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One Dollar

TWO PRINCIPALS' PRINCIPLE: MAKE MORE WITH LESS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Principals Jane Dennehy of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School (bottom photo) and Amy Lipson of P.S. 175 (above photo) are working hard to maintain the educational quality of City Island's two elementary schools. Despite budget cuts, they have both been able to obtain "smart boards" in several classrooms and keep capital improvements on schedule, such as new windows at St. Mary's and the planned installation of walls to replace partitions on the second floor of P.S. 175 (photos on page 11).

The challenges of the 2009 school year are being met with belt-tightening determination by City Island's two elementary school principals: St. Mary, Star of the Sea's Jane Dennehy and P.S. 175's Amy Lipson. In this year of economic bad news, both principals and their staffs are working hard to maintain the quality of education at City Island's well-regarded K-to-8 schools.

Mrs. Dennehy, an Island resident, is starting her sixth year as head of St. Mary's, a job she "always wanted." She has been a teacher or administrator in the New York Archdiocese Catholic school system for 28 years, beginning as a high school teacher at Monsignor Scanlan in the Bronx. She was a teacher at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School for 12 years and became principal in 2004.

Mrs. Dennehy was asked about her accomplishments so far. She told *The Current* she is proud of resurrecting the pre-K program and moving it from the basement of St. Mary's church into a large, bright classroom inside the main school building. The program had more than 20 four-year-olds last year and 10 of them are attending St. Mary's kindergarten this year.

How did she find the room? "I moved the library out of a classroom space and created in-class libraries for each grade with help from some grant monies. Then I moved the kindergarten classroom into the library room, thereby freeing up a beautiful space for the pre-K program."

She also created before- and after-school programs to help working parents and to provide extended educational hours for her students. Parents can drop off students as early as 7 a.m. and they can stay as late as 6:30 p.m. Her dedicated staff, led by Ms. Nesheiwat, who oversees the before- and after-school program, takes turns staying extra hours to supervise the students.

The 2009-2010 academic year started on Sept. 9 at St. Mary's with 231 students,



10 full-time faculty, four part-time faculty, a full-time registered nurse, a guidance counselor and two administrative assistants. The principal proudly introduced her new music teacher who will provide violin and recorder lessons, as well as a new physical education teacher.

But Mrs. Dennehy acknowledged the toll that the economic downturn has taken. "We have to tighten our belts. Parents are having a harder time paying tuition. We also lost some students to public schools because a parent lost a job or because of some other financial hardship." The tuition for St. Mary's is \$2,950 for parish members and \$3,150 for out-of-parish students. Financially, the school operates independently of St. Mary's church.

For Ms. Lipson, who is in her fifth year as principal, the budget crunch comes from above rather than within. The New York City Board of Education announced cuts of 8 percent affecting all schools, including P.S. 175.

"The budget cuts actually started last year in terms of staff reductions, but we're trying to supplement those subjects

through other programs," she told *The Current*. Ms. Lipson lost two "special" teaching positions, in art and marine wildlife and ecology. Her guidance staff has also been reduced, because of a decline in the number of special education students at the school.

Her challenge is to maintain the excellent "report card" the school received from the Department of Education and to keep increasing reading and math scores. "We received an A on the New York City Progress Report and our ELA (English Language Arts) and math scores increased for the fourth year in a row. Last year, 89.9 percent of all students were rated 3s and 4s [the Board of Education's criteria] in reading and 96 percent achieved or exceeded the required levels in math."

This year, P.S. 175 has 385 students and 30 faculty members. In addition to the school's excellent rating, Ms. Lipson

is proud of her progress with the middle school (grades 6 to 8).

"When I arrived, a number of parents were taking their children out of P.S. 175 and enrolling them in private middle schools. I redesigned the middle school, so that the two home rooms break into three smaller instructional core groups for more individualized learning. This has been successful, and now it is unusual for a parent to take a student out starting in middle school." She is determined to maintain the middle school as she designed it, even in the face of budget cuts.

So how will both principals maintain their high educational standards? By keeping true to their visions for their schools and asking more of themselves and their staffs during these difficult times. "I am dedicated to raising more funds through

Continued on page 11

Residents Oppose Cell Towers

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The apartment building at 454 City Island Avenue is where Omnipoint Communications wishes to construct a 25-foot "stealth" tower for cell phone antennas in spite of the fact that the Department of Buildings has rejected their application for a permit.

On Thursday, Sept. 3, the Zoning and Building Committee of Community Board 10 held a public hearing at the City Island Community Center regarding the proposed construction of a 25-foot "stealth" cellular tower, or unipole, on the roof of 454 City Island Avenue, an apartment building near Bowne Street.

In May the Department of Buildings rejected the application of Omnipoint Communications (T-Mobile) for a permit to construct the tower, because it would violate the Special City Island District Zoning restriction on the 35-foot building height, among other objections relating to appropriate setback regulations. But the firm has decided to protest this decision by going to the Bureau of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for a special permit.

Robert Gaudio, a lawyer with the firm of Snyder & Snyder representing Omnipoint Communications, explained to residents and members of the Community Board that the tower would benefit the residents of City Island by expanding cell-phone reception on the north end of the Island. He answered various questions from the board as well as residents, several of whom pointed out that they had no dif-

ficulty receiving T-Mobile reception near the bridge. Mr. Gaudio explained that Omnipoint had looked at other locations for the tower but were unable to find a suitable structure, such as the Pickwick Towers and Jack's Bait, which already have cell towers.

He showed enhanced images that suggested what the tower would look like and tried to convince a skeptical audience that the stealth tower would not be an eyesore. He would not divulge the payment being offered to the landlord, a lawyer in Queens who owns a number of properties on City Island but was not present at the hearing.

A resident of the building later told the *Bronx Times Reporter* that she felt the roof of the building was not strong enough to support the six-ton tower and antennas. Mr. Gaudio had explained that a brick building would certainly be able to support such weight, although some Islanders claim that the building is actually a wood-frame structure with brick siding. A complaint was filed with the Department of Buildings on Sept. 1 reporting that the foundation of the building was weak and that walls were cracked on the exterior because of water damage and a sagging roof. An inspector for DOB found that there was no sagging roof nor a cracked foundation, but he did observe vertical and horizontal cracks at the roof parapet with missing mortar.

At the end of the meeting, the Community Board's committee voted to recommend that the full board refuse to support Omnipoint's appeal to the Bureau of Standards and Appeals, on the grounds that the tower would benefit only Omnipoint and not the community. It was also noted that if such a tower is approved, Omnipoint could in the future change the antennas or make other "improvements" to the structure without any community input at all.

The committee's recommendation was followed up at the Community Board's September meeting with a vote resolving to reject Omnipoint's appeal for a special permit and to convey this resolution to the Board of Standards and Appeals. As of press time, the BSA hearing date had not been set.

BRIEFLY...

THE BRONX MASONS will hold a clothing and coat drive on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, at the City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue. All donations of clothes and coats will go to St. Athanasius Church in the South Bronx. Please, if possible for quicker distribution, separate clothes into individual bags for men, women and children. These clothes will go to needy recipients.

ANNUAL BREAST CANCER WALK AT ORCHARD BEACH: "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" will take place at Orchard Beach on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at 8 a.m. to register. For transportation or more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

CLEAN UP CITY ISLAND! Join the clean-up crew and help make City Island Avenue beautiful again. Meet at Hawkins Park on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. and get your assignment. Bring rakes and brooms; gloves, garbage bags and paint will be provided. For information, call 718-885-0561.

TOUR DE BRONX, New York's largest free cycling event, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 18 (rain date: Oct. 25), sponsored by the Bronx Borough President and Transportation Alternatives, an advocate for bicycling, walking and public transit, along with several local hospitals. Pre-registration is required, by fax at 718-537-5263; by phone at 718-590-3518; or online (at www.tourdebronx.org/register) by Thursday, Oct. 15. There will be a 25-mile route and a 40-mile route; the latter will come through City Island about halfway through the ride. Rides start at four different locations in the Bronx beginning at 8:15 a.m. Those who wish to volunteer as marshals may visit the website to register.

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will close out its acclaimed 10th anniversary season with a "Festival of One-Act Plays," which will consist of 15 original and published comedies and dramas that are sure to be crowd-pleasers. Weekend one will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m. Weekend two, which will feature a whole different set of one-act plays, will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. Don't miss these wonderful plays performed by an excellent cast of players. There will definitely be something for everyone! The City Island Theater Group is located in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For more information and to make reservations, call 718-885-3066 or check us out on the web at www.cityislandtheatergroup.com. See you at the theater!

CHRISTIAN PARENTING FORUM will be offered by Grace Church on Sunday, Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m. The Reverend Canon Patricia S. Mitchell, Canon for Christian Formation in the Episcopal Diocese of New York, will offer an inspirational presentation on the joys and challenges of raising children of faith in a secular society. How does our Christianity inform our parenting priorities and decisions? All are welcomed to join in this important discussion..

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE: CIRQUE DE SATANIC! One night only. Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight, Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. \$5 Adults, \$3 Children. \$1 off with donation of canned food per ticket.



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Island Resident Arrested for Gun Possession

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Friday evening, Sept. 11, police were called after a shotgun was fired at 103 Bay Street on City Island. After interviewing witnesses and searching the premises, they arrested the owner of the house, Peter Ross, 54, who was later charged with unlawful and criminal possession of firearms and for reckless endangerment.

Nathan Perez, a tenant in the building, told police that Mr. Ross threatened him if he would not leave the premises, saying "You better get out of my house or I will blow your head off." According to the police report, Mr. Ross then fired a shotgun at a wall, making a hole the size of a baseball. He then allegedly pointed the gun at Mr. Perez.


Mr. Ross told the police that the shotgun was his and that he had "bought it on Main Street for 29 dollars." He also said: "What about my other gun? Is that illegal?"

Mr. Ross then gave the police permission to search the premises and told them he had a rifle under his bed and rounds of ammunition in the closet. In addition to the shotgun, the police recovered one 35-caliber rifle, 55 12-gauge shells and 5 35-caliber rifle rounds from the closet.

He was charged with criminal possession of weapons, reckless endangerment, menacing, possession of ammunition and unlawful possession or disposition of rifles or shotguns. He was released on \$2,500 bail according to the Bronx District Attorney.

Not surprisingly, neighbors were very upset by the episode, although relieved that no one was hurt. One neighbor told *The Current* that Mr. Ross threw down the gun after shooting the wall, probably in an attempt to get police to believe that Mr. Perez had fired the shot.

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Yolanda Cirulli
Service to the Community Award

Ralph Manfredonia Ladder 53 & John Tomsen
Valor Awards






The Lido Restaurant Saturday Oct.24th 2009

For Tickets And Reservations Contact Violet Ellis
C.I. Chamber Of Commerce 718 885 9100

Honoring Those Who Support Animals, Art and History

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Chamber of Commerce, under new leadership with Skip Giacco as president, is looking forward this year to its 99th annual Awards Dinner Dance, which will be held at the Lido Restaurant on Saturday, Oct. 24.

As usual, a number of residents or off-Islanders who have dedicated themselves to the City Island community will be honored for their achievements.

The Community Service Award will be presented to Yolanda Cirulli, who has put in years of voluntary service looking after homeless animals on City Island and working over at Orchard Beach for the Parks Department. Yolanda grew up with her parents, Assunta and Dominick, and seven brothers and sisters on Parker Street in the Bronx. She attended Santa Maria Church every morning with her mother at 7 a.m. before going to school, and in the evening she helped with her mother's missionary work by taking food to those in need in the neighborhood. Yolanda's first job was with Manufacturers Hanover Bank; then she worked for Cirillo Petroleum Company on Zerega Avenue. Later on, she became a part-time real estate saleswoman. Her mother taught her to share and to care for others, preparing her to be a woman she is today. Yolanda now works for the stray and needy animals of City Island and surrounding area. She embraces all creatures by extending one hand to people and children and the other to homeless stray animals. She has been an official volunteer for 40 years at Orchard Beach, and she began the "Stories in the Shade" program held in Pelham Bay Park.

Yolanda earned the New York State Humane Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for her extraordinary dedication in helping the animals of the northeast Bronx, both domestic and wild species, by rescuing homeless strays, educating the citizens in the area by her example, and inspiring a humane attitude in those around her.

The Tom Ceretta Accomplished Service Award goes to Laury Hopkins for her active contributions to the arts on City Island. She graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a degree in fine arts. Married to Rick De Witt, she has lived on City Island for 19 years and has three children. She has continued to paint and shows her work regularly at the Focal Point Gallery, where she will have a show entitled "Facets" this November. Laury teaches art and drama to young people at the City Island Community Center, and she has received grants from the Bronx Council on the Arts in conjunction with both the Community Center and the City Island Theater Group for producing three "Kiddy Kabarets" and a variety of art programs. Her inspiration is always the kids, who never fail to come up with brilliant ideas if they are provided with the time, space, materials and encouragement.

The Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award is being presented to Helen Livingston McMahon for her

many volunteer activities on City Island. Helen is a clam digger, the only daughter of Marie and Mort Livingston and sister to Jim, John and Robert. She graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, St. Catherine Academy and the Woods Business School and has a degree from College of New Rochelle. In 1980 she married the boy next door, Tom McMahon, and together they have four children, Thomas John, Michael, Katie and Bernadette. Helen has served as both Cub Scout and Daisy/Brownie den mother. She has also been on the PTAs of both St. Mary's and P.S. 175 and is currently co-president of the Preston High School Parents Association. Along with her husband, Helen served as director of the St. Mary's basketball association for 14 years and was on the board of the youth program COLONY. She is a proud member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and has been its youth chairman for many years.

For 12 years, "Miss Helen" was the pre-K teacher at St. Mary's, where she has taught the fourth grade for the past five years. She also works as a secretary for Paladino Realty Corporation, her family's business on City Island. Helen loved growing up on City Island and feels that there is no better place to raise a family. She feels that as a community we are all related and that you can't find a more caring and wonderful place to live. Honored to be recognized by the Chamber, she loves working with children and wouldn't want to have done anything else with her life.

The Catherine Scott Achievement Award will go to Michael Shanley for his contributions to P.S. 175 and to *The Island Current*. He was born and raised in the Bedford Park neighborhood of the northwest Bronx and has lived on City Island since 1995. He and his wife, Pauline, have two sons, Tiernan (14) and Emmett (10). As an active member of the P.S.175 school community, Michael has served on the School Leadership Team (SLT) and as co-president of the PTA. Since 2001 Michael has designed and led educational field trips throughout Bronx County for the lower school, and this year he will expand the program to include the middle school. Since 2006 Michael has written the "Far Side of the Bridge" column for *The Current*, focusing on different aspects of Bronx history and notable Bronxites.

For over 20 years, Michael has worked in the international educational exchange industry and he currently serves as a director at PAX-Program of Academic Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation that promotes international student exchange to foster the positive development of the world's young people and to support international peace, friendship and cross-cultural understanding. He is an active member of the City Island Civic Association, the Bronx County Historical Society and the East Bronx History Forum, and he is a licensed tour guide for

New York City, specializing in the Bronx.

The Special Valor Awards go to two brave men who saved a drowning man in Eastchester Bay during the summer of 2009. Firefighter Ralph Manfredonia Jr. is the son of City Island residents Ralph and Maryann Manfredonia and a brother to Keith, Dean and Elise. He and his wife, Jennifer, have a son, Ralph III, who came into the world on December 30, 2007, a belated Christmas gift! Ralph Jr. grew up on City Island, where most of his family still lives. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, Iona Grammar School and Fordham Prep, and he graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He has taught school but has worked as a firefighter since graduating from New York City's Fire Academy in October 2002. He was first assigned to Ladder 51 on Eastchester Road and has been at Ladder 53 on City Island for the past two years. He and his family live in Monroe, New York, in Orange County, close to his wife's family.

The other recipient of the Special Valor Award is John Tomsen, who was also born and raised on City Island. He lives here

with his wife, Tracy, and his two sons, John (9) and Christopher (6). He graduated from P.S. 175 in 1980 and attended St. Raymond's High School in the Bronx and earned an associates degree in labor studies from Empire State College. He has worked as a local union #3 electrician since 1986, and during the summer he is a captain of the fishing boat *Daybreak*. He has served as a coach for City Island's Little League for the past few years, and he helps out with the Cub Scouts throughout the school year.

The Exemplary Community Service Award will be presented to Police Officer Mike O'Connor, who has served for many years with the 45th Police Precinct, much of that time as a community police officer. His commitment to City Island and its various problems has earned him the respect of Island residents and business owners alike.

The Chamber hopes that many Islanders will turn out to give these generous individuals their thanks and congratulations. For tickets and reservations, call Violet Ellis at 718-885-9100.

BACK IN BUSINESS!



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Filomena's Pizza at 286 City Island Avenue is open once again for business. Owners Filomena and Antonio Paoliello (shown above) are so happy to be back in action on the Island, and they welcome everyone to stop by the newly renovated establishment. The popular pizzeria had been closed since Memorial Day 2008, because of a fire, but re-opened on Labor Day weekend 2009. They will once again offer high-quality pizza, pasta, heroes and other Italian specialties from their new fully renovated kitchen.

City Island Good Samaritan Nabs Hit and Run Driver

By MARIA SWIECIKI

When Peter DiNome left his City Island residence for work on Aug. 31, the last thing he expected was to end up in a high-speed chase through the Bronx.

Mr. DiNome, age 20 and a former student at P.S. 175, was sitting in his parked vehicle in Pelham Bay when he observed a hit-and-run incident. Acting quickly, he took off after the vehicle, a gray Nissan Maxima driven by Pelham Bay resident Michael Fennell, who drove away immediately after he hit a pedestrian, later identified as Braulio Lopez-Cruz. According to Mr. DiNome, Mr. Lopez-Cruz had been crossing with the light when he was struck by Mr. Fennell's car and was thrown 12 feet. He was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center, where he died the following day.

Mr. DiNome followed Mr. Fennell's vehicle on both local streets and highways for more than eight miles through the Bronx. He was finally able to block Mr. Fennell's car and hold him until the police arrived. Mr. Fennell was charged with leaving the scene of an accident with an injury.

Mr. DiNome has been called three times to testify before a Bronx Grand Jury and is cooperating fully with the Bronx



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Island resident Peter DiNome followed a hit-and-run driver in a high-speed chase through the Bronx on Aug. 31, 2009, after seeing the vehicle strike a pedestrian, who later died at Jacobi Hospital.

District Attorney's office. In the meantime, Mr. Fennell is being held in jail without bail.

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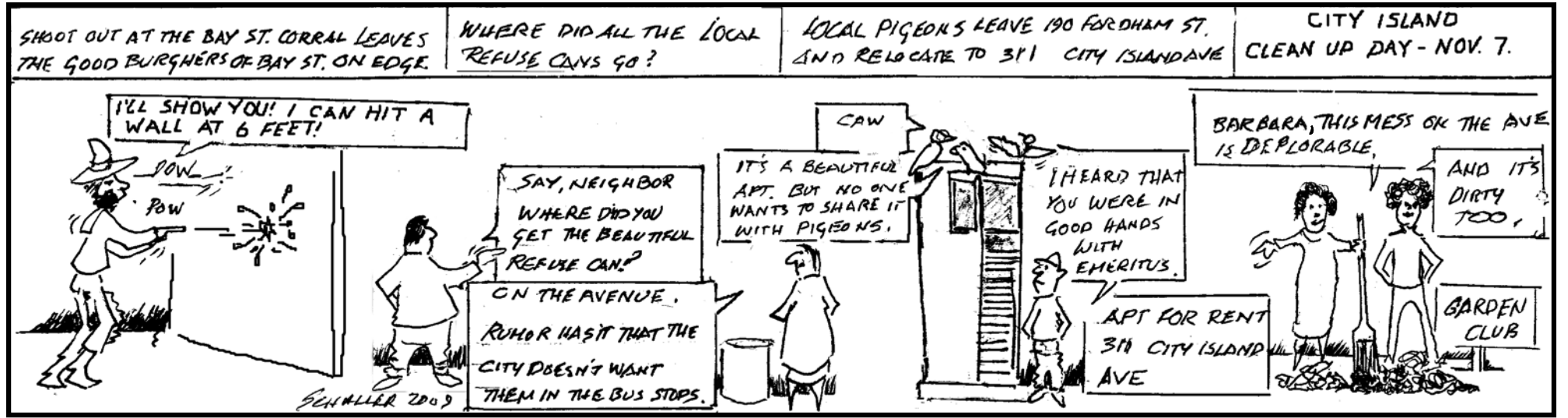
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Cleaning Up City Island

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the City Island Civic Association meeting on Aug. 25. What a refreshing change. It is good to see a new leadership with positive ideas and steps that have already been taken to benefit the community, which brings me to the point of this letter.

The topic of alternate side-of-the-street parking has been raised once again. To put this into effect is not as easy as just hanging up signs. The suggestion will impact a large portion of this community, and the following is what might present itself if this succeeds:

1. People who rent apartments along City Island Avenue have no driveways and since not everyone drives to work, their cars will need a place to stay.
2. There will be an impact on the businesses that open early (markets and diners), which may lose business because there will be no place to park on street-cleaning days. No one wants to take a chance by running into a store for a few minutes only to come out and find a \$115 ticket waiting on the windshield.
3. There will be an impact on the side streets. On my block alone (the west side of Fordham Street), there are eight bungalows and five two-family houses for a total of 17 families with no driveways. As for the rest of the homes, their driveways fit one car, leaving the second or even third car on the street. Plus there is overflow from the Avenue, which makes parking here a nightmare.
4. The most serious concern was pointed out by Paul Nani, chair of the Civic's traffic committee, who noted that alternate-side parking might get the city to come up with the idea of installing parking meters, which would create yet a bigger parking nightmare.

I want to assure everyone that I am open to this suggestion. I hate to see our streets dirty, but this is not the quaint New England town everyone writes about. It is a densely populated community in the Bronx, and this proposal will impact many people. It needs to be discussed at length by the whole community, not at 8:40 in the evening when people are tired and just want to go home.

I took a walk around City Island the day after the meeting, camera in hand, to show that it is not really the streets that devalue our properties (see photos page 7). It is the select few property owners, the worst of them being the absentee landlords who show little or no concern about what happens outside

their front doors, in spite of laws that require them to clean sidewalks and 18 inches out into the street in front of their properties.

Street cleaners cannot correct filthy sidewalks, the weeds that grow in cracked sidewalks, in the tree wells and on vacant properties, as well as the boarded-up buildings in disrepair. The reason for these eyesores is the laziness of those who own properties they cannot afford or don't wish to maintain.

I suggest that, before we make one huge leap, we take a smaller step by having a meeting with representatives of the Department of Sanitation. We need to discuss what I call "tough love," by starting to have them enforce the law. This means issuing tickets to the worst offenders for not maintaining their sidewalks and streets. If they are given enough summonses, you will see how quickly they will find brooms. This small act may help our streets, though it will do nothing for the real eyesores, which are the neglected buildings and properties that line City Island Avenue.

Carol Fitzpatrick

Team Riptide Walked for MS

To the Editor:

On Jan. 1 of this year I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and from that day I made two promises to myself that I would not let the disease get me. First, I would fight it with every ounce of my will. Second, I promised myself that I would find a way to be able to change one person's life by raising money to help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society create new medications to either stop or prevent MS from destroying lives.

Some people can live with MS and some people can't. Fortunately, I am blessed to be one of those people who as of right now can live with it. Because of my family I have found the strength to fight it, but every day is a challenge!

In April I created Team Riptide, which consists of 25 members. We did a "Walk for MS" at Rye Playland, and thanks to the help of friends and family we raised \$2,750 for our first walk. Within three months, I put together an amazing team, and I would love to have Team Riptide grow and grow. Every day I am looking for new people to join our team and fight MS.

On Sept. 12, I had a fund-raising cruise on the *Riptide III*, which raised about \$1,300. There were so many people who donated their time, money and gifts, and I would love to make it known to all of City Island and whoever else reads *The Island Current* that there are wonderful people in this world who really care about people with chronic diseases.

Those who generously gave time and funds to Team Riptide fund-raiser include the *Riptide* and its amazing crew; J.P.'s, which donated an amazing buffet; TMV Limousine; JGL's liquor store; the IGA; the Chocolate Place and Steiner Foods.

If anyone would like to join Team Riptide and help in the fight to rid the world of MS or would like any information about our next fund-raiser or would just like to donate, please call Tricia at 917-971-9945.

Thank you all.

Tricia D'Addario



Photo by RON TERNER

City Island's recently saved Ladder 53 responded immediately to a fire on Schofield Street on June 28, 2009, to the gratitude of the owners.

Thanks to the Fire Department

To the Editor,

On Sunday, June 28, at 5 a.m., our beautiful home on Schofield Street was engulfed in flames. We owe our thanks to the quick response of the City Island Fire Department, Engine 53. The firefighters arrived instantly to rescue my entire family and to extinguish the blazing fire. They were also ready to administer any emergency health care if it was needed. As expected, we were all quite shaken, but their professionalism and care for my entire family came as a great comfort in the midst of this tragedy.

Because of this, we are all alive to give them our heartfelt thanks. Many, many thanks to these heroes of the City Island Fire Department. If it was not for their immediate response, we would not be alive to share our story. They were there when we needed them the most. God bless all of you, and may you always be safe. And may there be happy endings for other families who need your life-saving abilities and experience.

Most Grateful Family

911 Needs Help!

To the Editor:

In regard to the near-drowning incident that took place on July 31 (see article in the September issue of *The Current*), I was one of the people who saw Gerard Tyson's boat capsize on Eastchester Bay off Buckley St. because of the high winds and very rough waters. After I realized that Mr. Tyson was in danger of drowning, my first response was to call 911.

Unfortunately, I discovered that the 911 dispatchers had no clue as to the location of City Island. The dispatcher kept asking if I was calling from Staten Island, Long Island City, Jersey City, and so on. She suggested everywhere except City Island. I kept telling her that I was calling from City Island in the Bronx but she still didn't get it.

As I stood on the beach fearing for Mr. Tyson who was trying to hold on to a buoy as

he screamed for help, my neighbor on Buckley Street, who prefers to remain anonymous, ran into the extremely rough water with no regard for his own safety and swam out to help Mr. Tyson, but halfway out he returned to the beach when he realized that John Tomsen from Marine Street was out there in his rowboat keeping Mr. Tyson calm as he rowed out to the rescue.

I could see that my neighbors on Buckley Street and Marine Street were also trying in vain to have the 911 dispatcher understand the geography of our Island. I find their ignorance unacceptable, inexcusable and a tragedy in the making for all the residents of City Island.

Let's not ever forget the tragic drowning of four boys that happened here on City Island six years ago, when the 911 operators also had difficulty determining the source of the 911 call one of the boys made from the sinking boat.

Someone must have gotten through to the City Island firehouse, perhaps by going there or calling them directly, because Ralph Manfredonia from Ladder 53 finally came, jumped into water and helped Mr. Tomsen get Mr. Tyson out of the water safely.

City Island residents need to come together regarding this matter for the safety of our loved ones and those who visit the Island.

Linda Ziobro

Good Kids

To the Editor:

On the night of Aug. 18, my nephew John Gilder tragically passed away in his sleep. He was like a son to my wife, Annie, and me. My sister Karen, my brother-in-law Mark, and John's two sisters, Kerry and Katie, are devastated. My father, Bill McGee, with whom John lived while he was staying on City Island, is crushed. John was a great kid, and if you ever had the pleasure of meeting him, you would agree. He was kind and respectful to everyone he came in contact with. I honestly believe he made me a better person simply by knowing him.

John would always talk about all the friends he had on City Island and how great they were. I can still hear the names—Jason, Jack, Larry, Mikey, Mondo, Keebler, Dan, Matt, Joe, Chris, Sean, Vernon, Ryan, Brian, Katie, Mallory, MaryAnn, Kristie, Nicole, Lori, Rachel, Lisa and too many others to list. At a time when kids on the Island are getting a bad rap, it was great to see so many good kids at the wake and the funeral. Every one of them made it a point to say something nice to my family, especially my dad, "mean old Mr. McGee," as Jason put it fondly during his eulogy.

I was always proud to be from City Island, but never more proud than the night of the wake. At the end of the night, all of John's friends gathered around him and took turns saying goodbye. It was as beautiful a moment as I have ever seen. It was also heartbreaking to see so many young people crying over the loss of a friend.

To all John's friends, please be careful in everything you do. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. John loved you all and would want

Continued on page 15

HAWKINS PARK UPDATE

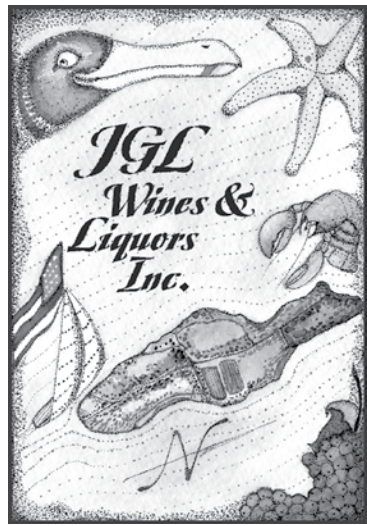
The Parks Department reports that the plumbing and paving work have been completed in the park and that the installation of the new custom fencing, which is now being fabricated, and the benches and plantings will be completed this fall.

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FOCUSING ON 35 YEARS AT THE FOCAL POINT GALLERY

By JANE PROTZMAN



Photos by RICK DeWITT and RON TERNER

City Island's Focal Point Gallery is celebrating its 35th anniversary as a center of art, sculpture and photography on the Island and in the Bronx. Owner Ron Terner finished photography school in 1974 and opened his first gallery at 296 City Island Avenue. He is shown above in the early days of the gallery and in his "self-portrait," the theme of his anniversary show (below) at the current location of Focal Point (321 City Island Avenue). Stop by and admire the portraits and stories celebrating City Islanders.



The theme of the 35th anniversary show at Ron Terner's Focal Point Gallery is "Self Portraits" and the many images on view represent the lives of the participating artists. A high point of the show, however, is on the back wall of the gallery, which tells the evolving story of Ron and his gallery—a collection of 14 photographs of himself that reflect his life here on City Island over the past 35 years. Because he didn't want the gallery dedicated entirely to his own photographs, Ron and his artist friend Laury Hopkins came up with the idea of extending the concept by letting other gallery artists tell their own stories, and more 60 local artists contributed self-portraits in paintings and photographs.

In 1974 Ron had just finished photography school when he learned about the first Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on City Island, sponsored by the Renaissance Association, which was a very active arts organization at the time. Warren Sonberg, head of the Renaissance Association, was "very receptive of my work and gave me the whole fence upon which to show it," Ron told *The Current*. The fence was at the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue, and Ron was so taken with City Island that he asked Warren to help him to find a place to live here. And so he moved to 296 City Island Avenue (which subsequently was the location of Laura's restaurant, Alice's tea room and is now empty). Warren had a pottery shop called Creative Mud Pottery but later became a sculptor and now lives in Costa Rica.

The cold-water flat at 296 became Ron's gallery, studio and apartment. Peter Coyle, who had been Ron's first visitor at the Craft Fair, came by and improved the living space by setting up a system of water circulation in pipes that were coiled around a wood-burning stove (Coyle's coils), which provide Ron with heat and hot water. The two men were good and lasting friends since that time until Peter's death earlier this year.

The name Focal Point Gallery was another collaborative effort. Well before it actually opened, Ron discussed the need for a name with a friend, Mary Calter, who was married to Tony Calter, proprietor of Thirsty Boots, a leather shop on City Island. One day she said "focal point," which is a photographic term, and thus it became the Focal Point Gallery.

One day a student at the College of New Rochelle came to the gallery and stayed to help out by adding new objects, including t-shirts and later jewelry, and she and Ron were eventually married. After a few years, Ron and Niru traveled to India, where she had been born, so that Ron could meet her family and "see that important place." Upon their return, Addie Esposito offered them a new studio at 278 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Hawkins Street, the former location of CIAO (City Island Art Organization). She also offered the Terners a cottage on Schofield Street, where their son, Rajeev, was born in 1978, although Ron recalls

that Rajeev "grew up in the gallery."

Another instance of the kindness of Ron's many friends on City Island was when Rena Hansen, herself a photographer, came into the gallery looking for a tenant for the other half of her two-family home at the corner of Tier Street and City Island Avenue. The Terners moved in and lived there for many years.

The Focal Point Gallery has been at its current location, 321 City Island Avenue, for 25 years. Ron is grateful to his current landlord, John Corona, for many years of support and friendship.

Ron and Niru subsequently parted ways, and she moved to Virginia. In 2001 Ron married Susan Rios, a neighbor, and they have a daughter, Ruby, who is now five years old. "City Island is a part of me, my children, my loves, my friends. I don't think I could have lasted this long elsewhere. I can now photograph second generations of Islanders."

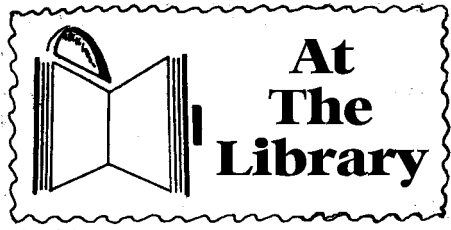
As he was reminiscing about his career here on City Island, Ron recalled the art classes that he gave in the first Community Center at 190 Fordham Street, where he taught photography and darkroom work. "Mark Whitcombe taught painting, and Warren taught sculpture," he says. "We had the whole building until it was sold and shut down" (it has since reopened, of course, but is limited to the basement floor). Ron still teaches, now at the gallery, primarily tutoring students one-on-one in digital photography and its techniques. He also enjoys having interns in the gallery who are equally thrilled to work alongside him and learn from an expert.

Over 35 years, the way in which the Focal Point Gallery serves the community has changed. Cameras have gone from film to digital, and Ron has taken advantage of the new technology of the Internet and its opportunities to share photographs. And he has expanded his services beyond teaching photography and exhibiting the works of other artists, as well as his own, to photographing weddings, portraits, and corporate work, even providing personal photos for dating services. Since the sharing of photographs on the Internet has become popular, Ron feels that interest in amateur photography has increased, as has its quality. One thing that has not changed is the regular scheduling of invitational exhibitions that the gallery offers to City Island artists of all ages and to other talented artists in the New York area.

Ron recalls that he arrived on City Island at just the right time to experience some of its fine nautical and historical events. He was able to photograph America's Cup yachts; to hear the stories of sea captains, riggers and sailmakers; to meet Dave Rosenfeld of the famous photography family. Back then, Ron says, "there were three photograph galleries on City Island Avenue—mine, George Gibbons' and a women's cooperative gallery." There were many more interesting shops for Islanders and visitors to enjoy, including a leatherworker's shop, a silversmith shop, a stained-glass studio and many antique stores. During the 1970s and 1980s, City Island employed more local residents, who "tended to shop where they worked. Now they tend to shop elsewhere, at the discount stores and malls."

If you haven't already stopped in at the gallery to say "Bravo!" to Ron, be sure to do so. See the changes in one man's life by looking at his wonderful, revealing photography, but also view the self-portraits of some of your neighbors. Not only are they all interesting, but as you look at the pictures, you can create your own story about the artists, whether you know them or not. And then talk to Ron about his story and his love for City Island and the people who live here. It might become contagious.

Another way to visit the gallery is virtually, by going to www.focalpointgallery.com or www.photographybyronterner.com.



OCTOBER

Come visit our outdoor reading room and garden open to the public. On Tuesday, Oct. 27, all libraries open at 12 noon.

Adult Programs

Save Energy, Save Dollars: Saturday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m. Guest speaker: Eric Perreux.

Making Ends Meet: Saturday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. Guest speaker: Patricia Porton.

Basic Computer Instruction: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian.

Children's Activities

Picture Book Program: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

Greenapple Workshop: Oct. 3 at 12 noon.

Special Program for Children: Art with Jeannette Ornstien for children ages five and over. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 3:30 p.m.

Lapsit Baby Story Time: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. Birth to 18 months.

Halloween Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Parent Internet Workshop: Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m.

Toddler Program: Every Thursday in October (1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) at 10:30 a.m. Ages 18 to 36 months. Pre-registration required.

Young Adult Programs

Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament: Saturday, Oct. 10, from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.

Graphic Novel Rewrite: Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Manga Overdrive: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Yu-Gi-Oh: Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Time Game On: Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

October Events at Bartow-Pell

On Friday, Oct. 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., enjoy the (free) Bronx Seaside Trolley, tour the Mansion, view the beautiful exhibition of botanical illustrations from our Library Collection, and enjoy refreshments. Then get back on the trolley, which makes a continuous loop from Pelham Bay Station to Bartow-Pell to City Island. Admission to the Mansion \$5 adults, \$3 seniors, children 6-17.

Two more workshops are available in the Collecting Basics series with antiques and fine art appraisers Nora Mazur and Patricia Dillon. Admission is \$15 each workshop; members \$10. Space is limited so reservations are required. "Silver," Thursday, Oct. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon: An exploration of American and English silver and silverplate from the 19th and 20th centuries. Different types of silver, country of origin, dating, value, as well as important American silver designers and manufacturers are discussed. The last workshop, on Monday, Oct. 19, at 11:30 a.m., is a visit to the Doyle New York galleries with Louis Webre, senior vice president, who will preview the upcoming sale of important English and Continental furniture and decorations, including Old Master paintings and drawings. Participants will receive a complimentary sale catalogue.

The BPMM East Bronx Bike Tour will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join Stephen Byrns, architect, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commissioner, and avid bicyclist, for an East Bronx bike tour of notable architectural and historical sites. Bikers depart from the Mansion at 10:15 a.m. and head to Westchester Square, where guided tours of the Huntington Free Library, St. Peter's (the oldest Episcopal Church in New York City) and the Bartow family plot in its cemetery await. Free.

A lecture, "The Age of Botanical Wonders," will be given on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. Steve Sinon, head of archives at the New York Botanical Garden's Mertz

Library, will discuss the talents and techniques that spurred botanical illustration to new heights in "Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London" and other 19th-century publications. Lecture free with admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and children 6-17.

As part of the "openhousenewyork weekend," the culmination of a year-round series of educational programs celebrating New York City's built environment, the annual "openhousenewyork" weekend, visitors are invited to tour the Mansion and Carriage House free of charge on Saturday, Oct. 10. and Sunday, Oct. 11, from noon to 4 p.m. Guided tours will begin at quarter past the hour from 12:15 to 3:15 p.m.

Join us for a theatrical performance, "Reunion at the White House," on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 4:30 p.m. Six former First Ladies from across the centuries come together to recount their days in the White House. What ensues is fireworks: confessions, confrontations and some of the sharpest tongues ever heard in Washington. Playwright Rosemary Foley grabs American history by the neck and with a theatrical jolt—along with some singing—turns history into an engrossing and dramatic entertainment. Free.

Garden Clean-Up Volunteer Day will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help us keep the gardens and grounds of Bartow-Pell beautiful! Roll up your sleeves at our biannual volunteer clean-up day. Light breakfast will be available. Bring gloves and wear sturdy footwear, long sleeves, and pants.

The third annual Harvest Festival will be on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join us for this fun-filled harvest happening, from making cornhusk dolls to painting pumpkins, from preparing Native American foods to telling stories. There is something for everyone! Admission \$10 children 6-17, \$5 adults; members \$8 children, \$4 adults.



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.

City Island's **Sugar and Spice** will launch "Thursday Night Dinners" starting Oct. 1, 2009, highlighting local produce from community markets. Owner Irina Brandler is a regular vendor at farmers' markets in Pelham and Larchmont. She and pastry chef Virginia Ng will serve up a six-course prix fixe meal beginning at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. The cost is \$65 per person and space is limited. October's menu includes creamy kumamoto oyster stew with grilled fennel bruschetta, sunchoke and truffle ravioli with asiago foam and pistachio oil, halibut with sweet pepper relish and fresh cranberry bean ragout, thyme-roasted chicken, and sorbet and sticky toffee pudding. Reservations are required. Call 718-885-9229. Sugar & Spice, located at 536 City Island Avenue, also serves brunch every Friday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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FALL FAIR: RAIN AND SHINE

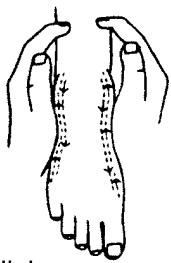


Photos by RICK DeWITT

City Island's Fall Outdoor Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 12 and 13 began in rain but wrapped up in sunshine. The annual event featured more than 50 vendors with jewelry, stained glass, paintings, photography, candles, clothing, personal care products, crafts and more. Many local organizations also participated, including the City Island Nautical Museum and the Garden Club. Music was provided by the Lickety Split Band (with a guest appearance by Steve Marcus), and the four block sidewalk event from Bay to Schofield Street attracted many shoppers once again.

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Dirty Island: Time to Clean Up

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by CAROL FITZPATRICK

City Island's shameful eyesores are numerous. Trader John's Boathouse (top photo), the graffitied and crumbling storefront of Neptune Inn (bottom photo) and debris littering the yard of new construction by the bridge (inset) are only a representative few.

Most residents and visitors to City Island find it an appealing community with a small-town atmosphere, and those who live here generally spend considerable time and effort making their homes and shops look attractive and well kept.

In recent years, however, many have also become aware of the dirt factor—not just the increasing presence of rubbish and cigarette butts on the sidewalk, of leaves and dirt clogging the gutters, and of graffiti and out-of-control weeds—but also of eyesores, derelict buildings that have become more derelict with the passage of time. Although one might think that these are victims of the recent economic turndown, they are for the most part neglected properties owned by off-Islanders or by those who just don't care.

For several years, the Garden Club of City Island paid Phil Ficarelli and Fred Ramftl Jr. to clean up City Island Avenue, but when this program ceased, in 2004, it became incumbent on the owners of properties along the Avenue to clean up their sidewalks and the street 18 inches from the curb. This is not just a responsibility but a city law subject to fines for violations. The owners or tenants of many buildings along City Island Avenue take great care to clean up their properties, but many do not.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Garden Club periodically remind property owners on the Avenue that they are required to clean up in front of their buildings, but the negligent owners continue to be negligent. And to make matters worse, waste baskets provided by the city are regularly stolen or moved from their locations or filled to overflowing.

The Civic Association sponsored a clean-up day last spring and will sponsor another on Saturday, Nov. 7, when volunteers will gather together with brooms and paint to get rid of garbage and graffiti. However, this will be only a temporary measure, and residents are becoming concerned about what needs to be done to

clean up the Island on a regular basis.

New York City's Department of Sanitation (DOS) periodically sends a street sweeper down the Avenue, but because cars are usually parked along both sides of the street, it makes no effort to sweep up to the curb but usually sails down the middle of the road, accomplishing little or nothing. City Island may be the only community in New York City that does not have an effective street-sweeping detail, but many residents think that this unique status should be protected rather than corrected. One resident told *The Current*: "If the city begins to notice us, the next step might be parking meters."

The subject of requesting that the DOS impose alternate-side parking rules on City Island Avenue has come up several times in the past, most recently at meetings of the Civic Association, where members consider it a hot topic. Some feel that asking people to move their cars off the Avenue one hour a week (one side on one day and the other side on another day) is not asking for much. Those who have difficulty parking, however, including those who live in apartments or houses on or near City Island Avenue without driveways or garages, are much opposed to the idea (see letter on page 4).

Some Civic members feel that the DOS has failed in the past to issue summonses to violators of the law and that the department should be urged to do so in the future before more permanent steps are taken. As to the eyesores, residents are encouraged to call 311 to alert the city's Health, Fire and Sanitation Departments to possible violations and to request investigations of these properties.

In the meantime, those who care about the appearance of City Island are encouraged to join the volunteer crew on Saturday morning, Nov. 7, at 9 a.m. at Hawkins Park. Gloves, garbage bags and paint will be provided, but bring your own rakes, brooms, and dustpans.

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 1, **Community Council of the 45th Precinct meets**, 2877 Barkley Avenue, Bronx.

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 2-4, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

Sunday, Oct. 18, **Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach**. Walk begins at 9:30 a.m.; get there at 8:30 to register.

Friday, Oct. 23, **Community Board 10 Meeting**. Pilot Cove, 160 Pilot Street, City Island, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 24, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, Lido Restaurant, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Call 718-885-9100 for reservations.

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

Sat., Oct. 31, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Sat., Oct. 31, **Halloween Parade**, starting at the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue, 5:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 3, **Election Day Bake Sale**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 5, **45th Precinct Community Council Meeting**, 2877 Barkley Avenue, 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 7, **City Island Clean-Up Day**, 9 a.m. at Hawkins Park.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Laity Sunday is Oct. 18; join us as our congregation and George Cavalieri, lay leader, celebrate this special day. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship.

Reminder: our annual food and bake sale will be on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Budget Shop will be open on Oct. 3, 13, 17 and 27. Please call Jay Howard to volunteer. If you would like to help raise funds for Trinity by running the Budget Shop, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellie Hebard at 718-518-7241.

A group Bible study will meet for five Sunday sessions in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from Oct. 25 to Nov. 22. This group will continue a previous study of the Apostle Paul's New Testament Second Letter to the Corinthians, completing the study with chapters 8 through 13. The theme is: "Paul, Apostle for Open Hearts, part 11." A subject-by-subject, verse-by-verse study of the text, with discussions and teachings, will focus on the subjects presented by the text.

George Cavalieri will be moderator for the Bible study. No registration is required and all materials are provided. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have attended previously. For further information, call Reverend Susan Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

Remember Trinity's annual Thanksgiving dinner and note your calendar. Join us on Thanksgiving Day and enjoy everyone's company, along with fantastic food prepared by Anne Cox. Please call Reverend Sue if you are a shut-in and need your dinner delivered.

Ellen G. Hebard

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Both St. Mary's School and the religious education program have begun well. Our students seem engaged and enthusiastic about the new school year.

The Bible Study class began on Tuesday, Sept. 15, and will continue to meet each Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory. If you are interested in joining the group, please call Teresa Teto at 347-346-6907.

Our monthly Holy Hour will begin on Friday, Oct. 2, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's School yard or in the school gym in case of rain.

All are welcome to attend our coffee hour in the rectory on the second Sunday of the month, Oct. 11, after the 10 a.m. Mass.

During the month of October, there will be special meetings for the parents of students in our sacramental classes. The First Communion parents will meet on Wednesday evening, Oct. 7, at 7:15 p.m. Parents of our Confirmation students will meet with the students on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 is designated as World Mission Sunday, a day of prayer that all may grow in their awareness of the work our missionaries do in third-world countries. We are all called to assist in the mission of the Church in spreading the Gospel.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, there will be a special Enrollment Mass at 10 a.m. for all those who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in April. Parents and students will participate in this initial event in preparation for the sacrament.

Our Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

AARP Chapter #318

AARP Chapter #318 will hold its general meetings for the month of October on Wednesday, Oct. 7, and Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Membership is open to all. For further information, call Myra LoPresti, membership chairperson at 914-576-6309.

We have several great events coming up. On Oct. 14 our Octoberfest luncheon will be held at LeGreci's Restaurant on Staten Island, New York. The price is \$70. Non-members welcome!

Nov. 4 is our annual Penny Auction. Admission is \$5, which includes lunch and 25 free tickets. Doors open at 12 noon. Non-members are welcome!

On Nov. 11 our Chapter will participate in a day of service to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice. A cross will be placed in Pelham Cemetery on City Island. The ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Carmelia A. Ramftl



City Island Republicans

The election season is in full swing. We have a full slate of candidates running all over the ballot. For the first time in 12 years, we have candidates for comptroller and public advocate. Joseph Mendola will run for comptroller, and Alex Zablocki will be running for public advocate.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue.

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 2 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church hall, 116 City Island Avenue (at Pilot Street).

PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

Come join the following sessions at Grace Church Hall: Monday, 10 a.m. Sittercise with Patty; Tuesday, 10 a.m. Cardio Fitness with Mary; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Michael; Friday 10 a.m. Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program with Patty; and Wednesday Orchard Beach Walk. The City Island van leaves Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to all programs and for a schedule of afternoon shopping trips. Call Patty at 718-885-1891 for further information. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the Arthritis Foundation.

Pat Grondahl

Legion News

Autumn is the season between summer and winter, commencing on the autumnal equinox and ending with the winter solstice. We welcome a change in weather with cooler days and evenings. The foliage

changes color and leaves begin to fall from the trees.

We celebrate Columbus Day on Oct. 12. Credit for the discovery of America in 1492 has been attributed to the Italian sailor, but some of our members of Scandinavian heritage feel that Chris arrived about three hundred years after the arrival of Eric the Red, Norwegian navigator of repute and revered by Post member Phil Tomsen. Phil told me that Eric landed at Turtle Cove about the year 1000.

Are you ready for the big bash, the 90th birthday of the Post? The tab for this evening will be \$75 but it will be worth it—a grand dinner at the Lido on Saturday, Nov. 21. Festivities will begin with a cocktail hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by three choices of dinners—chicken, fish or beef. The bar will be open all evening, and the Commander suggests designating a driver for the event.

Sick call: Several members are in various stages of recuperation. Buddy Pontecorvo has just been released from rehab and is doing well at home. Dave Carman told me that Bill Robinson is also in rehab. I don't have much on his prognosis but hope it is good. I had a chat with Mike Jawski, who will be going in for surgery Oct. 5. He sounded very upbeat. John Ulmer is up and about following a bout with a rare type of pneumonia. I don't have details, but Comrade McMahon was attacked by a swarm of hornets on the golf course; rumor has it that he was using yellow golf balls.

Until next month, at ease.

Russell Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Halloween Haunted House: Cirque de Satanic! One night only. Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 12 midnight. \$5 Adults, \$3 Children. \$1 off with donation of canned food per ticket.

NEW CLASSES

Art Classes With Laury: Storytime Art for ages 2½ to 5 accompanied by adult. Mondays Oct. 5–Dec. 14 or Thursdays Oct. 1–Dec. 17, from 12:45 to 2 p.m. Eleven classes \$80, limited to 8 students. **Painting the Planet** for grades K–3, first class 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., second class 4:45 to 5:45 p.m., Mondays Oct. 5–Dec. 7. Ten classes \$80, limited to 8 students. **Jaws, Claws and Scales:** Create your own dragon (see examples in the Atlantic Emeritus Realty Window) for grades 4–8. Tuesdays Oct. 6–Dec. 8, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Ten classes: \$100, limited to 6 students. **Teen and Adult Painting (acrylics):** Seventh- and eighth-graders preparing portfolios for high school are welcome. Thursdays Oct. 1–Dec. 10 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Ten classes \$80 (some supplies required), limited to 6 students. For

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

Ready-Set-Go: How to turn your household into a learning laboratory for your children with a free parent presentation by John Scardina, a certified school psychologist and parent educator with over three decades of experience working with children. He is delighted to be living and working on City Island. Monday, Oct. 5, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. If you have questions, call 718-885-9305 or e-mail johnscardina@hotmail.com.

Drama Club: For ages 8 through 12. Thursdays Oct. 1–Dec. 10 from 4 to 5 p.m. Donation requested.

Sally's Playground: Where children ages 1 through 5 enjoy indoor play. Wednesdays 9:30 to noon. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 with questions. \$7 per child (\$4 for each additional sibling.) Come and join the fun!

City Island Play Group: This play group is focused on creating a safe space for children and their caregivers to gather and play. The play group will consist of free play as well as structured activities. Ages birth through 4 years. Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons 12:30 to 3 p.m.. Please contact Sarah Frei at 917-684-6644 or e-mail sjeffriesnyc@yahoo.com.

Guitar Lessons: Beginner to intermediate; all ages. If you have a passion for learning to play the guitar or just want to brush up on some skills and take it to the next level, I am passionate about taking on new students! Available for group or individual lessons. Group lessons are \$20 per student for 45 minutes (minimum 4 and maximum 6 students per class). Individual lessons are \$40 for 45 minutes. All students will need to bring an acoustic guitar for their lesson. Please call Dave at 914-400-6153.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn cour-

tesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

ADULT PROGRAM

Ashtanga Yoga with Vincenza: a yoga instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of Miami. Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. for one hour. Please bring a yoga mat. E-mail Vmadonia59@aol.com or call 917-440-3618.

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa. No partner necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nilsa at 917-838-6501.

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

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

Yoga: A beginner-to-intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 718-885-2445.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

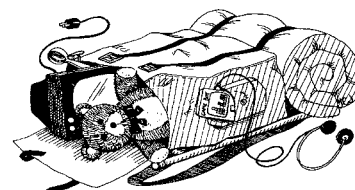
FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Wilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit www.funtimemusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

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

City Island Physical Therapy: Licensed physical therapist with private office space. For an appointment, call Janine Mantzaris at 917-577-1752.

Amy Gottlieb



Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

The Vinnie Hecker first annual memorial fishing trip was a success in spite of the nasty weather. A barbecue was held back at the Post after the boat returned. Everyone had a ball and shared plenty of old memories.

The 90th anniversary celebration will be the annual Servicemen's Dinner for 2009, which will be on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m. After the cocktail hour, dinner will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Alive n' Kickin will provide the music. Tickets are \$75 and should be purchased by Nov. 1. The Post is also offering table sponsors for \$100. The sponsor's name will be on a plaque at the table. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Membership information will be going out soon. Dues are once again \$30; dual members and minors (under age 18) pay \$8. A male descendant of any age of a wartime veteran may join. Dual members are members of the Sons who are also members of the American Legion. Membership cards will be issued once your dues are paid in full. We are still growing by leaps and

bounds.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m. at the Post.

Fred Ramftl, Jr.
Vice Commander, Membership

City Island Theater Group

The theater group will close out its acclaimed 10th anniversary season with a "Festival of One-Act Plays," which will consist of 15 original and published comedies and dramas that are sure to be crowd-pleasers.

Weekend one will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m. These are the featured plays for that weekend: "Anything for You" by Cathy Celestia, "An Unmade Bed" by CITG board member Frank Siciliano, "Chocolate" by Frederick Stroppel, "Canker Sores and Other Distractions" by Christopher Durang, "Naked Mole Rats in the World of Darkness" by Mike Folie, "Pride of Place" by Donald Steele and "Variations on the Death of Trotsky" by David Ives.

Weekend two will take place on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. That weekend features: "DMV Tyrant" by Christopher Durang, "Post-Its (Notes on a Marriage)" by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman, "Rosa's Eulogy" by Richard Strand, "Set for Life" by Islander Bob Mulroy, "The Chocolate Affair" by Stephanie Alison Walker, "The M Word" by Alan Ball, "The Man Who Couldn't Dance" by Jason Katims and "The Woman Who Wanted Her Husband" by Rich Orloff (adapted from the short play "A Matter of Husbands" by Ferenc Molnar).

Appearing in the plays are CITG favorites and some great new faces: Bernadette Barnes, Steven Bandler, Joe Tom Collins, Angela Theresa Collins, Dennis DeLeo, Connieann DelVecchio, Carol Dooner, Daniel Figueroa, Eileen Fox, John Geil, Camille Kaiser, Bill Kozy, Kim Lowden, Chris Manetakis, Eileen Marcus, Kate McShane, Christopher Meindl, Bob Mulroy, Mary Mulroy, Elizabeth Paldino, Sandy Prosnitz, Susan Rauh, Katrina Snyder, Lindy Tabano, Dale Walkonen, Wendy Wyckoff and Denis Zepeda.

Don't miss these wonderful plays performed by an excellent cast of players! With a "Festival of One-Act Plays" there will be something for everyone! The City Island Theater Group is located in the parish hall at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For more information and to make reservations, call 718-885-3066 or check us out on the web at www.cityislandtheatergroup.com. See you at the theater!

Nick Sala

Grace Episcopal Church

In 2009 Grace Church celebrates 160 years of mission and ministry on City Island, and we are here for you! You are warmly welcomed to join us for any of our regular weekly worship services, which are as follows: Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10 a.m.; Evening Prayer is offered every Monday at 7 p.m.; and Morning Prayer is offered every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during October and early November:

Sunday, Oct. 4, 12 noon: The Blessing of the Animals. In keeping with tradition, all pets (furry, winged, scaled, and finned) are invited to the Grace courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we ask that attendees be leashed, caged, or otherwise appropriately restrained!

Friday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.: Grace Church 160th Anniversary Dinner, City Island Yacht Club

Sunday, Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m.: Christian Parenting Forum (Parish Hall)

Sunday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.: All Saints' Sunday. Please leave a message on 718-885-1080 by Friday, Oct. 30 to remember a departed loved one at the Altar.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

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Hugh Jackman: A Selected Filmography

The man who hosted this year's Academy Awards, and did so with great talent and class, is the Australian actor Hugh Jackman. He was first a hit on the London stage as Curly in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma*, which was made into a film in 1999. Jackman is marvelous as Curly, a cowboy in love with Laurey (Josefina Gabrielle), who is in turn pursued by the nasty ranch hand Jud (Shuler Hensley).

I first noticed Jackman in a "guilty pleasure" film *Someone Like You* (2001), which stars the lovely Ashley Judd as Jane, a production assistant on a daytime talk show hosted by Diane (Ellen Barkin). Jane has an "old cow/new cow" theory about men, which she shares with her best friend, Liz (Marisa Tomei). This comforts Jane as she tries to understand her lack of success in romance. She is swept away by the duplicitous Ray (Greg Kinnear) but finds solace in her growing friendship with the womanizing Eddie (Jackman).

Hugh Jackman steals every scene as Leopold in *Kate & Leopold* (2001), when he travels through time from 1876 to present-day New York, where he meets and is befriended by Kate (Meg Ryan), her former boyfriend Stuart (Liev Schreiber) and Kate's brother, Charlie (Breckin Meyer). Kate, who has a most abominable hairdo, works in advertising and wants to use Leopold in a commercial, which is so successful that her boss, J.J. Camden (Bradley Whitford), decides to promote her. But Kate has never met anyone with Leopold's manners and bearing, and she will eventually have a difficult decision to make.

Jackman moves from romantic comedy (where I like him best) into a thriller entitled *Swordfish* (2001). John Travolta stars as Gabriel Shear, an anti-terrorism terrorist who coerces Stanley Jobson (Jackman), an infamous computer hacker, to help him pull off a multi-billion dollar electronic bank burglary. Halle Berry is on hand as Gabriel's partner, Ginger. This is a very violent action adventure film that keeps the viewer enthralled.

In 2000 Jackman co-starred in the first of the Marvel comic book series *X-Men*. A peacekeeping force of mutants with special powers is led by psychic Professor Xavier

(Patrick Stewart). The team includes Wolverine (Jackman), Rogue (Anna Paquin), Storm (Halle Berry), Jean Grey (Famke Janssen) and Cyclops (James Marsden). They fight Magneto (Ian McKellen) and his band of evil mutants, including Mystique (Rebecca Romjin-Stamos), the Toad (Ray Park) and Sabretooth (Tyler Mane). This film was followed by *X2: X-Men United* (2003), *X-Men: The Last Stand* (2006) and *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* (2009). Jackman's importance grew along with his popularity and this resulted in his character's taking the title role in the most recent film.

The Prestige (2006) stars Jackman as the magician Robert Angier, who along with his archrival, Alfred Borden (Christian Bale), performs the same tricks in different theaters as they try to sabotage each other along the way. Michael Caine is Cutter, Angier's assistant, and Scarlett Johansson is the lovely Olivia, who works first with one magician and then with the other. David Bowie appears as Nikola Tesla, an inventor who had a real-life rivalry with Thomas Edison.

In *Scoop* (2006), Woody Allen is a magician named Splendini, aka Sid Waterman. When American journalism student Sondra Pransky (Scarlett Johansson) participates in one of his tricks, she meets the ghost of a dead journalist, Joe Strombel (Ian McShane), who gives her a "scoop" as to the identity of a serial killer. Jackman is perfectly charming as the aristocrat Peter Lyman, who enters into a romantic relationship with Sondra.

Jackman is splendidly wicked as Wyatt Bose in *Deception* (2008). Late one night, while performing an audit, an accountant named Jonathan McQuarry (Ewan McGregor) meets Wyatt, and they become friends. When they accidentally switch cell phones and Wyatt leaves town on business, McQuarry is enticed into a telephone-list "sex club," whose rules include "no names" and where the initiator secures the hotel room. When McQuarry meets a mysterious, beautiful blonde, played by Michelle Williams, he becomes obsessed with her. When Wyatt returns, we find that he is not what he appeared to be in the beginning.

Nicole Kidman stars as Lady Sarah Ashley and Jackman as the Drover, with whom she falls in love in the epic melodrama *Australia* (2008). Set in 1939, the film follows Lady Ashley as she travels from England to discover that her husband has been murdered on their plantation in northern Australia. She comes to love Nullah, an 11-year-old aboriginal boy (Brandon Walters), who is under Drover's protection and serves as narrator for the film. Bryan Brown is King Carney, the requisite bad guy, in this epic, well-acted, gorgeously filmed modern Western.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



Public School 175

Principal Amy Lipson and assistant principal Josephine Rondi would like to welcome back the children, parents and faculty for the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Miskimmon and Ms. Bellon are teaching kindergarten, and Mrs. Stelman, Mrs. Cambria and Ms. Palazzo will be working with the first-graders. The second and third grades are fortunate to have Mrs. Carter-Spencer, Mrs. Eisen, Mrs. McManus and Ms. Stanford. The Grade 4 teachers are Mrs. Mazzella and Ms. Maryl, and the fifth grade will be taught by Ms. Minor and Ms. Wiehler. The homeroom teachers for the sixth grade are Ms. Fretwell and Ms. Tighe. Seventh- and eighth-grade teachers include Mr. Scopp, Ms. Ramos, Ms. Marron, Ms. Heil, Mrs. Horowitz and Mr. Lafreniere.

Mr. Fecht will run the physical education program; Ms. Rodrigues is in charge of computer technology; the guidance counselor is Mrs. McDonald, and Mrs. Gisante is the parent coordinator.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Mrs. Jane Dennehy, principal, welcomes the following faculty members for the 2009-2010 academic year: The Pre-K

Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.

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teacher is Ms. Joyce Ocasio, who will be assisted by Mrs. Nicole Durante and Mrs. Maria Torres. Ms. Buthania Nesheiwat will teach kindergarten, aided by Ms. Laiz Moises. The first-graders will again be taught by Sr. Joan McKinney, and the second grade will have Ms. Bilma Garcia. Mrs. Theresa Bivona is the third-grade teacher, and Mrs. Helen McMahon and Mrs. Lisa Moore will teach grades 4 and 5, respectively. The sixth-graders will have Mr. Robert Garrison; Mr. Evan Beskin will teach Grade 7 and Ms. Audrey Cabbell will have the eighth-graders.

The music director is Mr. Daniel Goewey; the art instructor is Ms. Laiz Moises; Ms. Caitlin Cannizzaro will teach physical education, and Mrs. Diana O'Halloran will head the computer program. The guidance counselor is Ms. Kay Henry.



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Principals

(Continued from page 1)

grants and fund-raisers," said Mrs. Dennehy, "to help families who cannot meet the annual tuition. The funds may be limited, but a lot of staff dedication will keep us going and continue to make this a nice place to work."

In addition, she reiterated the school's theme of virtue and mercy. "We also haven't forgotten our mission of outreach and charity even though funds are tight. We will continue to hold fundraisers for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, among others."

Ms. Lipson will rally her outside supporters, including many local politicians. New York City Councilman James Vacca has, in the past, obtained a grant for an after-school arts and sports program for grades 5 to 8. This program includes photography (taught by City Island's Ron Turner), as well as performing arts and

chorus. State Senator Jeff Klein donated \$43,000 toward a new technology lab, including all new Mac computers. Assemblyman Michael Benedetto also came up with funds to support different programs. They also have a Lincoln Center sponsored program for grades K to 3, which is held during school hours every week and focuses on the visual arts.

The P.S. 175 principal also said that the capital funds set aside for the long-awaited wall installation on the second floor of the school are still in place. The renovation is on schedule to begin next year and to be completed by 2011. Built in 1975, the school was designed in open-classroom style, similar to a number of schools throughout the city. Most have been transformed to traditional closed classrooms because the distractions are too great, especially for children with ADD (attention deficit disorder).

Both principals have also had to deal with the threat of the H1N1 (swine) flu. Although neither school had any confirmed



Partitions scheduled for replacement by walls at P.S. 175.

cases last year, both would like to keep that record intact. St. Mary's nurse, Maria Torres, is in constant communication with parents about what to do if a student exhibits any flu symptoms ("If in doubt, keep them home"). She has increased the use of hand sanitizers at the school and is teaching children how to prevent the spread of germs.

P.S. 175 also has a full-time nurse and a new health intern, replacing longtime staff member and Islander Betty Carman, who retired last year. "We have a hand-washing campaign. And, though it sounds funny, we also teach students to sneeze into their elbows rather than their hands," Ms. Lipson said.

In between being responsible for educating many Island and off-Island children, both women juggle family and professional lives. Mrs. Dennehy is the mother of four children—Andrew, Elizabeth, Maura and Sara—and a proud grandmother of Erin Katherine O'Brien. Following in their mother's footsteps, three of her children are teachers in Bronx parochial schools.

Ms. Lipson has a grown daughter, who graduated from college as an art major.

She is living in California, so Ms. Lipson makes as many trips to the coast as her schedule permits. "I am racking up the Jet Blue miles."

She ended our interview with a vow to maintain class sizes and not let the school become overcrowded. She asked for help from the community in solving a longstanding issue with the highly ranked school. "There are still residents who let off-Islanders use their addresses to get their children into the school. Although some non-residents are here legitimately under the No Child Left Behind mandate, others are not," Ms. Lipson explained.

The Department of Education is clamping down and sending attendance officers to verify addresses. If it turns out that a lease or a deed (required as proof of residence) is not legitimate, the child will be removed from the school.

Both principals seem up to the task of maintaining educational standards in their schools, even as funding declines. But they acknowledge the key role that the community and their parent-teacher organizations will play during the coming year.

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Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



John William Gilder

John William Gilder, beloved son of Mark and Karen (McGee) Gilder, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 18, 2009, due to an undiagnosed heart problem. He was 23.

John was born on July 1, 1986, in New York City and lived on City Island until his family moved to Greenwich when he was nine. He attended North Mianus School and Eastern Middle School and then graduated from Greenwich High School in 2004. While in high school, John earned his Eagle Scout award and won first place in the Junior League's Public Service Film Contest for his film on the dangerous realities of smoking.

John was a 2008 graduate of Fordham University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration. After graduation, John worked with NBC Universal. He was currently working with Warner Brothers Pictures on a film to be released in 2010.

John's passion in life was fishing, a passion ignited by his grandfather, Islander Wil-

liam (Bill) McGee. In recent years, he lived on City Island with his beloved grandfather and often went fishing with family and friends. John felt at peace on the water while fishing, which he did as often as possible.

John also gave of himself to others through his volunteer work as instructor to communion and confirmation students in the Religious Education Program at St. Catherine of Sienna Church in Riverside, Connecticut. He continued his community work with those younger than himself at the Arch Street Teen Center and at Seaton Boy Scout Camp.

John was courteous and considerate, traits readily apparent to those who met him. He was a humble yet confident young man who offered his friendship to many. His devotion to family, friends and his community will always be remembered.

In addition to his parents, John is survived by his sisters, Kerry and Kathleen Gilder, whom he adored; his grandparents, William T. McGee, and John and Margaret Gilder; his many aunts and uncles, including Lawrence and Michelle Gilder, James and DeeDee Gilder, Kathleen and Henry Edquist, Anne Overton, Margaret and Doug Black, Christine and Bernie Hintz, Annie McGee (his "City Island mom") and Lieutenant William McGee (his "best friend"). He will be missed by his longtime girlfriend, Elizabeth Murray, a 2009 graduate of Fairfield University.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the John Gilder Memorial Scholarship Trust, c/o 32 Fado Lane, Cos Cob, CT 06807.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

SOCIAL SECURITY AND EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The Commissioner of Social Security recently hosted a public hearing in which officials heard testimony from some of the nation's leading experts on early-onset Alzheimer's disease and related dementias about possible methods for identifying and implementing compassionate allowances for people with early-onset Alzheimer's.

"This year, through Compassionate Allowances and our Quick Disability Determination process, over 100,000 Americans with severe disabilities will be approved for Social Security disability benefits in a matter of days rather than the months and years it can sometimes take," said Commissioner Michael Astrue. "We are now looking to add more diseases and impairments to these expedited processes. With this hearing, we are expanding our

focus from specific rare diseases and cancers to look at subgroups of much broader conditions. Early-onset Alzheimer's disease is a rapidly progressive and debilitating disease of the brain that affects individuals between the ages of 50 and 65 and clearly deserves our consideration."

In October 2008, Social Security launched "compassionate allowances" to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants with medical conditions so severe that their conditions by definition meet Social Security's standards. To learn more and to view a webcast of today's hearing, go to www.social-security.gov/compassionateallowances.

"With the aging of the baby boomers, we are beginning to see many more younger, working Americans diagnosed with this devastating disease," Commissioner Astrue said. "I want to thank the Alzheimer's Association and their staff; their help has been invaluable and many of the witnesses are here at their suggestion. Together, we hope to identify the most severe cases that can be included in our Compassionate Allowances process."

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Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving Time)

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

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

OCTOBER 2009									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Thu	0426	1.03	1032	7.66	1643	0.84	2251	7.53	Thu 01
02 Fri	0455	0.82	1059	7.82	1715	0.50	2316	7.57	Fri 02
03 Sat	0516	0.62	1114	8.00	1742	0.20	2335	7.61	Sat 03
04 Sun	0539	0.42	1137	8.22	1810	-0.04			Sun 04
05 Mon	0002	7.66	0610	0.28	1210	8.43	1844	-0.17	Mon 05
06 Tue	0038	7.67	0647	0.23	1248	8.56	1924	-0.18	Tue 06
07 Wed	0119	7.61	0728	0.32	1330	8.55	2007	-0.03	Wed 07
08 Thu	0204	7.46	0813	0.54	1417	8.39	2056	0.25	Thu 08
09 Fri	0254	7.24	0904	0.85	1509	8.09	2153	0.60	Fri 09
10 Sat	0351	7.00	1003	1.19	1608	7.71	2305	0.91	Sat 10
11 Sun	0500	6.83	1116	1.43	1719	7.36			Sun 11
12 Mon	0048	0.98	0635	6.89	1311	1.35	1900	7.22	Mon 12
13 Tue	0206	0.75	0805	7.26	1433	0.84	2033	7.43	Tue 13
14 Wed	0307	0.39	0907	7.74	1536	0.21	2136	7.71	Wed 14
15 Thu	0401	0.03	1000	8.18	1631	-0.36	2229	7.92	Thu 15
16 Fri	0451	-0.25	1048	8.50	1721	-0.79	2317	8.01	Fri 16
17 Sat	0537	-0.39	1132	8.66	1809	-1.00			Sat 17
18 Sun	0003	7.97	0620	-0.36	1215	8.66	1855	-0.97	Sun 18
19 Mon	0047	7.82	0701	-0.17	1255	8.52	1939	-0.74	Mon 19
20 Tue	0129	7.60	0738	0.14	1334	8.27	2022	-0.35	Tue 20
21 Wed	0211	7.34	0812	0.52	1412	7.95	2104	0.14	Wed 21
22 Thu	0254	7.07	0841	0.92	1450	7.60	2146	0.63	Thu 22
23 Fri	0341	6.85	0913	1.31	1533	7.25	2230	1.09	Fri 23
24 Sat	0436	6.68	0957	1.65	1625	6.95	2320	1.43	Sat 24
25 Sun	0538	6.63	1053	1.90	1741	6.73			Sun 25
26 Mon	0017	1.63	0640	6.69	1215	1.99	1857	6.67	Mon 26
27 Tue	0113	1.67	0735	6.84	1334	1.85	1956	6.72	Tue 27
28 Wed	0203	1.58	0824	7.05	1431	1.55	2046	6.82	Wed 28
29 Thu	0245	1.38	0905	7.28	1518	1.16	2128	6.94	Thu 29
30 Fri	0320	1.13	0936	7.51	1559	0.73	2201	7.05	Fri 30
31 Sat	0351	0.85	0959	7.77	1636	0.32	2229	7.18	Sat 31
NOVEMBER 2009									
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 1									
01 Sun	0324	0.58	0928	8.07	1611	-0.04	2200	7.31	Sun 01
02 Mon	0401	0.35	1003	8.34	1649	-0.30	2237	7.42	Mon 02
03 Tue	0442	0.20	1043	8.54	1729	-0.44	2319	7.48	Tue 03
04 Wed	0525	0.17	1126	8.61	1813	-0.44			Wed 04
05 Thu	0004	7.46	0612	0.26	1213	8.53	1901	-0.29	Thu 05
06 Fri	0053	7.38	0702	0.45	1303	8.29	1955	-0.04	Fri 06
07 Sat	0147	7.24	0759	0.72	1359	7.92	2058	0.26	Sat 07



NIGHT VISITORS

We were a little late sending in this month's column, and we're glad we were. Because of it, we can share with you the visitor we had on the evening of the 21st of September. It was an opossum. It climbed right up onto our deck, waddled over to the back door, and then it reared up on its hind legs, sniffing for food. Our neighbor Mario had seen one a few days before on a sidewalk across the street. We've seen them here and there on City Island before, too, but never like this.

An opossum is a marsupial, or pouched mammal, the only one of its kind native to North America. It can have as many as 14 babies at a time. If you've ever encountered one—let alone 14!—of these critters of the night by surprise, you know that you don't soon forget them. An opossum is not a very attractive animal at all; in certain ways—the tail, for instance—it is distinctly rat-like. Barbara told me that she just found one in her backyard, a former opossum, that is, kindness of her visiting Cairn terrier friend, Angus, who doesn't tolerate anything rat-like in the yard. The victim wasn't full grown, so she felt kind

of sorry. "Possums are better than skunks or raccoons (but oh those 50 teeth!)," she said.

We got an e-mail from Tom that reminded us of another, much more welcome visitor to our backyard: fireflies. He wrote of the dazzling display he witnessed as he drove along City Island Road. There were, he said, "thousands and thousands (and thousands!)" of fireflies in the same place "doing their twinkling, sparkling thing." We have read that this kind of display is more characteristic of fireflies in the tropics, but after seeing that opossum on our deck, as far as we're concerned anything is possible.

We have also read that fireflies are not flies, after all, but beetles. Maybe this is why we were taught to call them lightning bugs instead, which brings to mind another flying insect and its aliases. If a dragonfly (which really is a fly, having a single pair of wings versus a beetle's more than one) and a darned needle are one in the same, would someone please tell us what a diamond needle is?

As always, we can be contacted at jdsstrat@msn.com or c/o of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, Bronx NY 10464.

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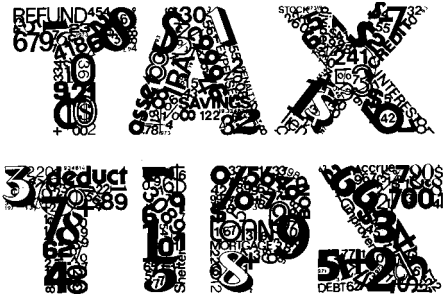
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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

IRS Alerts Public to New Identity Theft Scams

The IRS wants taxpayers to avoid identity theft schemes that use the IRS name, logo or website in an attempt to trick taxpayers into believing the scam is a genuine communication from the IRS. Some may use other federal agency names, such as the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

In an identity theft scam, a fraudster, often posing as a trusted government, financial or business institution or official, tries to trick a victim into revealing personal and financial information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, passwords and more. Generally, identity thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns.

These types of scams may take place through e-mail, fax or phone. When they take place via e-mail, they are called "phishing" scams. The IRS does not discuss tax account matters with taxpayers by e-mail and the IRS urges taxpayers to avoid falling for these following recent schemes:

Making Work Pay Refund

This phishing e-mail, which claims to come from the IRS, references the president and the Making Work Pay provision of the 2009 economic recovery law. It says that there is a refundable credit available to workers, consumers and retirees that can be paid into the recipient's bank account if the recipient registers their account infor-

mation with the IRS. The e-mail contains links to register the account and to claim the tax refund. **DO NOT CLICK ON ANY OF THESE LINKS.** You are only asking for trouble if you do.

In reality, most taxpayers receive their Making Work Pay tax credit, which was designed for wage earners, in their paychecks because of decreased tax withholding, not as a lump sum distribution from a federal fund. Additionally, consumers and retirees who are not wage earners are not eligible for this tax credit.

Inherited Funds / Lottery Winnings / Cash Consignments

In this phishing scheme, recipients receive an e-mail claiming to come from the U.S. Department of the Treasury notifying them that they will receive millions of dollars in recovered funds or lottery winnings or cash consignment if they provide certain personal information, including phone numbers, via return e-mail. The e-mail may be just the first step in a multi-step scheme, in which the victim is later contacted by telephone or further e-mail and instructed to deposit taxes on the funds or winnings before they can receive any of it. Alternatively, they may be sent a phony check of the funds or winnings and told to deposit it but pay 10 percent in taxes or fees. Thinking that the check must have cleared the bank and is genuine, some people comply. However, the scammers, not the Treasury Department, will get the taxes or fees.

Form W-8BEN

In this scam, fraudsters modify a genuine IRS form, the W-8BEN, Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding, to request detailed personal and financial information. This could include nationality, passport number, bank account and PIN numbers, spouse's name and mother's maiden name, or other personal or financial information or security measures for financial accounts. The scammers may use the genuine form number and name or may even make up a new form number.

They either e-mail or fax the form or letter. If only a letter, the letter itself con-

tains the request for the personal and financial information. The letter, which claims to come from the IRS, states that the recipient will face additional taxes unless he or she quickly faxes the required information to the number provided by the scammer.

In reality, taxpayers file the genuine Form W-8BEN with their financial institutions, not with the IRS. Additionally, the genuine W-8BEN does not request the taxpayer's passport number, bank account number, security or similar information.

Refund Scam

The bogus e-mail, which claims to come from the IRS, tells the recipient that he or she is eligible to receive a tax refund for a given, usually nominal, amount. It instructs the recipient to click on a link contained in the e-mail to access and complete a form for the tax refund. **DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS.** The form requires the entry of personal and financial information. The refund scam is the most common one seen by the IRS. Several recent variations on this scam have claimed to come from the Exempt Organizations area of the IRS. Some others have included the name and purported signature of a genuine or a made-up IRS executive.

Taxpayers do not have to complete a special form to obtain a refund. Taxpayer refunds are based on the tax return they submit to the IRS.

How to Spot a Scam

Many e-mail scams are fairly sophisticated and hard to detect. However, there are signs to watch for, such as an e-mail that:

1) Requests detailed or an unusual amount of personal and/or financial information, such as name, SSN, bank or credit card account numbers or security-related information, such as mother's maiden name, either in the e-mail itself or on another site to which a link in the e-mail sends the recipient.

2) Dangles bait to get the recipient to respond to the e-mail, such as mentioning a tax refund or offering to pay the recipient to participate in an IRS survey.

3) Threatens a consequence for not responding to the e-mail, such as additional taxes or blocking access to the recipient's

funds.

4) Gets the Internal Revenue Service or other federal agency names wrong.

5) Uses incorrect grammar or odd phrasing (many of these e-mail scams originate overseas and are usually written by non-native English speakers).

6) Uses a long address in any link contained in the e-mail message or one that does not start with the actual IRS Web site address (www.irs.gov). To see the actual link address, or URL, move the mouse over the link included in the text of the e-mail.

What to Do

The IRS does not initiate taxpayer contact via unsolicited e-mail or ask for personal identifying or financial information via e-mail. If you receive a suspicious e-mail claiming to come from the IRS, take the following steps:

1) Do not open any attachments to the e-mail, in case they contain malicious code that will infect your computer.

2) Do not click on any links, for the same reason. Also, be aware that the links often connect to a phony IRS Web site that appears authentic and then prompts the victim for personal identifiers, bank or credit card account numbers or PINs. The phony Web sites appear legitimate because the appearance and much of the content are directly copied from an actual page on the IRS Web site and then modified by the scammers for their own purposes.

3) Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to determine whether the IRS is trying to contact you.

4) Forward the suspicious e-mail or URL address to the IRS mailbox phishing@irs.gov, and then delete the e-mail from your mailbox.

Genuine IRS Web site

The only genuine IRS Web site is [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov). All [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov) Web page addresses begin with <http://www.irs.gov/>. Anyone wishing to access the IRS Web site should initiate contact by typing the [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov) address into his or her Internet address window, rather than clicking on a link in an e-mail.

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

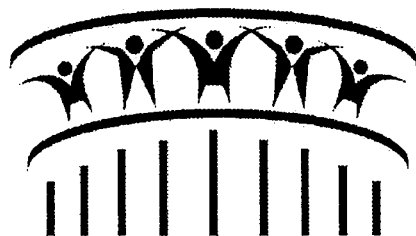
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The Freedom of (Self-Imposed) Chains

Most of us suffer under the misconception that people who are fit work hard and spend most of their lives depriving themselves in order to achieve their amazing bodies. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I will let you in on a little secret: It's not hard to get and stay fit. It's not about hard work and deprivation. It's all about boundaries. Let me explain.

When you were a child, your parents set boundaries around you. They were the authority on what was or wasn't acceptable behavior. You had to complete your chores before dinner. You had to finish your homework before going out to play. You had to eat all your vegetables before dessert. If you failed to comply with these boundaries, then you knew there would be consequences.

As an adult, you—and only you—are the authority on what is or is not acceptable behavior. You are in the position to set boundaries around yourself. These boundaries serve as a framework of order around you, a rock of support in an otherwise chaotic world.

With self-imposed boundaries, you can assure your success in anything, specifically with weight loss. Indeed, your fitness boundaries have to be self-imposed—no one is going to do it for you. Don't look at this as a bad thing! Self-imposed boundaries are self-empowering.

Let's face it: you've been living life without fitness boundaries.

- You eat whatever you want, whenever you want it.
- You use any excuse to avoid exercise.
- You indulge whenever it feels good.

If any of those are true, it's time to introduce boundaries back into your life.

These boundaries are the key to unleashing your ideal fit and healthy body.

1. Fitness Boundary One: What you eat

If you were to be perfectly honest with me, you could list all the foods that are unhealthy and fattening. So why are you still eating them? You know that refined, fried, processed and sugary foods are not good for you. Place boundaries around what you will allow yourself to eat. Acceptable food items include whole foods, vegetables, fruits, whole grains and lean meats.

2. Fitness Boundary Two: How you exercise

I know that you're not an Olympic athlete, but that doesn't mean that you can simply pass on exercise. By now you are well aware of the host of benefits that exercise provides. With regular exercise you'll look great, feel amazing and have more energy than ever. Place boundaries around how often you must exercise. Choose exercise that is challenging and fun, and don't be afraid to try new activities that improve your strength and endurance.

3. Fitness Boundary Three: When you indulge

Let's face it, we live in a world where indulging has become the norm rather than the exception. When you live life without fitness boundaries, every day is an opportunity to indulge. These indulgences all add up quickly, causing your clothes to become tight and your energy levels to drop. Place boundaries around when you can indulge. You'll find that by limiting your indulgences, you will end up enjoying them even more.

Putting It into Action

Sit down and take a long, hard look at your lifestyle. Are you eating as healthily as you could be? Are you exercising three to five times each week? Are you indulging too often? Answer the following questions:

1. What three food items can I elimi-

nate from my daily diet? (These should be nutritionally void items such as high-calorie beverages, fast food, packaged snacks, high-fat food, candy or desserts.)

2. When can I schedule exercise into my week? (Pick three to five days and select a specific timeframe. Example: I'm going to exercise on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m.)

3. When will I allow myself to indulge? (Don't go overboard here, especially if

you need to lose weight. Enjoy a treat a couple times each month, and do so guilt-free knowing that you've maintained healthy food boundaries the rest of the time.

Fitness boundaries put your fitness results on autopilot. If you know what constitutes an acceptable meal, then choosing what to eat gets a whole lot easier. If you are committed to exercising three times a week, it will soon become second nature.

Box 6

(Continued from page 4)

you to be safe. All of you made the worst time of my life a little bit better. I lost my nephew, my best friend and my fishing partner. My life will never be the same.

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank everyone in the community for their support and love during this painful time.

Billy McGee

"Far Side" Fan

To the Editor:

I enjoy Michael Shanley's "The Far Side of the Bridge" column and have learned much over the past years. His research is detailed and his topics are always relevant. The September 2009 column opened with the news of Bronx native Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

In the spirit of remembering our history, I offer an additional point. Some years before Justice Sotomayor's childhood in public housing, Justice Clarence Thomas was growing up poor in Gullah-speaking Georgia. His memoir details the "daily struggle for the barest of essentials" in rural Pin Point—life in a shanty with no bathroom, little electricity and a trek through woods with lard buckets to get water—and the urban squalor of Savannah, where the only toilet was "in the muddy backyard." I salute all our justices who have bested their difficult beginnings.

Harlan Sexton

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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 October anniversaries to the cousins: Judy and Mike Rauh, John and Linda Wright, and Mike and Roseann Bunyan.

If you're running in the ING New York City Marathon on Nov. 1, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. We'd like to take a group photo for *The Current*.

A fond farewell to Chase Bank's Jeannette Persico, who retired on Sept. 25 after a 30-year career with Chase. Jeannette plans on spending time traveling and enjoying her two grandchildren.

Congratulations to Conner Saulnier,

who has been nominated to attend and has accepted the National Junior Young Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this month. The Parkchester Kiwanis Club has generously donated \$1,000, and the family has also been raising money to help defray the cost of tuition. Way to go, Conner!

Happy 23rd birthday wishes across the miles on Oct. 29 to Sunjay Sebastian, with much love from your City Island friends.

Linda and John Ulmer are proud to announce the birth of their new granddaughter, Gabriella Nicole Alit, who arrived on Aug. 27, 2009. Gabriella weighed in at 7 lbs., 14 oz., 19 in. She is the daughter of Kristin (Ulmer) and Scott Alit. Gabriella was welcomed by her big brother, John Kenneth.

Belated happy fifth birthday wishes to our granddaughter, Allison Grace Kratzer, daughter of Karen (Ulmer) and Ryan Kratzer. And happy birthday wishes to our grandson, Luke William, son of Debra (Ulmer) and her husband, Jeff. Luke will be two on Oct. 11. Love, Mimi and Papa Ulmer.

Happy Halloween to all. See you at the parade!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by ETHEL LOTT

Cait Hennessey, Tommy Lott and Maria Christina Swieciki were honored for eight years of service as altar servers at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Sunday, July 26, 2009.



Islander Conner Saulnier (second from left) was accepted to attend the National Junior Young Leadership Conference in Washington, DC in Oct. 2009. Parkchester Kiwanis Club presented Conner with a check for \$1,000 to help defray the cost of tuition.

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