in New York, is board certified in internal medicine, emergency medicine, and toxicology, and has formal training in pediatrics. He is the founder of The Oaks, a holistic healing arts center in New Rochelle, NY.

# 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.

## Anne T. (Flynn) Eisenhower

Anne T. Eisenhower, 68, of Hobe Sound, Florida and City Island died on Aug. 30, 2007, at home, after a life filled with both joy and burdens.

Born and raised on City Island, Anne, known to all as Nancy, was the oldest daughter of Theodore and Anna Flynn. She graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Preston High School. She worked for many years at Thwaites Restaurant on City Island and as a medical secretary at Bronx State Hospital. She also worked as a teacher's assistant with high school and middle school children with special needs in Newtown, Connecticut.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Robert J. Eisenhower; her son, Robert W. Eisenhower; a sister, Mary Elizabeth Janakis, of Lynnfield, Massachusetts; and a brother, Theodore J. Flynn, of Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Sept. 29, 2007.

## William Zima

William Zima, 70, died on Aug. 29, 2007, after a long illness. He had retired from the Precision Valve Corporation in Yonkers, New York, in 2000. Formerly a resident of Yonkers, Mr. Zima had lived on City Island since 1990. He was a member of the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, of City Island; his brothers, Thomas and Frank Zima, in Florida, and his sister, Justyne Goodale, of Rotterdam, New York.



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

### Scam Alert

I have been recently notified by several of my clients that they have been recipients of a fraudulent scam/spam e-mail from sources that claim to be either the Internal Revenue Service or New York State. The IRS e-mail usually involves a claim for a refund, and the NYS notice is typically a request for some type of phony corporate registration fee.

At first glance both e-mails look almost real. I recently received one of these e-mails myself, and I have reproduced below a copy to show what it looks like. The IRS does not send out random e-mails advising taxpayers that they have refunds available, certainly not for nominal amounts as in the example below.

These e-mails are referred to as "phishing" expeditions and will always attempt to entice you to click a link for further infor-

**Internal Revenue Service**  
United States Department of the Treasury

After the last annual calculations of your fiscal ac have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of \$109.30. Please submit the tax refund req allow us 6-9 days in order to process it.

A refund can be delayed for a variety of reasons. For example submitting invalid records or applying afte deadline.

To access the form for your tax refund, please (this is where the click here link was located)

Regards,  
Internal Revenue Service

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*Scam website sample.*

mation or some other reason. DO NOT CLICK the link, because the hyperlink provided is a dangling carrot. If you "click here," you will most likely expose yourself to a computer virus or, even worse, a savvy hacker who can somehow extract your personal information and attempt to steal your identity. It is by these means that hackers obtain information about your credit status, as well as your contact lists and personal

e-mail lists.

It is very important that you ignore and delete these messages, as well as all other types of "phishing" e-mail. The subject line of the e-mail I received read "Refund Tax" and the "From" line read "Refund @ IRS.GOV." The "Reply To" line read: "no-reply @ IRS.GOV."

For more information about this scam, visit the real IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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**Why the Sky is Blue, Sunset Red and Water White**

Have you ever noticed how the sound of a siren appears to change pitch as the sound gets closer and then farther away? The pitch seems to get higher as the sound approaches; lower as it moves away. It happens this way because wavelengths of sound that have shorter distances to travel are heard as higher pitches than those wavelengths that have longer distances to travel. It is as if the shorter distances force the shorter wavelengths (i.e., higher pitches) upon us.

Like sound, light moves in waves. At noon, when the sun is as close to overhead as it's going to get for the day, it is the shortest wavelengths of light that we see in a clear sky. And what color are those shortest wavelengths? You guessed it—blue.

At sunset, on the other hand, when the shining sun is as far from where we stand on Earth, it is the longest wavelengths

of light that we see. And light's longest wavelengths are, of course, the reds.

The sunsets that we have grown accustomed to in fall owe their splendor to crisp autumn air—air that is relatively free from interfering particles in the atmosphere—and the ever-increasing distances between ourselves and the source of all that autumn joy. Behold!

Needless to say, the waves that we are most accustomed to around here are in the water all around us. An interesting thing to remember is that water, like glass, is colorless. And yet it is a wave's whitecaps we notice first on a windy day. It is an illusion, though, a trick of the light. The whiteness observed is what happens when light waves are scattered in so many directions at the same time. It is kind of observational overload. The whiteness of clouds and of the falling snow can be explained in the same way.

Comments or questions? Send them all to [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).



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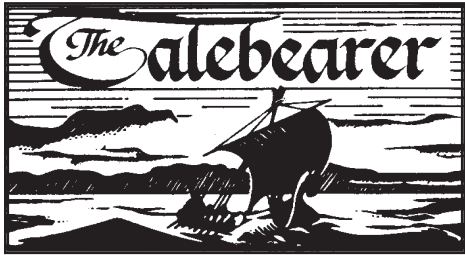
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



**Melissa Leni and Paul Revans.**

Melissa Leni of Hawkins Street and Paul Revans of Yonkers tied the knot on July 8th at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. The reception was held at the VIP Club in New Rochelle. The couple enjoyed their honeymoon in Aruba.

Happy birthday across the miles to Sunjay Sebastian, who turns 21 on Oct. 29. May the "force" be with you. With love from the Swieciki family.

Congratulations to Nicole Pirraglia and Richard Mueller, who welcomed Richard John Mueller IV on June 21, 2007. Proud grandparents are Lori and Gerard Pirraglia of City Island and Eva and Rich Mueller of the Bronx. Thrilled great-grandparents are City Island's Sonny Pirraglia of King Avenue and Dorothy Gregorio of Fordham Street. Baby Richard was greeted by an ecstatic group of aunts and uncles, including Lisa, Gabrielle and Gerard Pirraglia.

Happy October anniversaries to Mike and Judy Rauh, John and Linda Wright, and Mike and Roseann Bunyan.

If you are running in the NYC Marathon on Nov. 4, or any fall marathon, please call 718-885-2079. We'd like to run a photo.

A "shout out" to John Peters, Jeanine McKeever and the rest of the City Islanders who did the New York Triathlon this summer. Congratulations! Please send us a photo and your finish times.

Happy birthday on Oct. 10 to little Bob Carmody, who turns 11. And best wishes to his sister, Kelly, who turns 17 on Oct. 20.

Birthday greetings to Faith Zapata, who turns five on Oct. 15. With hugs and kisses from great grandma Terry.

Happy 16th birthday to Mikey Carmody on Oct. 24 with love from your family.

James Barron and Ann Marie Mataraza



**Jason Barron and Ann Marie Mataraza.**

were married on June 30 in Pine Bush, New York. The ceremony was followed by a reception held at Round Hill in Washingtonville. The newlyweds honeymooned in Hawaii.

Happy 97th birthday to Islander Evelyn Gauss, who celebrated on Sept. 23. Evie is the longest attending parishioner at Grace Church on Pilot Street—more than 70 years! With love from all her 11 great grandchildren (maybe 12 by the time *The Current* hits the stands).

Congratulations to King Avenue resident Mark Nani, who turns 21 and "legal" on Oct. 22.

Russell Schaller spent a week in Aberdeen, Maryland, in August watching his grandson, Dylan Callahan (also the grandson of Jim Callahan on Earley Street), compete with the Greenwich, Connecticut, Cal Ripken League All-Stars in the 12U Cal Ripken World Series. Dylan was the starting shortstop and lead-off batter throughout the CT State Championships and then Northeastern Regional Championships, culminating in their representing New England in the Cal Ripken 12U World Series, which hosted ten teams from throughout the United States, as well as six international teams.

Barbara Callahan, granddaughter of Russ and Jim, also had a stellar performance as shortstop with the Greenwich Lady Redbirds 16U PONY League Softball Team. Although only one of two 13-year-olds on the team, she was voted MVP of the season.

Get well wishes to Lickety Split's Skip Giacco.

Hope to see you all at the Halloween parade!

Maria Swieciki

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**Dylan Callahan, grandson of Islanders Bill Callahan and Russell Schaller, making a tag at second base during the Cal Ripken World Series.**



**Islander Russell Schaller, Cal Ripken, Jr., and Barbara Callahan, Russell's granddaughter.**

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