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One Dollar

Holidays Marred by Island Teens

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BOB BERENT

A warmly dressed group joined together for the lighting of the menorah on Friday, Dec. 19, 2003.

Every five or six years, Islanders begin to notice that small groups of teenagers gather regularly at certain points along City Island Avenue in the evening, not just to hang out but to draw attention to themselves by behaving in ways that many residents find either threatening and even criminal.

During the past few months, a number of teens have been observed throwing rocks and snowballs at cars on the Avenue, harassing shopkeepers and even engaging in what the police term bias crimes.

At Halloween, police responded quickly when anti-Hispanic graffiti were found on the P.S. 175 building, likely directed at the school's principal and some members of her staff. No arrests were made, however.

Late in the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 19, 2003, during a ceremony in which the menorah in Hawkins Street Park was being lit in celebration of the first night of Hannukah, a group of youths across the street from the park heckled the group of about 30 people. By 6 p.m. the teens, both boys and girls, were seen pulling on the menorah and knocking down one of the celebrants. The police were called but did not arrive until 9 p.m., by which time the teens had dispersed.

The following morning, Paul Klein, proprietor of Exotiq, a shop on the corner of Hawkins and City Island Avenue, saw on the sidewalk in front of the Silver Moon a swastika drawn in chalk. He went to get a camera but, by the time he returned, the swastika had been rubbed out. Mr. Klein reported the incident to both 911 and 311, and detectives came from the 45th Precinct to investigate what they believed to be a bias crime. Because the swastika no longer existed, however, there was no evidence and nothing further could be done.

Several members of the Chamber of Commerce, including Mr. Klein, Chamber president Peter LaScala and Ron Turner of the Focal Point Gallery, engaged the services of Epic Security to protect the menorah and the Christmas tree during the following week. There were no further incidents.

Some local press picked up the story from the Police Department blotter, presumably because of the anti-Semitic nature of the inci-

dent, but many Islanders believe that this unfairly depicted City Island as a racist community.

"The perception off the Island that residents are biased against any ethnic group is very hurtful," said Ron Turner. "There may be a few individuals who are biased—perhaps their kids are the ones who did this awful thing—but most residents are not. The problem is that the whole community is hurt by this kind of publicity."

Lieutenant Brenyo of the 45th Precinct agrees. "This kind of thing is rare on City Island. In fact, the Island accounts for about 3 percent of all of the crime in the precinct. It's a safe community. These kids are just making trouble in order to get a reaction from people."

Paul Klein, along with other merchants and residents, believes that the parents of these teens should take responsibility for their behavior. "Everyone knows that there is very little for teenagers to do on City Island, but that's no reason for kids to cause harm to anyone. They are trying to draw attention to themselves, which is not surprising, but when it takes the form of an ethnic slur, then something has got to be done. And it's up to their parents to keep them from creating problems."

Mr. Klein was told by a parent of one of the teenagers that he should call the parents instead of the police when there was trouble. Mr. Klein pointed out to her, however, that most of the shopkeepers do not know the kids or their parents. "If they would bring their kids around to introduce them and give us phone numbers, I'd be glad to call them instead of the cops," he said, "but so far no one has followed up on my suggestion."

Mr. Turner and his wife, Susan, have recently embarked on a photographic/ video project involving teens, and he hopes that this will help bridge the generation gap with the current group of teens.

Jay Howard has worked for several years through the City Island Community Center to create a Teen Center on Saturday nights, but his success has been limited because so few parents volunteer to help him manage the activities.

The Boy Scouts also offer an activity for

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GRIEVING PARENTS PURSUE E-911 IMPROVEMENT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

It has been a year since four teenage boys were drowned off the eastern shore of City Island on Friday, Jan. 24, 2003, when the small boat they were rowing sank into the icy waters. But the Enhanced 911 system (E-911) that might have helped save their lives is still not a reality in New York City.

As the parents of the four boys—Carlo Wertenbaker of City Island, Henry Badillo of the Bronx, and Max Guarino and Andrew Melnikov of Manhattan—waited for several months for the bodies to be recovered, in spite of an intense search by the New York City Police Department and many volunteers, they announced their intention to file a lawsuit against the city of New York because the 911 system did not respond at all to a desperate call for help made by Henry Badillo as the boat began to sink.

The drowning incident, which drew a great deal of media attention, prompted politicians and other activists to press for an accelerated schedule to implement the E-911 system in New York City so that calls from cell phones would enable responders to identify the caller's location. The state of New York has been collecting surcharges since 1991 for this system, but little of the money, estimated to be more than \$200 million, has been used to fund the E-911 system.

In February 2003, the City Council passed a resolution introduced by the Public Safety Committee, chaired by Peter Vallone Jr., calling on the state legislature to allocate all wireless surcharge fees collected from New York City residents directly to New York City for use in developing and enhancing the city's E-911 system. Thanks to an audit made in 2002 by Controller Carl McCall's office, it was discovered that some of the money collected had gone for State Police expenses. "Had this money from New York City residents been used as the law required, this tragedy may have been averted," Mr. Vallone said. "Instead, the state took our money and used it to fund a service that New York City residents don't use. This follows a long pattern of neglect by New York State of New York City residents."

Last year, New York State did allocate \$100 million in the current state budget (over the veto of the Governor George Pataki) for the E-911 system statewide, but how much, if any, of that money will come to New York City is not known. Counties are required to apply for a share of this money by March 5, 2004, but a spokesperson for the NYPD would not confirm whether or not the city was planning to file an application.

Some parents of the teens have attended meetings in Albany and in the city with the NYPD and have been assured that the E-911 system is in the process of being completed. In 1996, the Federal Communications Commission set forth a timetable by which states, localities and wireless carriers should be able to identify the location of callers from wireless devices. Phase I (the telephone number of the originator of the call and the location of the cell site or antenna receiving the call) was to have been in place by April 1998; Phase II (in which the wireless carrier must provide 911 operators with the location of all calls by longitude and latitude) was to be in place by October 2001. These deadlines were eventually extended for technological reasons, with the date of Dec. 31, 2005 given for the implementation of Phase II.

At a City Council hearing in February 2003, held in response to the drowning incident, the NYPD agreed to accelerate its efforts to implement both Phase I and Phase II and to have in place an interim solution to Phase II by December 2003. The Police Department spokesperson told *The Current* in January 2004 that the department had completed both phases but would give no details about whether or not they had actually been implemented.

As reported recently by *Consumer Reports*, New York's situation is not unusual. As of October 2003, only 18 percent of the country's emergency call centers were equipped with up-to-date wireless E-911 systems and only 35 percent of these centers have reached Phase I. Calls to 911 from land-line telephones automatically register the

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WINNING WARRIORS!



Photo by KATHY CIARLETTA

The McNulty F. H. Rams won the Warrior Football Junior Division Championship with a 27 to 7 victory against the Middletown Animal Clinic Royals on Nov. 29, 2003. The team finished a great season in first place in their division and winning the championship game. Congratulations to the City Islanders who were part of the victorious team (above, l. to r.): coach Mike Zapata, Jehad Mahmud, Matt Cullen, Johnny McGowan, Joey Ciarletta and Michael Zapata. Registration for the 2004 Warriors Football season will be coming up soon. For more information, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574. The program is co-ed and includes flag and tackle football and cheerleading.

BRIEFLY...

COLONY SAILBOATS: The City Island neighborhood youth organization, COLONY, has been given two sailboats. They are looking for experienced sailors willing to teach a small group of teenagers how to sail. Would anyone who is interested please call Tom McMahon at 718-885-1197 or Nancy Lotrionte at 718-885-0941 for further information.

BLOOD DRIVE: The Bronx Masons will hold a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and social security number are required at the time of donation. For more information, call Scott Meyer at 718-885-0374.

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE: The eighth-grade students of P.S. 175 will hold their annual Valentine's Day Sale on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the school gym. The sale will feature home-baked goods, new gifts for sale (from \$.50 to \$5) and raffle items. Proceeds help pay for the eighth grade's graduation expenses. Stop by on your way to work or school and buy a gift for your valentine! The school is located at 200 City Island Avenue. The public is invited to join in the fun.

PELHAM BAY WILDLIFE will be the subject of a talk by naturalist Dr. Robert DeCandido at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. His slide presentation will focus on the wildlife and ecology of New York City's largest public park, and a night walk in search of owls will follow immediately afterward. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Advanced registration is appreciated; call 718-885-1461.

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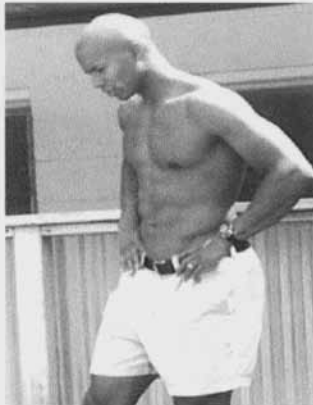
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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September through November 2003. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list, nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – PETIT LARCENY
- 3 – GRAND LARCENY
- 4 – GRAND LARCENY (auto)
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 5 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 3 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT/ PROPERTY DAMAGE
- 5 – LOST PROPERTY
- 10 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 – RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – ARSON
- 1 – POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE (marijuana)
- 1 – IDENTITY THEFT

Police report the following arrests for the month of September:

9/7 – At 9 p.m. at 1 City Island Avenue, a male, 24, was arrested and charged with assault for allegedly punching a victim in the face.

9/10 – A male, 22, was observed in public view with a burning marijuana cigarette at the corner of City Island Avenue and Schofield Street. He was arrested and charged with possession of an illegal substance.

9/5-9/26 - Police made six arrests for DWI at the northeast corner of Bridge Street and City Island Avenue. Defendants were stopped for traffic violations and found to be driving under the influence of alcohol.

OCTOBER

- 3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 3 – ASSAULT
- 5 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT
- 2 – LOST PROPERTY
- 5 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – VIOLATION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC LAWS
- 1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 – CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

1 – FALSE REPORT

Police report the following arrests for the month of October:

10/1 – A female, 19, was arrested and charged with violation of vehicular traffic laws. The defendant was observed driving in the emergency lane on City Island Avenue. Police found she was driving with a cancelled learner's permit and a suspended license.

10/18 – Police arrested a male, 54, for petit larceny at 10:30 a.m. on City Island Avenue. After receiving a complaint, police watched the tape from a video camera and observed the defendant removing \$230 from a cash box.

10/27 – At 5:15 a.m. on Schofield Street, a male, 31, allegedly pulled out a handgun and threatened a female victim during a verbal dispute. The defendant was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

10/31 – At the corner of Bowne Street and City Island Avenue, a male, 40, was arrested at 6:40 p.m. and charged with assault after allegedly hitting a victim with a can of shaving cream, causing lacerations requiring six stitches.

NOVEMBER

- 3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY (auto)
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 6 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT
- 6 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 – RESISTING ARREST
- 1 – CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

Police report the following arrests for the month of November:

11/1 – At 5 p.m. at Bridge Street and City Island Avenue, a male, 50, was observed operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. When police attempted to stop him, he fled the scene in his vehicle, causing the police to pursue him. The defendant then allegedly attempted to flee on foot and eventually became violent. He was charged with resisting arrest.

11/30 – A male, 38, was arrested and charged with assault at 1:50 p.m. on Minneford Avenue. According to police, the defendant became enraged when his wife refused to sign divorce papers. He assaulted the victim, causing bruises.

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CHAMBER SELECTS HONOREES FOR 2004 AWARDS

By KAREN NANI

Recognizing contributions ranging from community board service to fund raising and photography, the City Island Chamber of Commerce has named three residents and two off-Islanders as their 2004 honorees. They will be officially recognized at the 93rd Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, April 2, at the Lido Restaurant on City Island Avenue.

The board of directors selected the award winners for their "dedication and exemplary voluntary efforts," according to chairperson, Jane LaScala. They are Bob Carmody of Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Peter Karikas of the Lobster Box Restaurant, James Vacca of Community Board 10; Rena Hansen of *The Island Current* and Joe Burck Jr. of J.J. Burck, Inc.

Bob Carmody (Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award): Although Bob Carmody was born in Throggs Neck, his City Island roots began to take hold at the age of seven when he moved here with his family. While attending school, Bob started working in City Island restaurants as a busboy, waiter, bartender and manager. In 1986, Bob married Island resident Diane Kirchner; they are the proud parents of Kelly, age 13, and little Bob, age 7.

After purchasing their first home, Bob developed an interest in real estate and decided to pursue it as a career. In 1989, after receiving his license as a real estate agent, Bob accepted a position with Century 21 in New Rochelle. After a year's experience and education, Bob attained his license as a real estate broker and felt it was time to branch out on his own. In 1990, Atlantic Emeritus Realty was born after he purchased PAAR Realty from Peter Roccio and Bette Lacina, R.N., who coincidentally was Bob's delivery nurse when he was born at Westchester Square Hospital.

After he established his business, Bob began to volunteer for local activities and causes. He was instrumental in forming the ad hoc committee to stop the closure of the City Island firehouse in 1990. He did fund-raising for the City Island Community Center and worked with local officials to secure funds for renovations of storefronts on City Island Avenue. Many Islanders know him as the organizer of the annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest. He is also a sponsor and coach for City Island Little League, as well as serving on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

Peter Karikas (Tom Cerreta Accomplished Business Service Award): After attending St. John's University in Queens, New York and the French Culinary Institute in SoHo, Peter took over the reigns of the Lobster Box Restaurant located at the far end of City Island Avenue. The Lobster Box has been a City Island landmark for 46 years. Peter was able to apply his expertise and training to new menus for the restaurant, while maintaining the friendly service long established by his father, John.

Peter has always been a strong and active supporter of the City Island community, and he does this without fanfare. His jovial personality makes him popular with both staff members and friends.

He lives in Long Island and has been married to his wife, Colleen, for over 10 years. They have three children, John, 10; Zoe, 7; and Elias, 4. He and his wife are expecting another child in July 2004. Whenever he has spare time, Peter enjoys hockey, karate and photography. His works on are display at the Lobster Box.

Rena Hansen (Service to Community Award): Rena was raised in Detroit, Michigan. She married Hans Hansen and raised two boys and one girl in Ohio. She

graduated from Hiram College and then got a master's degree ("in middle life") from Columbia University in New York. She and her husband discovered City Island after helping a friend with his boat, and they moved here in 1975. After her husband died in 1987, Rena continued to live here with her two cats, Gypsy and Joanie. Fortunately, her granddaughter works in Manhattan and loves to visit City Island.

Rena was active in Island Patchwork, the former theater group, and continues her interest in the performing arts with the new City Island Theater Group. She has been a photographer for *The Island Current* for over 15 years. She has photographed many of the island's residents (see *Local Views* this issue for her latest work), as well as many of its most famous visitors (Mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg and the cast of the television show "Law and Order," to name a few). She is a docent (tour guide) at the Neuberger Museum at Purchase College and has also supervised a senior art group at Bronx House. She also enjoys her City Island Book Group.

James Vacca (Special Recognition of Exemplary Service to Community Award): James Vacca became interested in government at the age of 13, when, as a ninth grader at JHS 101, he organized a drive to improve service for students on the #5 bus. In 1973, he was elected president of the Columbus High School Student Association. Soon afterward, he served as an officer of the Pelham Bay Taxpayers and Civic Association, the 45th Precinct Community Council and Middletown Plaza Senior Citizen Center.

At age 23, Jimmy was elected president of the board of directors of the Northeast Bronx Senior Citizen Center in St. Benedicts Church, which has grown to one of the largest senior centers in the city and where he continues to serve to this day. In 1989 and again in 1993, he was elected to Community School Board 8.

He is best known for his stewardship at Community Board 10, where he marks his 24th year of service this July. Whether it's City Island, Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck, Co-op City or Zerega, Jimmy is respected for both his knowledge and integrity. Specifically, he has fought alongside Islanders in their efforts to control traffic, preserve our maritime heritage and improve municipal services.

He and his wife, Shirley, are proud parents of Elizabeth Marie, a fourth grader at P.S. 175 on City Island, where Jimmy is the chair of the School Leadership Team.

Joe Burck Jr. (Catherine Scott Achievement Award): A clam digger, Joe attended P.S. 175 through the sixth grade and spent seventh and eighth grades at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. He then attended St. Helena Commercial School in the Bronx.

Throughout his teen years, Joe was energetic and resourceful and applied his enthusiasm to various projects at the City Island Community Center. With the help of Jay Howard and other teens, Joe worked on the famous Haunted House display every year at Halloween for the enjoyment of everyone on City Island. He has also worked at the Food Pantry at Trinity Church.

When his father retired two years ago from one of City Island's oldest businesses, J.J. Burck Hardware and Marine Store, Joe took charge at the young age of 20. He refurbished the old-time store with a larger assortment of new merchandise and displays, turning it into a first-class business for mariners and hardware enthusiasts.

In receiving the Catherine Scott Achievement Award, Joe is to be commended for his tenacity in carrying out his responsibilities at such a young age.

P.S. 175 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL RECEIVES NEW APPOINTMENT

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Jeanette Vargas, the assistant principal at P. S. 175, has been promoted to principal of I.S. 192 on Hollywood Avenue in the Bronx. The students at the City Island School gave her a special send-off on her last day, Jan. 9, 2004. Miss Vargas worked at P.S. 175 for 14 years as a teacher, staff developer and, for the last four years, as assistant principal. She is shown above receiving gifts and parting hugs from the many students who will miss her.

While her students are promoted all the time, P. S. 175 assistant principal, Jeanette Vargas, received her own promotion to interim acting principal at I. S. 192 in the Bronx. Students and faculty from kindergarten through the eighth grade gave the popular assistant principal a tribute on her last day, Jan. 16, 2004.

Miss Vargas arrived at P.S. 175 14 years ago as a mathematics teacher. Former principal Ena Ellwanger told *The Current* how it happened. "When Frank Arricale was district superintendent, he was looking for an assistant principal for M.S. 113. Knowing I was cutting off my nose to spite my face, I suggested Matt Sicilian, the popular math teacher at P.S. 175 at the time. All the while, I wondered where am I going to get another math teacher who can work with middle school people?"

After Mr. Sicilian accepted the new job, Mrs. Ellwanger began her search with another principal, Jim Duffy, who told her about a woman at M.S. 135 waiting for a math position to open in September. The superintendent called Miss Vargas and told her she should go to the City Island School to meet with Mrs. Ellwanger.

"She came, and after I gave her my spiel, she thanked me and told me she did not want to come to 175. I cajoled a little more and she wouldn't budge. By this time I knew she was the right teacher for 175, so I just told her that she had no choice and I would see her in September. The rest is history."

Miss Vargas became a staff developer and four years ago was appointed assistant principal. Their working relationship flourished, according to Mrs. Ellwanger. "We thought as one, and working with her was not work. It was a natural flow."

Mrs. Ellwanger retired in 2002. Since then, Miss Vargas has been a valued partner to the new principal, Millie Lopez. "Miss Vargas and I combined our strengths to promote the extensive educational program of P.S. 175, including professional development for our teachers so they would be better equipped to handle the teaching challenges of our present day," Mrs. Lopez told *The Current*.

Miss Vargas will be remembered for many accomplishments at City Island's highly rated elementary school. She conducted a successful series of Family Math nights to help parents and students appreciate mathematics together. She was highly respected by the teachers she worked with as the school's staff developer. Miss Vargas was also popular with the City Island community, even though she was not a resident. She met and impressed many Islanders at Fleet Weekend open houses, Chamber of Commerce annual dinners and

other community events.

She was quick to tell *The Current* that her most important relationships were with the students she had the pleasure of teaching during her 14 years at the school. Miss Vargas had tears in her eyes as each class made special presentations to her on her last day. They sang songs, recited poems, presented original artwork and books and gave her enough flowers to turn her familiar RAV4 car into a Rose Bowl float.

Third and fourth graders in faculty member Ray Weiss' sign language class presented the grand finale to the tribute. They sang and signed "My Heart Will Go On," the theme from the movie "Titanic." As they reached the final verses, hundreds of paper hearts floated down from the balcony around the second floor of the school. In her goodbye speech to the students, Miss Vargas encouraged them to "always move forward."

She begins her new responsibilities at I.S. 192 immediately. The intermediate school is on Hollywood and Randall Avenues past Villa Barone Manor. Although it houses fewer grades than P.S. 175, the student population is 1,300 in grades 5 to 8, almost two and a half times the number at the City Island School.

Mrs. Ellwanger knew it was inevitable. "You never bring anyone into the assistant principal position, which is the training ground, unless you know they could be a principal someday. She's got a tough job ahead of her, but if anyone can do it, she can. Jeanette is honest, trustworthy and compassionate, and she has values that she is determined to share with the children. She believes in the children and she doesn't suffer fools easily. She has no use for people who are not in the profession for the children."

Mrs. Lopez agrees. "She is a dedicated and caring individual who has always exercised professional judgment as it related to meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of our students. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to develop a working relationship and lasting friendship with Miss Vargas."

A new assistant principal will join the administration at P.S. 175. She is Josephine Rondi, who served as special education supervisor at the school last year. Mrs. Lopez is optimistic about working with Ms. Rondi. "She comes to P.S. 175 with many years of fine educational and supervisory experience. She is familiar with the teachers, students and parents at our school and we have worked together throughout the years in different professional endeavors."



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.

Misguided Preservation

To the Editor,

City Islanders, myself included, are losing what makes our home such a great place, and no, I am not talking about our bridge. I am talking about our boatyards. I hear people talking about saving the bridge and making the Island pretty, but what about saving the boatyards? Boatyards are expensive, difficult to manage, and subject to countless regulations — so the economic reasons for yard owners to sell are obvious. Yet some Islanders continue to hang on. What are we losing? We lose access to the water. We lose places for families to keep their boats and teach their

children safe boating. We lose the on-land clanging of sailboat masts in the winter.

Unfortunately, I have not seen many Islanders move to act on this loss. In fact, some of the Island leaders who are supposed to voice our concerns on such issues were the first people to sell their boatyards for housing. City Island efforts to preserve its nautical heritage are misguided. We can always build a new bridge to look like the old one, or renovate run-down buildings to look classic, but we can never paint or renovate something to resemble a boatyard. Once a boatyard is gone, it is gone forever, and so much more than boats is lost. Shame on us musselsuckers and clamdiggers.

Waldo Persteins

Warm Thanks

To the Editor,

Bronx Masons held a Clothes Drive on Saturday, November 22, 2003. Thanks to the generosity of City Islanders, over 250 bags of Clothing were given to St. Athanasius Church in the South Bronx. Sister Thomas was thrilled with the donation. Thanks again to all who donated. Special Thanks go to Susan Winter, who graciously volunteers to put up posters in stores for this event and our Blood drives.

Scott Meyer

Holidays Marred

Continued from page 1

teenagers, but the young people who have been seen causing trouble along the Avenue are not members of Troop 211.

One resident recently told *The Current* that he was thinking about selling his house and moving away because he found the situation with the unruly teenagers so disturbing. "Their parents should have more control or at least teach them how to behave," he said. A close friend of his used to work at one of the shops on City Island Avenue and was regularly harassed by the youths. "She was very frightened by them," he said, "but she was

much too timid to call the police. This kind of behavior is just not acceptable on City Island."

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CITY ISLAND'S MEMORIAL: WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE?

By RUSSELL SCHALLER



Photos by KAREN NANI

On Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003, in the middle of an early winter snowstorm, a group of veterans gathered at the World War II Memorial at the City Island Bridge to pay homage to the 17 men and boys of City Island who were killed in the war. Each year around the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the 17 names are read by surviving veterans, a prayer is offered and a wreath is placed at the base of the memorial.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003, at 12 noon, a hardy group of veterans gathered, as they do every year, at the World War II Memorial at the City Island Bridge. The purpose of this event, sponsored by the Sons of the Legion, American Legion Post 156, is to pay homage to the 17 men and boys of City Island who paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of their country.

What was unusual this year was that those present braved a howling snowstorm to take part in the ceremony, which happened to be witnessed by Karen Nani, editor of *The Island Current*. Knowing that I am a bona fide member of Post 156, Karen called to learn more about the significance of the event. I told her that the Post deemed it important that the 17 Islanders never be forgotten. Each year the 17 names are read by surviving veterans, a prayer is offered and a wreath is placed at the base of the memorial.

Karen suggested that we might eulogize

those whose names appear on the memorial by recounting what we know about them.

Robert Leupp Jr., Company B 315th Infantry, 79th Division, U. S. Army, was killed in action on July 4, 1944, near St. Lo in France. Robby was just a teenager, who married his childhood sweetheart on his rest leave. Ten days later he was on his way overseas and to his demise. Robby was declared missing in action for several years but was eventually identified by bone fragments in his boot, which also bore his Army serial number. In 1949 his father decided his remains would remain in Europe, so Robby is interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium, final resting place to many who were missing in action. For more on Robby, see Tom McGuire's article "To the Fallen G.I.s," which appeared in the September 2003 issue of *The Current*. His late brother Clinton's wife, Helen, still spends summers on City Island, and a cousin, Phil, aka Paul Romsen,

signal from reaching the handset." Lack of service is still a major issue for cellular telephones, because phones are programmed to seek out signals from the caller's carrier "even if another carrier's signal is stronger."

Dolphi Wertenbaker, the mother of Carlo Wertenbaker, told *The Current* that she and some of the other parents were still vigorously pursuing this issue. They feel that without public pressure, serious efforts to implement the E-911 system for cell-phone users will not be made, and they feel that if this system had been in place, there might have been a chance for the boys to be saved. Although she and the others appreciate the good wishes and sympathy for their tragic loss, she said she hoped that people would join in the effort to press for E-911 to be completed. "Call your elected officials, write petitions, ask your cell-phone carrier what their capabilities are. Think of what might happen if you were walking in Pelham Bay Park and couldn't tell the emergency operator exactly where you were. This is an issue that affects everyone."

Mrs. Wertenbaker had another request, which was to let everyone know how very grateful she and the other parents are for all the help and support given to them in their search for the boys. She especially noted the tireless efforts of Captain Mike Carew and his diving team, as well as the transport generously provided by John and Jay Barron, from whose yard the fatal boat was taken. "There were so many who helped and comforted us," she said. "Mrs. Badillo's parish is honoring the boys at a memorial service on Jan. 25, and this is an important way to remember them. But there is still more for us to do in helping prevent similar tragedies in the future."



Robert W. Fenton



Photos courtesy of AMERICAN LEGION POST 156
Robert Leupp, Jr.



Robert "Sonny" Jones



William S. Stringham

resides on Earley Street.

Kenneth P. Stratmann was the son of our local chiropractor and lived at 176 Schofield Street. Ken was a few years older than I and graduated from P. S. 17 in January 1933. He was an aerial gunner in the 15th Army Air Corps. He was shot down, and his body was never recovered.

Robert Sonny Jones was the night manager at the City Island Diner before going into the Army. Robert enlisted on March 16, 1943, and was killed in action in Florence, Italy, on Sept. 21, 1944. Ed Sadler remembers Robert as an affable individual. Ed and his friends would frequent the diner on Friday nights after attending a movie, and according to Ed, Robert made the best BLT sandwiches.

Russell Winfield Wade graduated from P. S. 17 in, I believe, 1937, a year behind me. He was a U.S. Navy gunner assigned to the *S.S. Paul Hamilton*. The following is taken from *Straight and Level, The Story of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in World War II*, "It was Adolf Hitler's 55th birthday, at approximately 2100 hours. The Luftwaffe came through the dusk, JU-88's and HE-111's at very low altitude. The ship and all aboard were blown to bits . . . not a single body was found. The ship was not only carrying military personnel, but high explosives as well." Russell Wade's family donated the beautiful stained-glass window above the altar in the Trinity Methodist Church in his memory. Most of the family relocated to Maine. Russell's brother Herbert lives in Florida.

William S. Stringham, Cox, U. S. Naval Reserve, was born on April 1, 1921, and was

killed in action in the Pacific Theater of Operations on Feb. 12, 1943. Bill was a graduate of P.S. 17. He is the only WW II veteran killed in action who is buried in Pelham Cemetery. His headstone is located by the Stringham family plot.

Gerald McAlarney became an aviation cadet late in 1942. Jerry, flying a P-39, crashed in New Guinea. His body was never recovered. He had lived at 179 Reville Street.

Raymond Leon Jones graduated from P. S. 17 and lived at 86 Hawkins Street. He entered the Army in 1943. Assigned to the infantry, he was wounded in Normandy and sent to a hospital near Oxford, England. He wrote to me from there, as I was at the time stationed at Charlgrove, England. I went to visit him, but he had already been returned to his unit. He was killed somewhere in Europe.

Robert W. Fenton enlisted in the Marine Corps shortly after graduating from Evander Childs High School in 1937. Those who knew Robert would remember his prowess as a burly football player. He fought as a Marine Raider, an elite unit similar to the Army Rangers, and was killed in the Pacific theater. A brother, Arthur, a B-17 pilot in WW II, resides in Pilot Cove, and a nephew, Robert, operates Fenton Marina. His sister June, deceased, was the mother of Marguerite Chadwick Juner.

John Joseph Hirsch Jr. graduated from P. S. 17 in January 1933, in the same class as Kenneth Stratmann. Ed Sadler told me that John's sister Anna graduated from P. S. 17 with him. John's sister Eileen graduated in the same class as I, married William Lutz and now lives in Georgia. John was a gunner in the 15th Army Air Corps and was among those missing in action.

I have not been able to find out much about the following men:

George W. Baltimore, who graduated from P. S. 17 circa 1920

Robert T. Doyle, who lived at 338 King Avenue

Sanford E. Diamond

William Dietrich

Howard Katz

C. F. Danajovits

Edward Kilroe, a brother of the late Father Kilroe of St. Mary's.

Perhaps some readers will be able to add information or make corrections to the above. We would also be interested in seeing photographs.

E-911 Improvements

Continued from page 1

telephone number and address of the caller, but this is not the case for cell phones. In many areas, this is because call centers must install technologically advanced equipment.

In order for the system to work, carriers must also provide consumers with cell phones capable of locating the caller, and many of them already have the capability. However, some carriers, including Verizon, Sprint and Nextel, already produce phones capable of using global positioning satellites (GPS) while others, including T-Mobile, AT&T and Cingular, can use a triangulation system based on the location, strength and timing of nearby cell-phone towers. According to *Consumer Reports*: "both systems will deliver latitude and longitude coordinates to the emergency call center . . . but anything that blocks the line of sight . . . can keep the GPS

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What's Going On In There?
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.

Two new restaurants—as different as one can imagine—opened during the month of January on City Island. The first to open, **Alice's City Island**, is located at 296 City Island Avenue, where Laura's once was. The place has been charmingly painted to recall Wonderland, where Alice and the Mad Hatter reign, drinking tea and eating delicacies of various kinds. Winter hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fresh scones are available every day, along with sandwiches, home-made soup, hand-decorated cupcakes and other desserts. The restaurant specializes in brunch and tea (36 varieties), and the manager, Michael Tucker, says that Alice's can accommodate private parties in the back room for 25 to 30 people and they are also available for catering.

Subway, 632 City Island Avenue, is, of course, a branch of one of the most successful franchise operations in the country, and the menu will come as no surprise to anyone who has frequented other branches. Cold and hot sub sandwiches, wraps, soup, salads and such are freshly made and delivery is available. Call or fax your lunch orders before 11 a.m. at 718-885-3844 (phone) or 3845 (fax). Hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, although summer hours may find them open from 5 a.m. to midnight. Their neighbor Dunkin Donuts will probably be ready to open in another three or four months.

During the month of February, the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will present the paintings of Terry McElroy. There will be an opening recep-

tion on Friday, Feb. 6, starting at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 718-885-1403 or visit www.focalpointgallery.com.

The **Starving Artist Studio & Gallery** is moving and will have a grand reopening from 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 249 City Island Avenue. (That location has been home to the paint store, the t-shirt store and, most recently, Tea & Empathy.) Starving Artist will continue to feature the handmade jewelry collections of owner-proprietor Elliott Glick, as well as fine art and fine craft made by artists on and off City Island. And in this new location, Starving Artist will transform itself into a café and gallery. Enjoy a fine cup of coffee or a pot of tea along with a delicious treat (including pastries from Elliott Glick's daughter, Jennifer, a pastry chef graduate from the Culinary Institute of America) as you look at art, craft or jewelry or read through Starving Artist's growing collection of books. Mr. Glick continues teaching guitar and promises much more music and cultural fun and fare in the future. Keep watching!

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REAL ESTATE REVIEW

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
337 King Avenue	7/29/03	\$350,000	2 Family
99 Pilot Street	9/15/03	\$285,000	2 Family
367 King Avenue	9/30/03	\$350,000	1 Family
155 Reville Street	10/9/03	\$390,000	1 Family
161 Ditmars Street	10/10/03	\$360,000	1 Family

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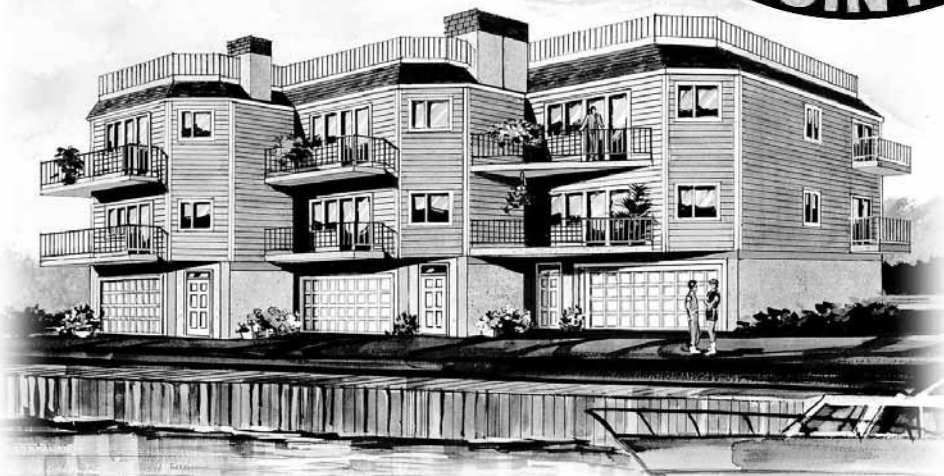


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Packaging Romance on City Island

By MONICA GLICK

Not sure what to do for this year's Saturday Valentine's Day festivities? Well stop wracking your cold-and-snow-weary brain! Your City Island home of shops, galleries, antique stores, restaurants, cafes and businesses has a celebration strategy to match the fanciful longings of any loving pair. Consider this baker's dozen of romantic possibilities—each designed to help you package up the perfect Valentine's Day right here on your "Island for all Seasons."

Let's start with the basics. If it feels good, it is good. So this Valentine's Day treat yourself—or your sweetie—to a total beauty workout. Try Lina Petite Salon (474 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2330), or else stop in at Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon (413 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3831) for a relaxing facial and exciting new hair color or style, and feel-better nail treatment. Want to wear your heart-on-your-nails for Valentine's Day? Try the artist-technicians at Nail Island (462 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2950) for a manicure or pedicure, complete with nail design. And guys can get their 'dos done for the big love day at Flexus Barber Shop II (464 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3063).

Maybe you want to treat yourself or someone you love with a fit future in this new year. Look no further than City Island Avenue! There's Curves (268 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2727) for the ladies, or A.J. Weight Loss Center (538 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3445) for guys and dolls. (And no sneaking into the bakery next door; that's another package all together!) Your Life Part 2: Coaching & Personal Training (66 Hawkins Street, 718-885-3409) is also an option for lovers who find that the couple that sweats together, stays together.

For the food side of this package, start your day with a lovers' breakfast at one of these Island spots: City Island Diner (304 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0362), Island Cafe (205 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0716) or Papa John's Deli (325 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1263). And while you're at Papa John's, try your luck at lotto, unless you believe that adage, "Lucky at cards . . ."—well, you know the rest.

Loving is giving, and vice versa. Stop by Corona's Hidden Treasures (329 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1330) and find something to give your honey from its assortment of nautical and stained glass creations. And for this Valentine's Day the Starving Artist Studio & Gallery (at a new address, 249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) has lots to give lovers and others. There's the one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry from proprietor-jeweler Elliott Glick, with a romance-collection set to debut at the gallery's new address, 249 City Island Avenue, during a reception on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 3 to 8 p.m. During the gallery's re-opening, there will also be art that speaks of love on newly painted walls, in addition to the gallery's always-on-hand etchings by Mark Whitcombe. And there will be pastry collections to take home or to enjoy with coffee and tea right there at Starving Artist. Sounds like an after-Valentine's Day dinner-plan! On Sunday, Feb. 15, be sure to stop by the Starving Artist for the first acoustic guitar jam, from 3 to 5 p.m. Certainly Elliott Glick's dozen-plus guitar students will be on hand to soak in the sweet sounds—and join in! Guitar veterans and newcomers are welcome.

For lovers of music, what day about romance would be complete without love songs? Check out the selections at Moon-cursor Records and Antiques (229 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0302); there's sure to be a tune to touch your heart. Or maybe your heart beats to a Latin rhythm. Visit Tito Puente's Restaurant and Cabaret (64 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3200). There will be live music on Thursday, Feb. 12, and DJ-spun tunes on Friday and Saturday, Valentine's Day. Dancing is encouraged and a complimentary bottle of wine awaits those dining at candle-lit tables. Whatever the evening, finish off your meal with a Tito Puente specialty drink called El Besito de Celia, a mix of rum, fresh strawberries, lime juice, coconut milk and a splash of grenadine, named in honor of the first lady of salsa music in America, Celia Cruz. On Sunday, Feb. 15, there will be a "morning after" brunch featuring complimentary

mimosas.

Still in the mood after all these days? If you're a duo determined to foster that loving feeling as long as you can, then The Black Whale (279 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3657) is the spot for you. Let music put you in the mood on Friday, Feb. 13, as the Whale continues its uptown-downtown evening music performances. There's a special romance-inspiring dinner menu on hand for that Friday as well, and, of course, for that Saturday. Try brunch at the Whale on the morning of Feb. 14, and come back again the next day, Sunday, for brunch in its usual weekly spot. In fact, all of February is love-themed at



Share a champagne toast at the Black Whale.

this landmark City Island eatery. Consider these selections from the schedule for dinner-and-a-movie Tuesdays: *Splendor in the Grass* with Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty on Feb. 24, or on Feb. 17, the Tuesday after Valentine's Day, *To Have and Have Not* with Hollywood's great love team Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. (If you need your waiter that Tuesday, just whistle!) Keep the good times going for another loving couple in your life—best friends, parents, grandparents—with a Black Whale gift certificate for dinner on another night or another Sunday's brunch.

Before or after your visit to the Whale, stop by Main Street Antiques (278 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2172) and bring home an antique love seat or a mirror to capture your true love's reflection. Or go next door to the Whale and explore Silver Arrow Antiques (275 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1598) or down the block to Quality Antique Furniture (269 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2215) and get some flowers for your lover, a whole stained-glass panel of them.

While these days may not find you and your sweetie strolling outdoors, it's never too early to plan for the spring. Get all you'll need for your days, and nights, on the boat or on a hike at Buddy's Hardware & Yacht Supply (260 City Island Ave.; 885-1447) or J.J. Burck Inc. (526 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1559). Dream of those days at sea with a walk through the North Wind Museum (610 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0777). If fishing suits your lover's fancy, try Island Bait & Tackle (632 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2153) or Jack's Bait & Tackle (551 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2042). Finish off the day with food—no reservations needed—at the newly opened Subway Sandwiches & Salads (632 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3844) at the start of the Island, mid-Island at Seafood City (459 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3600), or at the far end of City Island at Tony's Pier Restaurant (1 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1424).

Sunday is Saturday. Celebrate with your darling the day after, learning about City Island's rich history, and loving it, we're sure! The City Island Historical Society & Nautical Museum (190 Fordham Street, 718-885-0008) is open 1 to 5 p.m. on the Sunday of Valentine's Day weekend. Then try for an early dinner at Arties of City Island (394 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9885), or the Crab Shanty (361 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1810) if you missed out on dining there on the big day itself.

Fantasies about romance? Alice's City Island (296 City Island Avenue, 718-885-



Handmade sterling silver heart by Elliot Glick of Starving Artist Gallery.

0808) wants to bring fantasy and romance to your Valentine's Day. The Island's newest restaurant, named for Lewis Carroll's Alice, complete with lines from the classic covering its walls, will be open later than its usual 6 p.m. winter evening close on Friday, Feb. 13, and Saturday, Feb. 14, offering couples a romantic three-course dinner: soup or salad, a choice from three entrées, and a plethora of desserts, including a warm chocolate cake or mocha chocolate chip cake. Sip tea at the end of that dinner, choosing from 30 different teas, far more than Alice had at the original tea party, for sure. Or bring the whole family to brunch any day of the week with Alice's scones, a must-have for one and all. And while you're in the fantasy mode, explore the whimsical offerings from around the world at Exotiq International Arts (280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090), where there'll be a special 50 percent off sale on all jewelry for Valentine's Day weekend (Feb. 13 to 15). Is your fantasy a marble wall in your dining room? Contact Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery (276 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2024) and artist Mary Colby may just be able to help fulfill that dream, creating the illusion with paint and a brush (in her hand, of course).

Here's a plan for Valentine's Day weekend,

and it can be found right at the start of City Island Avenue. Check in to Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast (620 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2478) and feast on its multi-course dinner that Friday evening or on Valentine's Day itself, when \$65 per person will bring a six-course meal to the table for you and your honey. Or maybe your Valentine's Day dinner will be at one of the across-the-street restaurants: Portofino (555 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1220) with its northern Italian and seafood menu; the Sea Shore Restaurant (591 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0300), where you can start with a drink in its romantic lounge complete with fireplace and soft leather couches, or the Harbor (565 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1373) featuring a breathtaking view of the day's sunset or the Manhattan skyline. Feast around the corner instead at the Lobster House (691 Bridge Street, 718-885-1459) on what else—lobster. Did you know that it takes up to seven years for a lobster to grow to one pound, the size legal for trapping? But don't worry; it takes far, far less time for the delicious crustacean to reach your table at the Lobster House. Bring your love back to Le Refuge on Sunday for a delicious brunch, or on Sunday, Feb. 29, for a classical music concert after brunch, starting at 12:30 p.m.



Get cozy with a loved one at the Sea Shore Restaurant lounge.

Continued on page 10

ISLANDERS REMEMBER BROWNIE

By KAREN NANI

Animal lovers and other Islanders gathered at Orchard Beach on a chilly Saturday, Jan. 10, to pay final respects to Brownie, locally known as "The Park's Dog." The 14-year old stray, who had been a fixture at the beach for a decade, was cared for by a number of volunteers until his death on Jan. 5, 2004.

Long-time Islander Yolanda Cirulli, a New York City Parks Department volunteer, was among the first to befriend Brownie, a German Sheperd mixed breed. She found him in 1989 near the Turtle Cove golf range, where a worker had been feeding him along with his own dog, Lady.

About 1993, after Lady died, Brownie wandered over to the hill behind the Orchard Beach parking lot and made it his home. Ms. Cirulli, along with other volunteers, Barbara Shultz, Susan and Sandy Levy, began feeding and setting up a "home" for him with hay donated from the riding stable on Shore Road.

Other Islanders began to notice

Brownie when they walked their dogs in the morning or went for a run along the jogging paths. He was a companion to other dogs and "everyone's friend," said Ms. Cirulli.

Brownie received medical care from Dr. Jakimer at the Manor Veterinary Clinic in Pelham. When the dog lost his long battle with cancer, Ms. Cirulli and Janice Coco organized the memorial service and invited Islanders to attend so that they could "remember Brownie and share together in his love with all of his friends and your pets." They hung signs in various City Island locations and more than 60 people attended the event, including Reverend Susan Chadwick, who said a blessing.

Ms. Cirulli told *The Current* that she was grateful to everyone who had reached out to Brownie over the years. She promises that she will continue to care for all the different animals that inhabit Orchard Beach and Pelham Bay Park.



The 14 year-old stray dog known as Brownie, "The Park's Dog," was remembered by animal lovers and other Islanders at Orchard Beach on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004, in the frigid weather (bottom photo). Long-time Islander Yolanda Cirulli, a New York City Parks Department volunteer, was among the first to befriend Brownie, a German Sheperd mixed breed (inset photo).

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

JANUARY

Sat., Jan. 31, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage with peppers and potatoes.

FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 10, **Valentine's Day Sale**, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, P. S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, **Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Thurs., Feb. 19, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Hebrew Hospital Home, 801 Co-op City Blvd., Bronx.

Sat., Feb. 21, **Little League Resgistration**, 2-4p.m., St. Mary's gym.

Tues., Feb. 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Feb. 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

Chapter 3303 AARP

The Minneford Chapter AARP #3303 has made its annual donations to the various charitable, religious, educational, service and youth organizations in our community and to many nursing homes in our area, in order to form a continued link between them and the chapter. We also support, encourage and assist them in any way possible to carry on their programs and services.

Many of our members volunteer their services and time to help with these programs. The donations came from funds raised at our annual fair held in October. Our thanks to everyone who made this fair possible, especially the chairpersons and members who worked diligently in making it a success.

Chairperson Evelyn Berardo will be collecting used greeting cards from our members. If you have Christmas cards, birthday cards and so on, please cut off the message part and bring her the front page of the card only.

On Tuesday, March 9, the chapter will sponsor a St. Joseph and St. Patrick Festival at the Westbury Music Fair for a spectacular show starring the famous Al Martino and the equally famous Camel Quinn singing their signature songs. After the show, we will have a complete dinner at the beautiful Swan Club in Roslyn, Long Island. Departure time is 12 noon.

A full program of trips, tours and luncheons has been scheduled for the remainder of the year. Further announcements and details will be forthcoming as the dates of these events become known. Prices and more details for the above events will be discussed at our meetings or call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Temple Beth-El

Temple-Beth-El of City Island (480 City Island Avenue), an all-inclusive egalitarian congregation, conducts services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and a Torah Study Group on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Our doors are open to all and attendance is free.

We welcome you to our Tu B'Shevat/Shabbat service on Friday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. and our Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 1 p.m. Dress is casual but reservations for the seder are necessary. Please call for your food assignment; fruits, nuts and wine or juice are featured at this event. Vegetarian dishes

are also welcome. (Call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 with your RSVPs as soon as possible.)

Other special events are as follows:

Shabbat Across America on Friday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. A Sabbath dinner following services will cost \$18 per adult and \$6 per child. RSVP (for dinner) by March 1. Please send your name, the number of people attending and a check payable to Temple Beth-El of City Island to P.O. Box 188, City Island, NY 10464 (Memo should read "Shabbat Across America").

NJOP Learn to Read Hebrew Crash Course led by Debbie Graber will be conducted at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings starting Feb. 11. The classes are free to all.

Yoga/Tai Chi classes on Thursdays from Feb. 5 through March 4 at 7:30 p.m. are led by Marc Kaplan. Cost is \$5 per session for members, \$10 for non-members.

Mondays in March: Rabbi Shohama Wiener's special classes, SHOHAM, Spiritual Healing of Heart and Mind to help us find Peace and Joy in a time of Anxiety, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays starting March 1. It is a series of sessions based on a unique Biblical approach to spiritual development. Through meditations, chants, energy work, and study of selected texts from our Shabbat service, we will tap into the transformative power of Jewish mysticism. The course is free for members and only \$10 per class or \$36 for the whole series for non-members. Please call 914-636-2504 for more information.

Visit our website at www.yourshul-bythesea.org.

Bob Berent

Chapter 318 AARP

We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. The meetings start at 1 p.m., and refreshments are served after the meeting. Blood-pressure readings are taken the first Wednesday of each month. We have a notary available to notarize documents free of charge for members before and after each meeting.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

We have made our annual donations to the four houses of worship on City Island. We have also donated to the Association for the Advancement of the Blind and Retarded, Lighthouse, Calvary Hospital, UNICEF, City Island Community Center, City Island Historical Society and the City Island Garden Club.

Flo Bonicoro has planned a day trip for us to Dolan's in Spring Lake, New Jersey, on Monday, June 22, and a three-day, two-night stay in Cape Cod in September. For more information, please attend our meetings and see Flo or Marie.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Marie Tirelli

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Phoebe Mankiewicz and Ilana Gross show off some of their creations at the fifth annual Holiday Craft Workshop at the City Island Community Center. The Millennium Babies' moms held a bake sale and a raffle, and many parents and kids shared in the fun.


Chamber of Commerce

Winners of the Holiday Raffle Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce were: Artie's Steak and Seafood, Dinner for two, won by Eugene Murphy of City Island; City Island Diner, Breakfast for two, won by Brian Tettemer of Flushing; City Island Pharmacy, Mary Kay gift basket (\$100 Value), won by Maureen Kraska of the Bronx; Corona's Treasures, Raffle prize, won by Ruth Collins of City Island; Crab Shanty Restaurant, Gift certificate for two, won by Karen Kraphan of Flushing; Early Ruth Antiques, Porcelain pitcher and bowl, won by Doreen McGowan of the Bronx; Exotiq International Arts, Gift basket (\$100 Value), won by Richard Haggerty of the Bronx; Focal Point Gallery, Framed photo of the City Island Bridge, won by Rose Jones of the Bronx; Harbor Restaurant, Gift certificate for two, won by Carmen Diaz of Riverdale; Lazy Susan's Restaurant, Brunch for two, won by Joan Curtis of City Island; Lido Restaurant, \$50 Gift certificate, won by Dottie Kretzer of City Island; Lobster Box Restaurant, \$75 gift certificate, won by Toni Ann Boyle of Yonkers; Main Street Antiques, Raffle prize, won by Barbara Devery of the


Bronx; Midtown Antiques, \$100 gift certificate, won by Dorothy Kleber of the Bronx; Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon, Facial, cut, manicure and pedicure, won by Joy Thomas of the Bronx; Seashore Restaurant, Lunch for two, won by Lori Piraglia of the Bronx; Starving Artist Gallery, Raffle prize, won by Carmen Warren-Robinson of the Bronx; Sugar & Spice Bakery, Fresh-baked pie, won by Harry Hornang of the Bronx; The Pizza Place, Raffle prize, won by Patricia Lasagne of the Bronx; The Tree House Restaurant, \$25 gift certificate, won by Allegra Toback, of New York City; Tony's Pier Restaurant, \$25 gift certificate, won by Marge DeCandido of City Island; Kathyln Moses Gallery, Raffle prize, won by Virginia Dannegger of City Island; City Island Trading Company, Raffle prize, won by Kelly McCarthy of Clifton, New Jersey; Connie's Market, \$25 gift certificate, won by Catherine Quinn of the Bronx.

The 93rd Annual Awards Dinner will be held this year on Friday, April 2, at the Lido Restaurant. Tickets are \$60. For reservations, call chairperson Jane LaScala at 885-2137.

Peter LaScala



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If you wish to submit, for inclusion in this column, information regarding events and activities at the City Island Community Center, please call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202 no later than the 15th of each month, except December and July. Leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Announcements

Entries for the **Drue Breen Literary Fund Essay and Poetry Contest** are due Feb. 20. The theme is Footprints in Time—Stepping Out Of the Box. Choose your inspiration: Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, Gandhi, Muhammed Ali. The winners for best essay and poem will receive a \$50 Barnes and Noble Gift Certificate; the runners-up will receive \$25 gift certificates. The contest is for sixth, seventh and eighth graders who live or attend school on City Island. Collection boxes will be at P.S. 175 and the Focal Point Gallery.

The **Holiday Craft Workshop and Millennium Babies Bake Sale** was fun for all! Thanks to all who participated!

Pre-School Art and Playgroup: Early socialization and fun for two–four-year-olds. Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. New classes start Feb. 5. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 or show up!

Bridge Club started Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Just show up, whether you're an expert or would like to learn.

Beautiful Wooden Doors for sale by the Center; 35 x 83 inches. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

To schedule events at the Center, call

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Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

Dance Classes: Pre-ballet, jazz and tap for kids. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576- 5515.

Millennium Babies: A Moms and Babies Playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Senior Nutrition Program: Held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All senior citizens are welcome; the cost is only \$1 per meal. Call 718-885-0727 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for your monthly calendar with daily lunch menus and schedule of visits to shopping centers.

Irish dance: Call Deirdre OMara at 201-947-8535

Kundalini Yoga: Saturdays at 10a.m., call Ann Ward at 718-885-1478.

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-885-2011.

Photography Classes: for adults and teens. Call Ron Terner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

Step Aerobics Classes: Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10:30 a.m., and Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Yoga: Basic-level Hatha Yoga classes include yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing practices, and stress management for peace of mind and physical well-being. Call Annette at 718-885-0724 for further information.

Scrapbook Club: If you are interested in getting all those old photos out of the boxes and into attractive books, without cluttering up your dining room table, call Joanne Brogan at 718-885-2713.

Chess Club: Monday evenings, 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up!

Laury Hopkins

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Legion News

Let's start with a few past events worthy of reporting. The annual Christmas party was held on Monday, Dec. 15, after an abbreviated regular meeting. The meeting, for some unknown reason, was the best attended of the year. Plaudits are in order for those who worked to make the party a success: Vinny, Jamie, Stacy, Mike Jawski, Peter Booth, Cathy Seamans and Ann Marie Rogers.

The children's Christmas party was also a big success. Cathy and Ann Marie were again on hand with members of the Auxiliary, including Betty Carman, Ann McIntyre, Helen McMahan and Flo Bonicoro. Sergeant Matt Murphy of Highway 1 sent several elves to entertain the little tykes, and Ed Esposito played the role of Santa Claus.

To properly celebrate this year's Super Bowl, a tailgate party will be held on Sunday, Feb. 1, from 4:30 p.m. to one hour after the game. Food and libation befitting of this festive occasion will be served. The price is \$40. Make your reservations early for seats on the 50-yardline.

Sick Call: Lou Probst, a member from Big Canoe, Georgia, is on the mend at his son's home in Atlanta. Lou broke his hip while visiting this writer for Thanksgiving. Dicky Knapp decided against challenging Billy McGee to a race after learning that Billy souped up the engine of his scooter.

Donald Varian, Buddy Scollon, Bud Howard, Dick Eberhardt and Skippy Lane would appreciate a visit, call or card. Vin Furnari is in the hospital.

Frank DeLuca, for many years a social member, passed away in his home in Florida after a long illness. Frank was a brother of member Joe DeLuca.

Monsignor John Scanlon passed away this week. Monsignor was a veteran of the Vietnam war and a regular member of the Post. See his obituary in this issue.

Although St. Patrick's Day is more

than a month away, keep in mind the annual party to be held on Sunday, March 14. Because of the anticipated crowd, there will be two sittings, 2 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Beer, wine and soda will be served with the corned beef dinner.

Meetings for the month of February are as follows: regular meetings, Feb. 2 and 26, executive board, Feb. 9. All meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

And for you WWII buffs, 60 years ago on Feb. 15, 1944, Monte Casino was bombed on orders of British General Freyberg. The Germans were not in the monastery; only Benedictine monks occupied the abbey. The abbey was destroyed with the exception of the cell where St. Benedict had resided. A large shell landed one foot from the cell, but didn't explode. The Germans moved into the rubble and it took weeks to dislodge them.

Fall out for another month, and have a happy Valentine's Day.

Russell Schaller

Trinity United Methodist Church

Happy New Year to you all. May God's blessing be yours.

Thank you very much to everyone who gave so generously towards making the Christmas fair such a huge success. Thank you to all who donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to decorate our tree and to be given to those in need. They were received with much appreciation from those less fortunate than ourselves.

Pastor Sue has initiated a Healing Service each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Our Budget Shop is open again on Tuesdays and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We have a large Rubbermaid container to protect your donations brought at other times. It is located just inside the side gate on the way to the Budget Shop. Please do not leave donations exposed to the weather so that we do not have to discard them.

Donna LaValle

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Public School 175

Winter has brought many interesting activities to the kindergarten class. The holiday show was a huge success. Hat Day was a creative experience, and the children enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year (Year of the Monkey) and eating ethnic foods. They are looking forward to improving their writing skills when they send Valentine messages to each other. The children are reading and learning more words every day and are becoming fantastic mathematicians.

February will be an exciting month for the first graders. They will celebrate the completion of 100 Days of School with many fun activities. The students are also looking forward to sharing Valentine's Day with all their classmates, making special Valentines for their families and enjoying some sweet celebrations. All of this ties in with their field trip to the New York Botanical Garden, where they will visit the chocolate exhibit to see how this staple of desserts is grown, harvested and used.

The second graders are busy finishing their study of nonfiction books. In science they are learning about the five senses, and in math they are analyzing patterns and rules and studying fractions and measurements. The children will take a brief break to visit the Botanical Garden and even have a Valentine's Day surprise for their loved ones.

The third grade is continuing to move forward in preparation for their International Day celebration. The children are also getting ready for the reading and math standardized testing. Parents and teachers have joined together to help their children have a successful testing experience.

Grade 4 begins the month with the New York State ELA exam. The students will have a guest speaker, Joanne Brogan, to get them started on their genealogy projects, and they are also working on their biography of a woman to celebrate Women's History Month.

The fifth graders are busy completing their ABC picture books of science and social studies terminology. This is part of a study of nonfiction writing through the Balanced Literacy Program. The students are busy working with fractions in math and planning for their upcoming annual play.

The sixth grade is working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and decimals. In science the students are investigating lever systems and will soon be looking into pulley systems as well.

Grade 7 is currently studying sound in science and getting ready for a trip to Greenkill. In math the students are working on data analysis—determining the mean, mode, and median and graphing all the data they accumulate. For social studies they are focusing on the Revolutionary War and exploring nonfiction in language arts.

The eighth graders look forward to finishing their Future City entries. Four groups of students will represent P.S. 175 in Brooklyn on Feb. 24. Good luck! In social studies the focus is currently on the Wild West and in language arts "Romeo and Juliet."

Kindergarten registration is 9-11 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, for last names beginning with the letters A through M, and on Friday, March 26, for last names beginning N through Z. You need proof of residency (two proofs of address), record of immunization, and birth certificate,

passport or baptismal record. The child must be present at time of registration.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Miss Beth has welcomed two new students into the combined Pre-K/K/Kindergarten class. On the agenda this month is learning how to tell time and count money, a study of geometric figures (and which ones roll, slide or are stackable), and focusing on the letters C, D, L and O. The cooking project will be Valentine's Day cookies, and the children will also discuss the true meaning of the day, which means respecting one another and yourself as the foundation of friendship and love. They will also talk about presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The first graders will write and illustrate their own individual penguin stories as a combined writing and art project. The children will read "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins" by Dr. Seuss and then make their own hats. Counting hearts and love letters will help them in their St. Valentine's Day math project.

Grade 2 is learning measurements. The students have begun their second reading series and are preparing full book reports on books that they have read. In social studies, they are reading the "We the People" section of their text, about what it means to be president, mayor and so on. Mrs. B. is revamping the second-grade library with 100 new books from Scholastic Books. The children are practicing their prayers for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The third graders are studying the parts of a sentence and continuing to strengthen their writing skills. For social studies they will, as part of their continuing look at the various Native American Communities of the United States, concentrate on the Native Americans of the Four Corners area.

In the fourth grade, students are learning about magnets, electricity and energy fields and how they are applied in everyday life. They have begun long division in math and for social studies will learn about Native American villages found in New York State before colonization. They will look at how the Native Americans influenced and shaped life in the state up to present times. Each student will construct his or her own village.

The fifth graders are exploring what it would be like to live in space. They are adding fractions and concentrating on pronouns and doing writing exercises.

Grade 6 is writing mystery stories and learning homonyms. The students are converting decimals to fractions and vice versa. They are also doing a genetics experiment using the Unichrome Dragon, which is a mythical animal with only one chromosome.

The seventh grade will study cell division and learn how it contributes to human growth and development. The students will use baby pictures of themselves to illustrate the changes they are learning about. Each student will compose a diary entry from the perspective of a kidnapped slave, as part of his or her study of Black History. Students will also write a diary entry from the perspective of a member of Columbus's crew before the Bahamas was sighted. In celebration of the Super Bowl, a book report will be done on a sports book of their own choice.

Eighth graders are honing their touch-typing skills using the Mavis Beacon program. They also began work on this year's school Web site.

Special dates for St. Mary's are as follows: Feb. 2-6, Grade 4 will take the ELA (English language arts) test; Feb. 6, Grade 7 will prepare the liturgy for the First Friday Mass; Feb. 16, School closed for President's Day; March 3, High school registration for grade 8 students at 2:30 p.m.; March 4, 1 p.m. dismissal for all students.



Photos by KAREN NANI

The WhirlWind Quintet, featuring Island resident Nobuo Kitagawa, performed at P.S. 175 on Dec. 4, 2003 (inset). The quintet has been entertaining and educating K-12 students all over the tri-state area for more than 14 years. The P.S. 175 concert is the first in a series of programs sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association to enrich the musical experience for all students at the school. Shown after the performance are (l. to r.): PTA co-president Ed Rothschild, Marshall Sealy on French horn, David Miller on bassoon, Mr. Kitagawa on oboe, Joan Porter on clarinet, Bernard Phillips on flute and P.S. 175 principal Millie Lopez.

Romance on City Island

Continued from page 7

Picture this Valentine's Day. Ron Turner of Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1403) suggests a photographic portrait of you and your lover as the gift to give each other this Valentine's Day. You can call for an appointment or visit the gallery for more details. Perhaps you'd like to satisfy the creative side of your sweetie with one of Focal Point's classes in digital photography. Then you can wander down to the end of the Island to snap some shots of our very own Stepping Stones Lighthouse, before enjoying dinner at Lobster Box (34 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1952), and trying one of the delicious combinations, or at Sammy's Fish Box (41 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0920), where the "feasts for two" sound scrumptious.

For the sweetest living dolls. If you think your wife is a "wonder woman" then give her that doll from My Dolls & Things (271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3777). Owners Monsey and Yvette will be delighted to take you on a tour of all their new and collectible dolls. At some point in your love-fest, fall in love with the sweet treats of Sugar & Spice (536 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9229). Order their "breakfast in bed" gift selection, a wooden box filled with everything to make staying in bed that much easier: lemon poppy-seed breakfast cake, banana bread, English breakfast tea, the bakery's own handmade granola, and a jar of English strawberry preserves.

A retro/metro weekend. Return to the past for gifts this Valentine's Day, choosing from years and years of antiques at Wild Goose Chase (312 City Island Avenue), Calliope's (212 City Island Avenue), or Midtown Antiques (310 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2820). Then think "city" and celebrate at Jimmy's of City Island (500 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2222), sipping a signature City Island iced tea to start, or have Gallagher's (288 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1538) serve you and your main squeeze a New York steak.

Maybe the treasure for your special someone is at City Island Trading Co., Ltd. (282 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1592), like a model ship or a beautiful tea cup and saucer with painted flowers, or at Early Ruth (319

City Island Avenue, 718-885-0228), like a stained-glass box topped with a real seashell, perfect for placing memories of this Valentine's Day. The Tree House (273 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0806) promises lovers all the right ingredients for romance this Feb. 14. There will be special gifts for lovers as they enjoy northern Mediterranean specialties while seated around the restaurant's signature "indoor" tree. (Remember all the trees you carved hearts and initials in?) Or perhaps the fine Italian food at Lido's (101 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2177) or Fran's Trattoria (105 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2406) is what the love doctor ordered for you this Valentine's Day.

If you and your honey are just homebodies, then celebrate there. But if you'd rather enjoy your feast on furniture, and not the floor, then stop by the Kathlyn Moses Gallery (327 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3440) and choose a table or other piece of hand-painted furniture, maybe one with permanently painted-on flowers! And while you're there, maybe you'll fall in love with some of the other fine art selections.

You can find all the ingredients to cook up your homemade romantic meal at Connie's Market (307 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2121), IGA City Island Supermarket (385 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0881), and Island Produce (292 City Island Avenue). JGL Wines & Liquors (358 City Island Avenue, 718-885-0200) will help you pair the perfect wine to that meal—or suggest champagne instead. The City Island Pharmacy (290 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3053) offers a wide selection of sweet treats, candy-filled hearts and huggable stuffed bears for your sweetheart. And your evening at home can include watching a romantic video or DVD rented from JT's Island Event (294 City Island Avenue). And if you're too busy snuggling to stand over a stove, then call for take-out from To-Go Express (415 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9656), the Pizza Place (286 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9133) or the City Island Chinese Restaurant (84-88 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3775).

This Valentine's Day weekend, face the fact. The place to be is right here on City Island, with its limitless line-up of love packages.



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Female Action Heroes

The days of Dudley Do-Right rescuing Nell from an oncoming train are well behind us in Hollywood terms. When Sigourney Weaver got herself "Ramboed-up" (i.e., covered in explosives and high-tech futuristic weapons) as Ripley in the **Aliens** quadrilogy (1979, 1986, 1992, 1997), the female action hero became an increasing staple on the silver screen. Of this series, I recommend the second, **Aliens** (1986), as the one to watch to get the flavor of a lone heroic woman attempting to be a voice of reason in outer space, when deadly horrifying alien creatures threaten the crew, the ship and ultimately the earth.

It wasn't until five years after the second **Aliens** film that Hollywood finally got into the female action-hero swing, with the unforgettable transformation of Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor in **Terminator 2: Judgment Day** (1991) from terrified waitress in the original film (1984) to bulked-up, fiercely protective mom. Stuck in an insane asylum while her son John (Edward Furlong) is getting into all sorts of trouble in foster care, the Terminator (Arnold Schwarzenegger) comes from the future to save her and John from the new terminating model, the T-1000 (Robert Patrick). Sarah also gets "Ramboed-up" and is a model for survival.

The year 1991 also brought forth a French film, **La Femme Nikita**, starring Anne Parillaud as Nikita, a strung-out, anti-social, violent drug addict. Instead of being executed for murder, she is picked up by government agent Bob (Tcheky Karyo) to be trained as an assassin and tutored in womanly arts by Amande (Jeanne Moreau). This killing-machine idea was remade into the American film **Point of No Return** (1993) starring Bridget Fonda, Gabriel Byrne and Anne Bancroft. These are two excellent films of the genre.

In **Lethal Weapon 3** (1992), the cop buddy picture starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover as Riggs and Murtaugh and the hilarious Joe Pesci as snitch Leo Getz, Riggs finally meets his match with Internal Affairs Sergeant Lorna Cole (Rene Russo). She's a karate expert who can handle three brutes at a time single-handedly. The best scenes in this frenetic and sometimes funny film are those in which she performs her physical feats and she and Riggs compare battle scars.

Demi Moore received a lot of attention when she shaved her head for the role of Lieutenant Jordan O'Neil in **G. I. Jane** (1997). When Senator Lillian DeHaven (Anne Bancroft) succeeds in getting a woman enrolled in Navy SEALs training, O'Neil is chosen. Resentful at not being allowed to fight in the Gulf War, O'Neil is determined to succeed as an equal to the men. Viggo Mortensen is excellent as the enigmatic Master Chief Urgayle, who must prepare everyone for the realities of life in the field when a woman is included in the mix.

With the advent of **The Matrix** (1999), we have the new kind of female action hero, one who is a master of martial arts. In this futuristic cyber-adventure, there is no question but what the leather-clad Carrie-Anne Moss as Trinity is a fully equal member of the team that includes Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Neo (Keanu Reeves). They are delving into the virtual reality concept of the world and a quest to free humankind.

Among the best, most successful martial arts films ever made is **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (2000), which was Oscar-nominated for both Best Picture and Foreign Film, winning the latter. It is filled with romance, intrigue, revenge, spiritual themes and the elevation of women onto equal footing with men. Chow Yun-Fat is outstanding as Li Mu Bai, a warrior who has vowed to avenge the death of his master by Jade Fox (Cheng Pei Pei), but is tired of bloodshed. He has long been in love with Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh), head of a security company, but they do not want to dishonor the memory of his friend, her former husband who died in battle. The film is mainly devoted to retrieving Li Mu Bai's stolen sword, Green Destiny. Jen (Zhang Ziyi), the governor's daughter, is involved with the theft, and her acrobatic ability, as well as Yu Shu Lien's, are a wonder to behold. The choreography is the best part of the film, where the only special effects used are those to hide the wires when the actors are really dueling in the treetops.

Angelina Jolie is certainly eye-candy in the title role of the comic book action adventure films **Lara Croft Tomb Raider** (2001) and **The Cradle of Life** (2003). The plots of both films (the recovery of ancient artifacts and a quest to save Pandora's box) are there merely to support the special-effects sequences that take place in exotic locales around the world.

The newest entry into the female martial arts genre is Uma Thurman as the Bride in Quentin Tarantino's extremely bloody **Kill Bill: Volume 1** (2003). The theme of this film is clearly vengeance, and the targets are primarily women (Daryl Hannah, Lucy Liu, Vivica Fox). More than one third of the film is devoted to an action sequence in which the Bride singlehandedly battles with the Crazy 88 Fighters. This overblown comic book features Tarantino's skilled filmmaking ability and the maximum amount of blood pumping from maimed bodies. The film clearly is for people with a taste for the macabre.

Be safe, and until next time, happy viewing. . . .



What would you wish for City Island in 2004?



Thomas Nye

I would like to see continued success with the City Island Nautical Museum. We have several members who participate but we always welcome more. We also have scanning facilities now, so I'm taking this opportunity to make a request. If anyone has old nautical pictures of City Island, please bring them in. We could scan them and return the originals immediately. Thanks to everyone for all their support in 2003.

Paul Klein



I'd like to see the community make a greater effort to support local businesses, because this support helps the community to stay alive. Business owners could help achieve this by parking off the Avenue, leaving spaces for people to park and shop. We may also need security cameras on the Avenue and in the boatyards. A City Island trolley going to Pelham Bay Park, Orchard Beach and the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum would also be great. Thriving businesses benefit all City Island residents.

Laury Hopkins



There has been too much new development on City Island, and we are losing the character that makes City Island what it is. I want the businesses to stay open with the same owners. I want people to clean up after their dogs, and property owners to maintain their property. I'd also like to see classes in the arts available to City Islanders in and out of the schools. Everyone could join the classes on some level.

The City Island Bridge should be kept standing next to the old bridge as a public park, with space for foot races and picnics and parades. In Baltimore the Papermill Road Bridge over the Loch Raven Reservoir was kept standing next to a new bridge and was used as a public space. I first met my husband there.

Kathy Ciarletta



In the year 2004 I would like to see more parental involvement with the City Island community in order to provide activities for the children, especially the teens. The same people volunteer all the time. This isn't fair to the people who always do the work, and maybe new people would not only help out but also have new ideas to keep the kids interested longer, and to keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Kids want to be with their friends, and they get into trouble for the lack of anything else to do.

Mary Dannegger



I hope that in 2004 there will be more programs on City Island for teenagers to be involved in. These programs could be helpful to the community. For example, kids could work with the Garden Club, Pilot Cove, St. Mary's Underground (where more members are needed and welcome). Kids could help with the elderly and the needy and could do fund-raising and food drives for good causes. The POTS program at St. Mary's is a good example of an activity that teens could work in.

Tina Gisante



I have been a resident on City Island for over 35 years, and in 2004 I certainly hope that the new construction in the community comes to a halt so that City Island can retain its beauty and its historical look. City Island has always been like a village and has had a sense of small community. We're losing that in its looks and in its feel. The importance of keeping its beauty is needed for the legacy of our children. As a mother, I take great pride in teaching the history of City Island to my child. In our school, P.S. 175, the Island is appreciated and the school is instrumental in helping to preserve the Island's history.

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Gudrun Carlson-Cederfjord

Gudron Carlson-Cederfjord, who worked at the City Island Trading Company for several years, died on Jan. 2, 2004, at the age of 65.

Gudron, familiarly known as "Gigi," was born in Eskilstuna, Sweden, in 1939, and came to the United States to live in the early 1960s. In 1970 she married Frank Donadio of Carroll Street, and although they were divorced in 1982, they remained good friends. It was through Mr. Donadio that Gudron joined the Trading Company in 1999.

She leaves her son, Michael Donadio of Dunedin, Florida, three brothers and four sisters.

Many Islanders will miss Gudron's friendly face and quiet presence.

Jessie May Cook

Jessie Cook, a longtime Islander and Carroll Street resident, died on Dec. 7, 2003. She was 64.

Jessie graduated from P.S. 17, went to Roosevelt High School, and then trained as a Schraffts pastry chef. She married Howard P. Cook on Jan. 25, 1939. She worked at Schraffts until she became a stay-at-home mom in 1943.

For many years she waitressed at the Island Diner, now Lazy Susan's, which was owned by her husband. After Howard's death in 1967, she waitressed for 20 years at the former North Avenue Diner in New Rochelle. She retired at the age of 70.

She is survived by her two daughters, Donna LaValle of City Island and Ellen Hebard of Throggs Neck; three grandchildren, Craig Sowa, Alicia Varrone, Paul Schultz; and seven great grandchildren.

Jessie was a member of Trinity United

Methodist Church. In her younger days, she was very active in the Civic Association, P.S. 17, Girl Scouts, and her beloved church. Although she was a totally frank person who "told it the way she saw it," her intense love and loyalty were always evident. No matter what had been said, you knew that she had your best interests at heart. She will always be loved, remembered and truly missed.

Monsignor John Scanlon

Monsignor John Scanlon, former pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, died on Jan. 18, 2004, in Frances Schervier Nursing Home.

Monsignor Scanlon came to St. Mary's in June 1984 and remained for 12 years, when he became pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale.

He became a priest on May 30, 1953. Many City Islanders attended his 50th anniversary, which was held at the Immaculate Heart church in Scarsdale in May 2003.

Monsignor Scanlon served as a lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by his brother, Monsignor Thomas F. Scanlon, who is currently in residence at St. Peter and Paul Church in Mount Vernon. He is also survived by his sisters, Margaret M. Sweeney and Ann T. Browne, and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Egan on Jan. 22, 2004. He was buried in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A. The Making of a Tax Return

Listed below is a brief rundown of the time, effort, knowledge, skill, expertise and experience that should be put into each and every tax return that passes through your professional tax-preparer's office. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive, but I hope it will serve to explain and guide you in understanding the related fees and that it will instill in you an appreciation for the amount of work effort required during the preparation process.

These are part of every tax return preparation: interview and consultation time; research and analysis time; continuing educational and other professional requirements; actual preparation time; checking, review and verification procedures; collation, organ-

ization and instructions; travel time and related expenses incurred, if applicable; overhead, salaries, professional library, hardware, software and other operational costs; ongoing client relations and communications.

Be sure to submit **all** of your tax-related information directly to your professional advisor before your returns are completed.

First-time clientele should always provide copies of their federal, state, and (if applicable) local income-tax returns for the preceding two or three years. This will enable your professional to validate accuracy, consistency and availability as well as the applicability of all carryover or carry-forward losses, credits and other items.

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There will be a final registration for Minor League (ages 7-9);

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Registration will take place at the Saint Mary Star of the Sea Gymnasium, located at
580 Minnieford Avenue

Fees for Minor, Majors & Juniors are \$175 for the first child and \$ 150 for each additional child

Please bring a copy of your child's Birth Certificate and Proof of Address

Chance Books are available to help you offset the cost!!

T-Ball; T-Pitch may register at any time. Contact Larry Saulnier at 885-1313

Fees for T-Ball and T-Pitch are \$ 50 per child

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City Island Little League is looking for volunteers for the 2004 season!

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK

Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

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

Tide chart by Tom Smith

FEBRUARY 2004

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0158	1.3	0818	6.9	1449	0.7	2052	6.3	Sun 01
02 Mon	0247	1.2	0905	7.0	1535	0.5	2138	6.5	Mon 02
03 Tue	0331	1.1	0947	7.2	1616	0.3	2219	6.7	Tue 03
04 Wed	0407	0.9	1021	7.4	1652	0.1	2253	6.9	Wed 04
05 Thu	0438	0.6	1043	7.5	1721	-0.1	2316	7.1	Thu 05
06 Fri	0508	0.4	1105	7.7	1745	-0.2	2335	7.3	Fri 06
07 Sat	0541	0.1	1137	7.8	1810	-0.4			Sat 07
08 Sun	0003	7.6	0619	-0.2	1214	7.9	1842	-0.5	Sun 08
09 Mon	0039	7.8	0700	-0.3	1256	7.8	1920	-0.5	Mon 09
10 Tue	0120	7.9	0744	-0.3	1341	7.8	2001	-0.4	Tue 10
11 Wed	0205	7.9	0832	-0.2	1430	7.2	2046	-0.2	Wed 11
12 Thu	0254	7.8	0926	0.0	1524	6.8	2137	0.2	Thu 12
13 Fri	0349	7.8	1031	0.3	1625	6.3	2235	0.6	Fri 13
14 Sat	0451	7.3	1210	0.5	1742	6.0	2348	0.9	Sat 14
15 Sun	0608	7.2	1345	0.3	1928	6.1			Sun 15
16 Mon	0142	0.9	0747	7.2	1453	-0.1	2046	6.4	Mon 16
17 Tue	0301	0.5	0904	7.5	1550	-0.4	2145	6.9	Tue 17
18 Wed	0401	0.1	1003	7.9	1642	-0.8	2237	7.3	Wed 18
19 Thu	0455	-0.3	1055	8.1	1730	-0.9	2324	7.6	Thu 19
20 Fri	0544	-0.6	1143	8.1	1815	-0.9			Fri 20
21 Sat	0008	7.8	0631	-0.7	1228	8.0	1856	-0.8	Sat 21
22 Sun	0050	7.8	0715	-0.6	1310	7.7	1935	-0.5	Sun 22
23 Mon	0130	7.7	0757	-0.4	1352	7.4	2010	-0.1	Mon 23
24 Tue	0208	7.5	0838	-0.1	1432	7.0	2038	0.3	Tue 24
25 Wed	0246	7.3	0918	0.3	1515	6.6	2101	0.7	Wed 25
26 Thu	0325	7.0	1002	0.7	1605	6.2	2132	1.0	Thu 26
27 Fri	0411	6.7	1058	1.1	1708	6.0	2217	1.4	Fri 27
28 Sat	0514	6.5	1207	1.3	1818	5.9	2313	1.6	Sat 28
29 Sun	0632	6.5	1311	1.3	1920	6.0			Sun 29

MARCH 2004

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0032	1.8	0735	6.6	1407	1.2	2015	6.2	Mon 01
02 Tue	0157	1.6	0827	6.8	1455	1.0	2102	6.5	Tue 02
03 Wed	0251	1.3	0910	7.1	1537	0.7	2142	6.9	Wed 03
04 Thu	0334	0.9	0944	7.4	1613	0.3	2213	7.2	Thu 04
05 Fri	0411	0.5	1011	7.6	1643	0.0	2235	7.5	Fri 05
06 Sat	0447	0.1	1041	7.8	1711	-0.3	2302	7.8	Sat 06



IT'S COLD OUT THERE AND GETTING COLDER

This winter was shaping up to be a mild one, but now we're not so sure. Yesterday (Jan. 10), we watched the rolling fog on the water as it passed by our window on its way to the Throggs Neck Bridge; and there it came to an eerie rest, obscuring all but the bridge towers. Hollywood could not have manufactured a more effective scene. The next morning the water was frozen—not solid enough to do damage to the hulls of any of the boats remaining in the bay, but getting close.

Fog is a low-level cloud, and, like a cloud, it forms when warm and cool air meet. What caused that fog bank in Eastchester Bay last month was the collision of cold, Arctic air moving fast into our area from Canada and the warmer air just above the bay. Because the temperature of water is not as volatile as the temperature of air (it creeps up and down while air temperature can soar or plunge), the air at the water's surface is frequently at odds with the air above it. A fog like the one we had is unusual, however.

We have recently had some unusual visitors to City Island. Bill and Elena are certain that a family of skunks has staked a claim in the vicinity of Sutherland Street. Dan believes it was the turkey eggs that attracted them to our area in the first place, and he may be right. But what brings them to City Island? How did they get here? The bridge? The sewers? Do skunks swim?

Jenny told us about an owl that was perched atop her fence one afternoon in December. Although we cannot be sure, chances are it was a short-eared owl, since

earlier in the day than the rest of these nocturnal creatures, and to do so near salt water. Our guess is that this particular fellow was after a City Island squirrel or two. If we're lucky, maybe he'll tell a friend.

A much more likely locale for owl spotting is the Orchard Beach woods, especially among the evergreens. On a recent walk there, we were pleased to note the new signs posted along the various trails. The history of the area is recorded there, as are the names of the flora and fauna in the area. On our last trip, we think we discovered brant, the smaller, darker cousins of the Canada goose.

The thought occurred to us that it might have been better if the new signs had been printed in English and Spanish, but then we reconsidered. Orchard Beach is being visited by all sorts of New Yorkers these days—English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Asian, Eastern European. A short walk along the boardwalk will attest to this. So maybe the Parks Department got it right with their signs, after all. They definitely got it right with the newly planted trees on the Orchard Beach approaches.

Treasure hunters were out in full force at Orchard Beach the other day, too. No doubt it was the extra low tide and the promise of heretofore inaccessible quarry that brought them. One intrepid soul was in the water with his metal detector and his waders! We're not sure what he or any of the others found that day (if they ever find anything, for that matter beyond the obvious, i.e., coins, jewelry, bottle tops, etc.), but we're always willing to learn. Drop us an e-line at jdsstrat@earthlink.net.

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On Oct. 3, 2003, the students of P.S. 175 participated in their annual Walkathon fundraising event. The students raised more than \$1,400 to help Sound Shore Medical Center's winter coat drive for needy children. Faculty and parents are very proud of their combined effort and willingness to help those not as fortunate. Pictured above at the check presentation are (l. to r.): P.S. 175 co-president, Yolanda Santiago-Gavila; her son Austin, a seventh grader; Dr. Patricia Devine, Sound Shore coat drive coordinator; Bob Carmody, second grader; Nancy Lotrionte, Walkathon co-coordinator; Jackie Moscone, teacher; and Diane Carmody, Walkathon co-coordinator.

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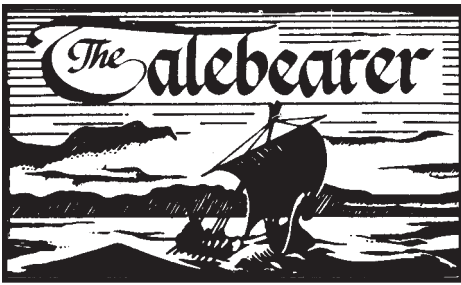
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Happy Feb. 1 birthday wishes to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Get-well wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Alice Rotello of Fordham Street.

"Happy Birthday" from Hannah Glick, and her mom and dad, to City Islanders Sandy Dunn (Feb. 1), Dr. Richard Chernaik (Feb. 14) and Jeff Silverstein (Feb. 26). Hannah sends special birthday greetings on Feb. 24 to "honorary" City Islander Annette Rosenfeld, the grandma of Hannah's best friend and City Island hound dog, Barney.

Belated Jan. 18 birthday wishes to Alanna McIntyre, who turned 13.

Happy third birthday greetings to Hailley Nelson on Feb. 23, with love from your family.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Alex Cebek, who turned 12 on Jan. 2, and to Bob Carmody on Jan. 9.

Congratulations to Carroll Street's Nancy Keane Hernandez and Raydel Hernandez, who are thrilled to announce the Dec. 24 birth of Benicio Cary Hernandez. Proud grandparents are Renee Keane of Pell Place and Esperanza and Guillermo Cantillo of Miami and Raydel Hernandez, also of Miami.

Happy Valentine's Day to Joe and Lauren.

Congratulations to FDNY Lieutenant Raymond W. Alexander of City Island's Engine Company 70, upon his recent retirement. He spent seven of his 40 years with the FDNY right here at the firehouse on Schofield Street. We wish him much good luck.

The family and friends of Earley Street's Paula Dooley are very proud to share the good news that Paula was recently inducted into the Ladies of Charity (VNS) at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Maria Swieciki

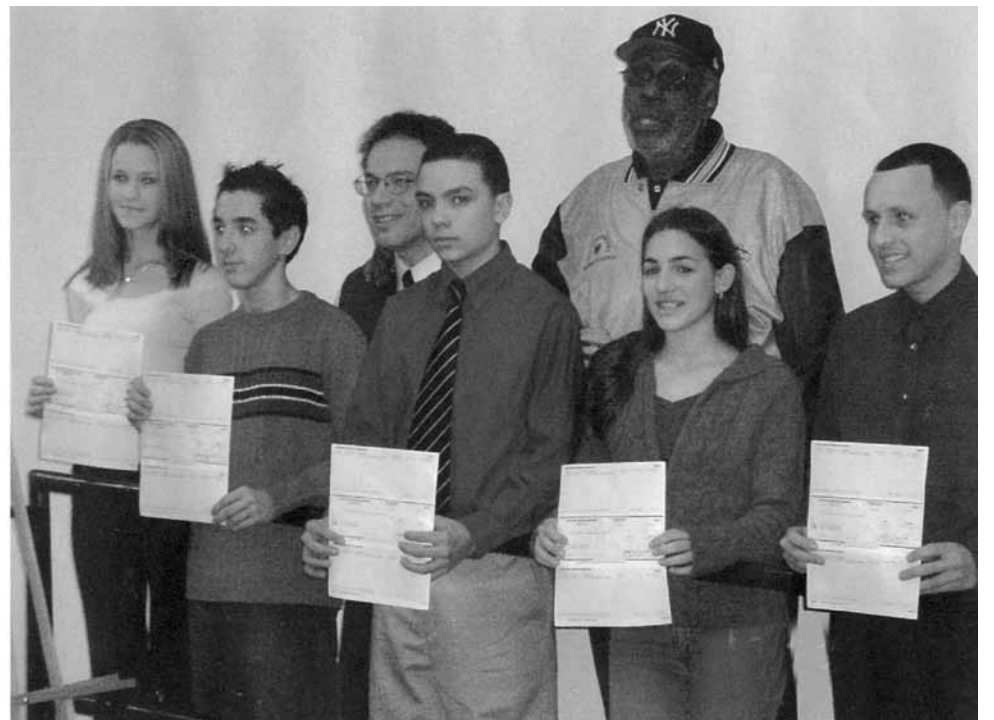
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The editorial board and staff of *The Island Current* gathered with family members for the annual party on Jan. 11, 2004, at the American Legion Hall. The occasion also marked the retirement of longtime board member Cheryl Koller, (seated, third from left), who was a volunteer for 19 years managing the display advertising billing and collections. She was praised for her diligence in helping keep *The Current* in the black—an accomplishment many newspapers struggle to achieve. Her attention to detail, her strict adherence to deadlines and her tireless follow-through with advertisers made her well liked by every member of the editorial board. She will be missed, but the staff wishes Cheryl and her family the best as she begins her retirement.



At a Community Service Award ceremony on Dec. 23, 2003, at Community Board 10's office on Tremont Avenue, Hawkins Street resident Jillian Lotrionte was awarded \$500 from the Yankees Community Council Organization. Jillian (front row, second from right) was among five recipients from Community Board 10 recognized for outstanding community service. Bob Williams (back row, right) was the Yankee representative who presented the children with their awards as Board 10 manager, James Vacca (left), looked on.

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