

# The Island Current

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## NEW COMMANDER REACHES OUT TO ISLANDERS

By KAREN NANI



Photos by MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER and KAREN NANI

A new commander took over the leadership of the 45th Precinct in August 2008. Captain Dimitrios Roumeliotis (second from right) is shown above at the precinct house with officers under his command (l. to r.): Officer Ann Marie Morrison, Captain Deodat Urprasad and Lieutenant Carlos Ortiz. In a meeting with editors from *The Current*, he reviewed a number of City Island incidents (see *Blotter*), including the morning that Islanders were roused from their beds on Sept. 22, 2008, by NYPD helicopters. Police were responding to a call about a disturbed individual near the bridge.

Captain Dimitrios Roumeliotis, the new commander of the 45th Precinct, is looking forward to working with City Islanders to prevent crime and apprehend criminals.

"I have heard great things about the community, and I am honored to be working in the 45th Precinct," he told *The Current* in an interview at the precinct on Sept. 24, 2008. He and officers from the Community Affairs team outlined a number of programs and investigations aimed at helping keep crime down on the Island.

First, the captain was asked about recent police activities, including the NYPD helicopters circling noisily over City Island on successive Monday mornings in September. He explained that police were responding to 911 calls about "disturbed individuals."

On Sept. 15, officers located an emotionally disturbed Islander on Rochelle Street at around 10:30 a.m. The individual had reportedly been seen racing from Pell Place past the City Island Yacht Club and eventually to the Morris Yacht Club, where he was taken into custody. According to Captain Roumeliotis, "the individual was in need of medical attention and was taken to the hospital. No arrest was made."

The following Monday, Sept. 22, Islanders were roused from their beds at around 4 a.m. by the sound of helicopters searching for an individual near the traffic circle just over the City Island Bridge. The captain described him as "an emotionally disturbed off-Islander," who was also taken into custody without incident and brought to the hospital.

Lieutenant Carlos Ortiz and Captain Deodat Urprasad then told editors from *The Current* about an ongoing investigation stemming from a robbery on City Island. On Sunday, Sept. 14, at 4 a.m., two males wearing masks entered the Sunoco station

on City Island Avenue at Ditmars Street and ordered the attendant to the floor. They demanded his wallet and removed \$1,000 from the cash register before fleeing. Police are reviewing videotape evidence from surveillance cameras and are actively pursuing the investigation. Although they could not reveal complete details of the crime and their investigation at this time, they indicated that progress was being made toward apprehension of the perpetrators.

The new captain also proudly reported that two of his officers had recently thwarted a car theft on Schofield Street. On Thursday, Sept. 11, at 10:46 p.m., Officer Fred Jones and Sergeant Michael Guenther of the Anti-Crime Team responded to a 911 call from a City Islander reporting that a vehicle break-in was in progress. The police responded immediately and apprehended two perpetrators, one Islander and one off-Islander, who were attempting to steal a car parked in a driveway on Schofield Street. Unfortunately, the witness, who was the owner of the vehicle, "declined prosecution," so the suspects had to be released.

The captain asked Islanders to help the 45th Precinct pursue and prevent crimes like this one by calling the precinct (718-822-5411) or 911, and to follow up by agreeing to press charges.

Community Affairs Officer Ann Marie Morrison described a program designed to protect Islanders' vehicles and other personal possessions and to ensure the recovery of stolen property. The 45th Precinct offers to all residents VIN (vehicle identification number) etching for vehicles and engraving for bicycles, which will enable police to trace them back to the owner if they are stolen. Automobile owners may be eligible for a 10 percent savings on their car insurance if they have the VIN etched into the car by police.

Those interested in this program are



asked to call the Crime Prevention Unit line at 718-822-5487 or Community Affairs at 718-822-5449 in order to make an appointment. Officer Morrison is planning a car and bicycle engraving day on City Island in the near future for the convenience of Islanders. She will notify residents through *The Current*.

She also reminded Islanders concerned about crime that the 45th Precinct Community Council meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the precinct house, 2877 Barclay Avenue. The next meeting is

on Oct. 2 and is open to the public.

Captain Roumeliotis pledged to keep City Islanders informed about police activities by providing regular information for *The Island Current* Blotter. During the interview, editors informed him that it had become difficult to obtain crime statistics for the Blotter on a regular basis. "*The Current's* Blotter is important to keep the community informed about police activities," he said, and he promised to provide updates on a monthly basis.

Continued on page 17

## CITY ISLAND TO HAVE ITS HALLOWEEN PARADE AGAIN



The ghouls and ghosts of Halloween past.

Thanks to the efforts of parade organizers and Officer Mike O'Connor of the 45th Precinct, City Island will have a Halloween parade this year on Friday, Oct. 31, starting at 5:30 p.m. sharp.

For safety reasons, the organizers would like all parade goers to gather on the east side of City Island Avenue at the east corner of Fordham Street, by the Diner, at about 5:15 p.m. The new, longer route will start up east Fordham Street, travel along King Avenue to Beach Street and then back down Minneford to Ditmars, turning back to King Avenue and heading south to Fordham Street. The parade will then disperse at the corner of Fordham and City Island Avenue. Houses along the route are encouraged to put out their decorations!

The Carman and Ruggiero families will hand out treats, look at all the creative costumes and make sure that everyone has

a great time. As in the past, costume prizes donated by local businesses and individuals will be awarded for Best Group, Most Difficult to Maneuver, Cutest, Scariest, Best Pet, Most Original and Honorable Mentions.

Those who would like to volunteer or donate a prize are asked to contact Skip and Louise at Lickety Split, Paul at Exotiq, or Bob and Geri at AER Property Management. All volunteers and new ideas are welcome.

A special request this year is that parade goers bring a donation of either canned goods or non-perishable foods, or of new gloves, socks or wool hats for local food pantry and clothing drives. These donations may be dropped off on Oct. 31 after 3 p.m. at Lickety Split or AER Property Management, where donation boxes will be placed for the purpose.

# BRIEFLY...

**FALL SAFE-BOATING COURSE**, hosted by the award-winning City Island Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, is open to adults and teens (young people ages 12 through 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). Registration will take place on Monday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street. The classes, which are taught by certified instructors, meet on Mondays for eight two-hour sessions. Classes are free; student materials, including manual, dividers, plotter, marlin-spike rope and a Maptech CD-ROM, are available for \$75. Subjects include boat handling and regulations, navigational rules, charts, lines and knots, emergencies, weather, piloting techniques, engine troubleshooting, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio and telephone usage.

**"THE DINING ROOM"** by A. R. Gurney, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group at Grace Church hall on Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 19 and 26 at 3 p.m. Call for reservations at 718-885-3066. On Oct. 18 at 3 p.m. the group will host its second annual benefit matinee performance for the benefit of P. S. 175. All proceeds of the benefit will help support art and enrichment programs at the school.

**TOUR DE BRONX**, New York's largest free cycling event, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 (rain date Sunday, Oct. 26), sponsored by the Bronx Borough President and the Bronx Tourism Council with Montefiore Medical Center and St. Barnabas hospital. Visit <http://www.tourdebronx.org/register> to register and for more information. Registration must be completed by Thursday, Oct. 16. There are two routes, one for 25 miles and one for 40 miles. Island drivers should be prepared for roadblocks at various points on and off City Island.

**PELHAM BRIDGE BIRTHDAY PARTY.** The New York City Bridge Centennial Commission, a not-for-profit organization, is holding a birthday party on Oct. 28 for the Pelham Bridge, which was completed on Oct. 15, 1908. This will be a gala celebration, held at the bridge from noon to 2 p.m. featuring marching bands, a fire boat, a lifting of the bridge span and more, in which the Borough President and the Department of Transportation are participating. City Islanders who continue to oppose the destruction of our 100-year-old bridge are urged to attend wearing the t-shirts that were worn at the birthday party the community gave for the City Island Bridge in 2001.

**HALLOWEEN PARADE:** Get your costumes on and start gathering at 5:15 p.m. on the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue, next to the Diner. This year's parade, which has a new, longer route, will start at 5:30 sharp, so don't be late! There will be treats and prizes for the best costumes!

**ALL HALLOW'S EVE EVENT AT GRACE CHURCH:** On Thursday, Oct. 30, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. all children ages 5 to 10 are invited to attend an "All Hallow's Eve" event in Grace Parish Hall, Pilot Street at City Island Avenue. All little City Island ghosts and goblins are invited to come learn the true story of Halloween through story, song and crafts. Costumes are encouraged! For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Evyonne Baker at [neuvearts@yahoo.com](mailto:neuvearts@yahoo.com) or Mother Patty at 718-885-1080.

**P.S. 175 ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE FUND-RAISER:** Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fun, food, prizes, baked goods. Take a chance on the raffle. Grand prize: 37-inch flat-screen TV. Make your vote count!

**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE** will take place at P. S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, on Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 12 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 11, from 12 to 9 p.m. The New York City Board of Elections urges all citizens over the age of 18 to register and participate in the historic presidential election on Nov. 4, 2008. You must be 18 years of age or over on the date of the election, a citizen of the United States (includes those persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and a New York City resident for at least 30 days. Bring proof of age and residence, such as a birth certificate or a driver's license ID number or your Social Security number/card, and a bank statement or utility bill. For more information, go to the Board of Elections Web site [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us).

**BREAST CANCER WALK** at Orchard Beach on Sunday, Oct. 19, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Call Patty Grondahl at 914-882-9578 for information about time, location and transportation.

**ITALIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH** will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Arthur Avenue Market, 2344 Arthur Avenue. There will be a salute to community leaders, entertainment and great food. Admission is free but it is necessary to RSVP by calling Sonia Malave at 718-590-3989.



**THE ISLAND CURRENT**  
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# 45 BLOTTER

A selected number of complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during September. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 - ATTEMPTED GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 - ROBBERY

Police report the following incidents for the month of September:

9/11 - Police prevented the theft of an automobile on Schofield Street and apprehended two suspects, one Islander and one off-Islander, but the complainant declined

prosecution and no arrests were made.

9/14 - Police are investigating a robbery that occurred at the Sunoco station on Ditmars and City Island Avenue. Two perpetrators stole a wallet and \$1000 in cash.

9/15 - Police apprehended an emotionally disturbed individual, an Islander, on Rochelle Street. The individual was taken to the hospital.

9/16 - Police and emergency units responded to a report that a man had fallen off a pier at 495 City Island Avenue. Responders quickly learned that the report was misleading; the man was in a paddleboat that was struck and was helped out of the water by friends before emergency help arrived.

9/22 - Police apprehended an emotionally disturbed individual, an off-Islander, near the City Island Bridge. The individual was taken to the hospital.

# POLICE FIRING RANGE: THE END IS IN SIGHT

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

All of you who worried that the police firing range at Rodman's Neck would never leave, take heart! The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and the New York Police Department have already begun work on the new Police Academy on a 35-acre site in College Point, Queens.

DDC recently announced the selection of the architectural firm Perkins and Will to design the new facility, which is budgeted at \$1 billion and is the largest architectural en-

deavor undertaken to date by DDC and the Police Department.

The new facility of 3 million square feet will accommodate just about all of the Academy functions in one place (except for the bomb squad, which will remain on Rodman's Neck). In addition to an instructional building, a field house and a museum, the grounds will include space for firearms and tactical training, rescue training, driver training, and an outdoor track.

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## Invite a Senator for Coffee!



State Senator Jeffrey Klein met with Dolores and Al Snyder at their home on Hawkins Street on Saturday, June 28, 2008. Under his Community Coffee program, families may call his office at 718-822-2049 and make an appointment to host the senator for coffee. He is happy to spend an afternoon of casual conversation that can address the concerns of Islanders and their neighbors. Ask for Alex when you call.



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

Hurricanes hammered the Gulf Coast states during the 2008 season, but for the most part spared the Northeast. Hurricane Hannah came closest in September, causing ominous skies and rain in New York. City Islanders battened down the hatches just in case.

## RABIES ALERT: SKUNKS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Last month we reported that there had been two rabid raccoons and one rabid cat found on City Island. This month we regret to report that the disease has now spread to skunks, with two of them found on City Island and one at Orchard Beach testing positive for rabies.

The first skunk was found on Hawkins Street and William Avenue on Aug. 20, and the second was killed by an Island resident on Reville Street and King Avenue and subsequently tested positive for rabies. Unfortunately, the second skunk had been fighting with a cat before it was killed, and the cat disappeared. If the cat was bitten by the skunk and was not vaccinated, it is likely to have been infected with the rabies virus.

According to Sally Slavinski, assistant director of the Influenza and Vector-borne Disease Unit of the New York City Board of Health, the virus in this area is a type primarily carried by raccoons and usually transmitted to other raccoons. However, when raccoon rabies is widespread in an area, they may infect other animals such as skunks, cats and dogs, or any other mammal, including humans. Rabies is very rare in humans, however, and there have been no cases in New York City to date. However, anyone who is bitten by an animal suspected of being rabid is advised to see a doctor and to be tested.

According to the Department of Health: "Animals with rabies most often exhibit behavior changes, such as a friendly dog that becomes withdrawn or belligerent, an aloof animal that becomes suddenly affectionate, or an animal that demonstrates unusual aggression. They may eat or chew things such as wood, soil, stones, plants, or other foreign objects. One of the most recognizable signs is excessive drooling or foaming at the mouth. Other signs may include a change in voice so that it is hoarse, with a throaty bark or snarl, dilated pupils, vacant stare, muscle tremors (especially in cats), varying degrees of paralysis frequently beginning at the head and neck causing jaws to hang open, and or impaired locomotion."

Anyone who sees an animal with these

symptoms is advised to call 311 or 911. Skunks and raccoons are normally active at night or during the dawn and twilight hours, and because there are so many now living on City Island, it is possible that they come out looking for food during the day because of the competition. This does not necessarily mean that they have rabies. Note the symptoms in the above paragraph carefully, and if the animal displays one or more of them, try to see that the animal is contained in an area where it can be seen or trapped by the authorities.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, a resident observed a skunk that seemed to exhibit a number of symptoms of rabies and called 911. Unfortunately, because the police are not authorized to kill a wild animal, the officers simply moved it into an area where it could not be seen, so that when the Animal Care and Control experts arrived on the scene, the animal could not be found or contained. The new commander at the 45th Precinct assured *The Current* that anyone with a serious complaint regarding potential rabies should call 311 or 911 and if the police were dispatched, they would try to contain the animal, rather than move it, so that when the special units (either the Emergency Services Unit or Animal Care and Control, a division of the Health Department) arrive, the animal could be taken for testing. He agreed to reach out to the Health Department to make sure that the police would take appropriate responses to calls about rabies.

Some residents have successfully trapped and removed skunks and raccoons to other areas (see Box 6), but it should be noted that it is illegal to transport a trapped wild animal to Pelham Bay Park or, in fact, any area that is not part of your own property (a law clearly designed for upstate farmers!). Also, it may not be worth the risk involved in trapping and releasing a rabid animal that is capable of biting.

As pointed out in last month's story, residents and business owners are encouraged to avoid feeding stray animals out of doors (including birds), leaving garbage cans uncovered or otherwise providing food for wild animals, some of which may be rabid.

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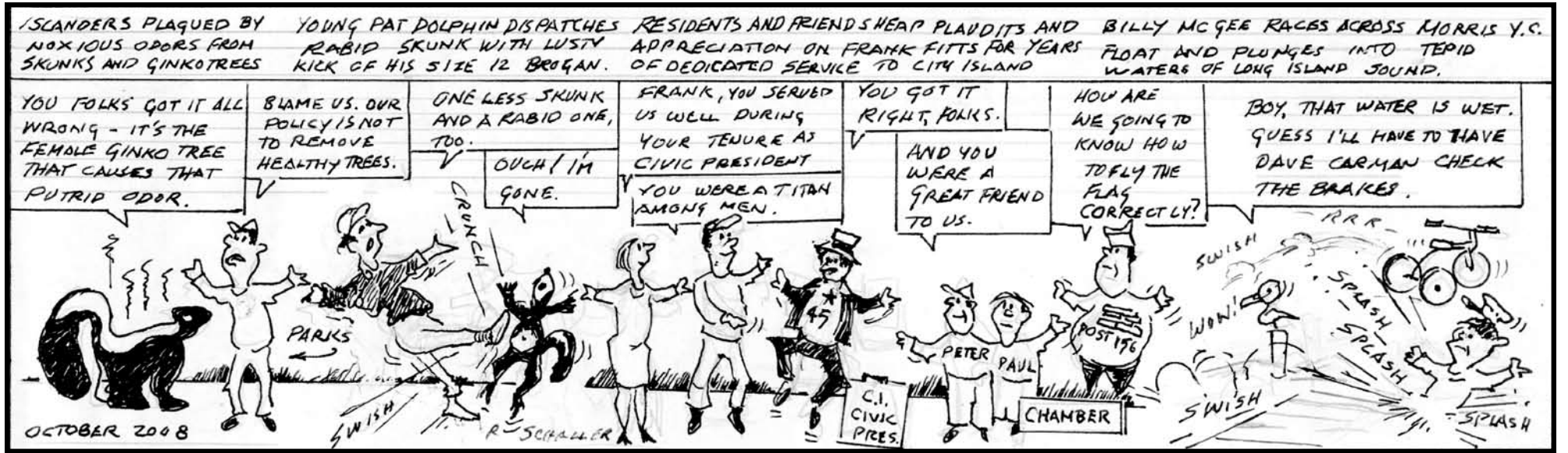
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### Trapper Jer vs. Peppy Le Pew

To the Editor:

So far my husband (let's call him "Trapper Jer") successfully trapped a skunk in our yard on each of three separate nights and removed it from City Island (a 100 percent success rate). He used a special trap I had purchased called KnO-Spray. Unlike standard wire mesh traps, this trap is almost entirely stainless steel (replicating the dark, cozy underground skunk nest, which calms the skunk and makes it impossible for it to see the trapper), and its dimensions prevent the skunk from raising its tail, so it cannot spray. The low height prohibits most raccoons from entering it, as their humped backs hit the top edge, and its length makes it impossible for raccoons to reach the bait.

We used fruit jelly for bait (not attractive to cats). Each time a skunk was trapped, the next morning, Trapper Jer (my hero), wearing gloves, placed the trap in a large black plastic bag and transported it off-island transported in the trunk of our beautiful brand-new sedan, with the windows wide open just in case. Although we did smell skunk spray en route (which gave us a bit of the horrors), it did not come from inside our car but from outside. It was probably road pizza and may even have reassured our passenger. There was never any odor of skunk spray from inside the car.

Each skunk was released a good distance from City Island after we had driven around in circles a few times to add to the animal's confusion, so that if it tried to make a bee-line back to the Island, it would run into a large body of water. Apparently the ruse has worked; it's been ten days as of this writing since the last one was released and the skunks aren't back. We and the neighbors have been breathing a lot easier and sleeping a lot better, with our windows wide open.

When I purchased the trap via telephone, I mentioned to the manufacturer the fact that we had recently seen skunks, which are supposedly nocturnal, foraging in our back yard during daylight hours (morning, midday and evening). He said that was because our area is saturated with skunks (and the other animals that feed on what the skunks eat), so they are not getting enough to eat at night. Hunger drives them out of their nests during the day.

The skunks we saw during the day not only dug in our lawn for grubs, but they also loved spillage from our birdfeeder.

Although we love bird-watching, we have opted to do the right thing (much the same as those in bear country do), which is to put out bird feed only after the skunks, raccoons and opossums have hibernated and to cease doing so when they are not hibernating. Of course, this ensures that fledgling birds will learn how to hunt naturally; and one potential positive side effect will be that the birds will eat more mosquitoes, of which we have had an abundance this year. (Okay, maybe we put out a handful of seeds for viewing as we have our Sunday morning coffee, but that's all.)

An interesting note is that traditionally, nature renders females infertile when they cannot get enough food. It is very important that we tightly cover all trash receptacles and not leave any food outdoors unattended night or day if we want to win this war. If you must feed any animal outdoors, stay with the food, watch them eat and immediately remove all of the remains.

The bottom line is that we have to starve the skunks so that they will no longer procreate, and so that those that still exist must go elsewhere (i.e., off City Island for food.)

#### Trapper Jer's Happy Spouse

*Editor's Note: Please refer to the article on page 3 for more information about rabid skunks and the risks involved in skunk trapping.*

### A Bridge to Somewhere?

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To the Editor of the *New York Times*:

Glenn Collins's piece on the NYC Bridge Centennial Commission (Sept. 17, 2008) was a heartbreaker for the residents of City Island in the Bronx. In 2001, we held a 100th birthday party for our beloved bridge, and shortly thereafter the city decided to replace it with a new cable-stayed monstrosity, claiming that piers in the water are too difficult to maintain. Our bridge has been declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but the city plans to destroy it anyway. It is ironic that the Department of Transportation and the borough president are cooperating with the Commission in celebrating the other old bridges, since they were the ones who decided to replace our bridge, which has far more architectural integrity and historical interest than the Pelham Bay Bridge.

**Barbara Dolensek, Vice President, City Island Historical Society**

### A Bridge Too Far (Out)

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

To: Council Member James Vacca:

The Garden Club of City Island is writing to you out of concern with regard to the proposed new City Island Bridge. Although we realize that there is a budget freeze in effect because of New York's current economic crisis, and the bridge would probably not be moving along on schedule, we feel it important to commu-



Current City Island Bridge compared to the projected bridge in Minneapolis (a causeway structure).



nicate with you at this time in the hope of having some impact on a reversal of the current design plans.

Though we agree that our current bridge's infrastructure is sufficiently decayed that a new span must be considered, we believe the proposed cable suspension bridge with at least a 150-foot tower is not suitable for connecting City Island to the Pelham Bay, Bronx County, mainland for the following reasons...

The roadway of the new bridge will be approximately at the same height above the water as is the existing bridge. Consequently, the steel construction material will be exposed to severe salt spray during frequent high wind storms from both the north and the south causing an expensive and continuous maintenance and repair program.

Aesthetically speaking, a concrete causeway bridge would be more suitable to the historic image that our Island community projects. A bridge of similar design to the I-35 Bridge now under construction in Minneapolis following the tragic bridge collapse there a year ago, meets the primary design goals: no part of the structure is in the water, low maintenance overhead and, furthermore, a plus which may not have been considered, the utilities that are planned to be hung off the side of the new bridge could be incorporated into the drainage trenches on either side of the roadway.

In addition, concrete construction has been traditionally less expensive than steel. Most concrete components can be prefabricated, greatly reducing site construction time. Furthermore, suspension bridges are construction site labor-intensive. Delays and detours would have a major impact on the island's economy, especially seasonal and year-round restaurants and other businesses.

We request that you, as our City Council Member, intervene with the current planners and obtain another bid for this less ex-

pensive alternative structure, a causeway, that we believe would make City Islanders happier and the coffers of New York City less lean. Please visit the following site for the Minneapolis Department of Transportation which provides an overview of the new causeway design which they characterize as "a vision of safe and simple," a proposal with which we heartily concur: <http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/35wbridge/visual.html>.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further with you at your convenience.

**Barbara Hoffman, President Garden Club of City Island**

cc: *The Honorable Adolfo Carrión, Borough President of The Bronx*  
*The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York*

### Thank You, City Island

To the Editor:

To the youngsters of City Island, the Boy Scouts, the school boys and even some young ladies, I must say thank you for being so kind to me, taking my packages, and so on. I am proud to know you as my friends.

The youngsters know that I am handicapped and I truly appreciate their help. This reflects beautifully on the teaching of the parents.

Sooo, a big THANK YOU.

**Frank B. Ring Sr.**

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# FORDHAM STUDENTS HELP COMMUNITY CENTER

By BRENDA PROHASKA

A group of resident students at Fordham University spent part of their summer vacation helping out at the City Island Community Center as part of their community service program.

On Saturday, Aug. 23, a group of 24 students met at the Community Center, led by resident directors Winni Paul and Vickki Massy and resident assistants Gina Mulé, Jaclyn Merkis, Mike Scerbo, Nadege Cesaire, Jaya Davis, Amanda Sullivan, Kim Garlow, Kaylin Klinger, Sarah Siracusa, T. J. Lobasso, Maryann Rosa, Drew Inks, Dave Welch, Jen Lavallo, Matt Galligan, Pat Brown, Paul Szczepaniak, Mike Cropano, Joe Lama and Karina Amaya.

Aside from the donations of program directors at the Community Center, the organization receives no source of steady funding, and volunteers are always hard to come by, so these students were warmly welcomed and promptly put to work. They completed a number of projects. One team cleaned out the stairwell to the Nautical Museum, which is normally used for storage, in order to let the Museum's staff have access to the galleries during the reconstruction of the front entrance that was destroyed by fire in 2007.

Another group focused on the over-

grown garden, and the students did their best to beautify the area. Another team cleaned out the kitchen top to bottom and painted and repaired the cabinets. Everyone participated in removing the garbage and debris. Outside the Center, a team of students cleaned litter from two parks and a few beaches.

Karina Amaya explained the reason for taking on the project. "It was because the Residential Life staff at Fordham felt that a community service project would complement the two-week training session for Resident Assistants (RAs). Being that Fordham University is a Jesuit institution, we believe in 'men and women for others.' This special pillar stresses the importance of serving one another especially in our community. We all truly enjoyed our time working with the Center, and we know that this won't be the last time."

The Community Center expressed gratitude for the service that the students provided and hope that this will serve as an inspiration for others in the community. Those who would be interested in getting involved or performing community service for their schools are asked to call 718-885-1145 and leave a message.

# ISLAND PLAYWRIGHT DEBUTS OFF BROADWAY

By JOE NIXON



Photo by JOE NIXON

The cast of Robert Mulroy's play "An Honest Dollar," which was presented off Broadway in September (from l. to r.): Natardia Lee Soy, Michael Hogan, Carol Dooner, Craig Beatty, Joseph De Bona, Madeline Balmaceda, Bill Kozy, Cori Ann Roublick, Tee Cotter and Mary Mulroy.

"An Honest Dollar," an original comedy written by City Island resident Robert Mulroy debuted at the New York City Producer's Club Crowne Theater on Sept. 11, 2008. The full-length production was first-rate, and theater lovers were not disappointed with their trip into the big city. The laughs started in the first scene and continued throughout all three acts, culminating with a finale that left audience members feeling satisfied that all's well that ends well.

The superlative cast, which brought Mr. Mulroy's script to life, included Craig Beatty, Joseph DeBona, Tee Cotter, Mary Mulroy, William Kozy, Cori-Ann Roublick, Robert Livingston, Carol Dooner, Natardia Lee Soy and a cameo appearance by director Madeline Balmaceda.

It was wonderful to see local Bronx actors in a production in the heart of Broad-

way's theater district. With four sold-out performances, Mr. Mulroy and his production team are to be applauded for their efforts and their willingness to take the risk of producing live theater in Manhattan. Mr. Mulroy, an administrative court judge by day, was overwhelmed by the positive response to his first full-length comedy. After the success of this run, there are now whispers of moving the production to a larger theater.

Like many writers, Mr. Mulroy gave much of the credit for this successful first-run to director Madeline Balmaceda, who, in the author's words, "was the steady voice of calm and confidence. Without her support, hard work, creativity and stubborn perseverance, this show would not have been possible."

I can only hope that we will have the pleasure of seeing this play again.

# ISLAND LEADER RETIRES

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Frank Fitts, longtime resident of City Island and community leader, whose most recent positions have been president of the Community Council for the 45th Precinct of the New York Police Department and president of the City Island Civic Association, has left the Island after more than 35 years as an active member of the community.

He slipped away to a new home on Long Island, close to other members of his family, without any fanfare, presumably to avoid the usual homage that community leaders normally welcome.

"His departure is a real loss to the Island," said Bill Stanton, who was elected on Sept. 30 to succeed Frank as president of the Civic. "He has given so much to this Island, and for selfless reasons. We have lost a valuable asset and advocate in the defense of our Island. I hope City Islanders realize what we are losing."


Frank and his wife, Lucille, moved to City Island in the early 1970s and raised three children here, Lucille, Elizabeth and

Andrew. Frank worked for 30 years in the newspaper and publishing field and became a consultant in 2001 for local businesses, community organizations and the New York City Police Department.

He served during the 1980s as vice president and president of the City Island Civic Association and as treasurer during the 1980s. When Howard Smith died in 2002, Frank as vice president took on the role of president, which he officially holds until January 2009, when the newly elected Bill Stanton will take up the reins of the organization.

Frank also served as president of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parents Association and was a member of the St. Mary's Council; he was also president of Iona Prep's Father's Council.

In November 2005, he was awarded the Exemplary Community Service Award by the City Island Chamber of Commerce. His presence on City Island as an advocate for residents will be sorely missed.



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

The **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) serves up some spooky good fun in October, starting with songwriter Gary Paul Hermus on Friday, Oct. 3, starting at 8 p.m. That Saturday, Oct. 4, Oleg Poletayev brings his Venetian plaster painting art to the gallery's walls, beginning at an opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. That Sunday, Oct. 5, it's Spuyten Duyvil, covering the whole spectrum of Americana in music. On Friday, Oct. 10, another songwriter, Patrick Matteson, takes the stage at 8 p.m., followed on Saturday, Oct. 11, with covers, originals and Irish tunes from Kenny Cunningham, also at 8 p.m. Keeping with the theme, Friday, Oct. 17—the birthday of the Starving Artist's "Uncle" Bill Yehle—will bring songwriter Leo to the stage at 8 p.m. The incredible "you've got to hear him to believe him" Lawrence "Lipbone" Redding is with us on Saturday, Oct. 18, starting at 8 p.m. Then on Sunday, Oct. 19, it's Cellar, featuring Elizabeth Glushko on cello and Peter Tascio on guitar, beginning at 3 p.m. Just before the month ends, the Freakin' Ricans—Jorge Caraballo and Nick Morales—are on tap for Friday, Oct. 24, at 8 p.m., followed by blues talent Phil Minissale on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. and some smooth jazz with City Island's Roger Scala and his Jazz Quartet on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 4 p.m. Don't miss legendary Lou Volpe on jazz guitar. And on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, starting at 8 p.m., it promises to be a "monster" of an Open Mike night as we welcome all hauntingly talented songwriters, poets, comics and actors. For more, visit [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com).



**All Over Funny, acrylic on canvas by Laury Hopkins.**

Opening at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1403) on Oct. 3, 2008, is "Glimpse," an exhibition of portraits and other paintings by City Island artist Laury Hopkins. There will be an opening reception on Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and the exhibition will be on display until the end of the month. The artist will work on a painting throughout the month for those who want to see how her art progresses. For further information, call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403.

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## Events at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

On Friday, Oct. 3, there will be an art exhibition opening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to coincide with the First Friday Trolley to City Island. Hop on the free City Bronx Seaside Trolley, which makes its first stop at Bartow-Pell. There will be guided tours, refreshments and music, all free with admission to the museum. Enjoy the return of pianist Stephanie Rosenfeld.

The exhibition, called "Finery and Frillery," features period costumes and accessories from the collection of the International Garden Club (now the Bartow-Pell Conservancy), an early preservation group. Elegant vintage (1840–1920) silk dresses and wedding gowns, babies' dresses, ladies undergarments and even a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit will be featured and dispersed throughout the period rooms. These costumes are fine samples of once-treasured clothing worn by middle- and upper-class Americans.

Watercolor classes with Hope Friedland will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sunday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will spend time outdoors at Bartow-Pell and learn how to render a landscape. Museum staff will lead a walking tour about the local flora and grounds, and then students will work with an instructor to draw from observation. This is a joint program with the Pelham Arts Center (PAC). The fee is \$90 (\$81 for PAC and Bartow-Pell members). Pre-registration is required to ensure minimum attendance is met; please call: 914-738-2525.

Learn "Natural Light Portraiture" with Emmanuelle Françoise on Saturday sessions to be held Oct 18 and 25 and Nov. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Learn how to look at a subject and approach it in various ways through the study of natural lighting, com-

position and cropping options. Explore basic technical aspects that allow you to control the mood, movement and texture of a photograph. The class will mainly focus on looking, seeing, and taking a photograph of a model in an outdoor setting. An open conversation and critique of photographs will be held on the last day of class at the Pelham Art Center. A digital camera with x megapixels is required. Joint Programming with the Pelham Arts Center. The fee is \$180 (\$162 for PAC and Bartow-Pell members) plus a model fee of \$25. Pre-registration is required to ensure minimum attendance is met; please call: 914-738-2525.

Nature's Notebook with Janet Shearn for young people ages 8 through 14. Four Tuesdays from Oct. 7 to 28 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Explore and learn about the leaves, flowers and trees on the beautiful grounds of Bartow-Pell. The staff will conduct walking tours, and students will work with an artist to draw from observation. A joint program with the Pelham Arts Center. The fee is \$120 (\$108 for PAC and Bartow-Pell members). Pre-registration is required to ensure minimum attendance is met; please call: 914-738-2525.

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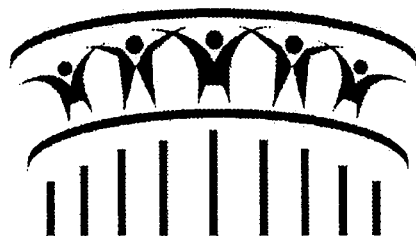
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# Russell Schaller: The Eyes and Ears of Silly Island

By BRUCE WEIS

When you speak with Russell Schaller, you quickly realize he is one of those people who manage to be constantly interested in and often amused by life's situations. No matter what he has done in life—from planning phone service at New York Telephone to interpreting photographs of bomb damage to German installations on Normandy beaches—Russell has always been interested in the task at hand. That is certainly a good way to notice things, and it may explain the detail of City Island life that he captures in the cartoons he draws every month for *The Island Current*.

Russell makes no claim to being a clam digger. He was born in Boonton, New Jersey, the son of a corrections officer (or a "keeper," in the parlance of 1923) and a homemaker. Russell's mother cared for a large family and an elderly grandfather, and his father worked in a prison that used to be on Hart Island, off City Island. Because Russell's father was required to reside within the city of New York, he lived on Hart Island and commuted home on weekends, returning to work every Monday. After the death of his grandfather in 1930, Russell's entire family moved to City Island.

Russell attended the old P.S. 17 on Fordham Street and then went to Pratt Institute for a year, before he was drafted to serve in World War II. His father had been an engineer in World War I, so Russell first volunteered for duty with the engineers, but after some soul searching he joined the Army Air Corps.

After completing much of the training for aerial photography, he was told when he returned from a furlough to find his training base deserted and his new skills made obsolete by airborne photographic equipment. A

sergeant advised him to wait: "Something's gonna happen." Ultimately, Russell was re-trained as a photo interpreter. Serving with the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Group, he interpreted photos taken from the air, looking for bomb damage, new defensive installations and other signs of enemy activity.

Russell remains active in veteran reunions and laughs when he tells of a pilot who once flew across their airfield at such a low altitude that he had to pull the plane up to clear a wall at the edge of the field. "At every reunion when he tells that story, the wall is a foot lower. Everything that happened to me in the service," he says, "happened for the best."

After the war, Russell wasn't sure what he wanted to do. He completed the exams to join the New York Police Department, and while he waited for the department to call, he and a friend applied for what he thought would be a temporary construction job at New York Telephone. He was hired (unlike his friend) for construction, which led to engineering, which led to becoming a member of the company staff.

In the meantime, Russell attended night school, first at New York University, and he finally graduated from Iona College. After 42 years, he retired from his "temporary" job with New York Telephone, but he wasn't quite done with the company. At his retirement celebration, he was asked by a friend: "Do you want a job when you retire?" Russell asked what he would be doing, and they told him "outside plan engineering, which I had done years ago. I took the job and worked four or five years and then, when that program phased out, I worked in Brooklyn on similar outside planning for another three or four

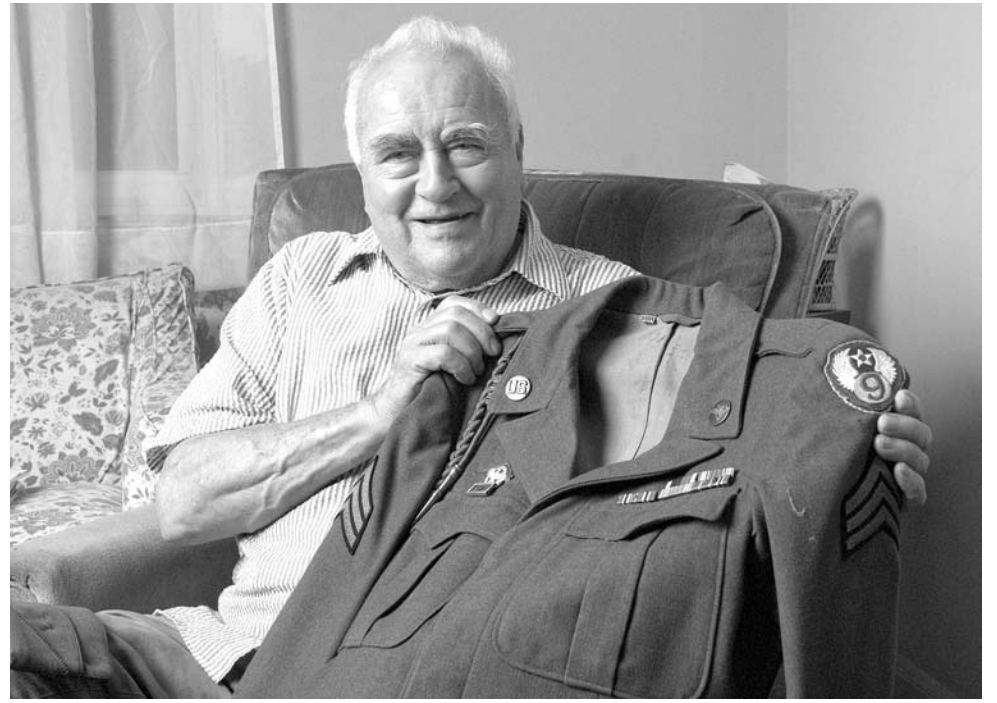


Photo by RICK DeWITT

Longtime *Current* cartoonist Russell Schaller is shown above with his World War II memorabilia. Mr. Schaller, who was in a U.S. Army reconnaissance unit, reunited with members of his squadron in Washington D.C. in September 2008.

years." Eventually he did survey work with a company that installed fiber-optic cable, but when fiber-optics moved to Putnam County, Russell finally called an end to his career.

In addition to finding a career at the telephone company, Russell also found a wife, Eileen Corley, who was working with Western Electric when the two met at a company party. Eileen loved City Island, and after their marriage, they made plans to build a house here. The house they planned went from pre-fab to brick, and it was finally constructed with sweat equity by Russell and a group of friends, each of whom combined forces to build four new houses. By the time Russell's two-bedroom house was finished, however, they already had three children and their new home was too small before they moved in. They made plans to add on to the home and purchased a piece of land, but when a larger house, his present home, came on the market. The larger home gave them enough room to raise six children.

If you ask Russell if City Island has changed since he moved here in 1930, he will say that it has changed a lot. "It was all ship-building up here during the war," he recalls. "I forget how many active boat yards they had up here. Of course the boating activity picked up in World War II. They all got Navy contracts and were building different types of naval ships, minesweepers, and army tugs. Shortly after the war, that all faded out, because they weren't making any fiberglass boats up here."

"When I first came here, the island was entirely different. We didn't have all the restaurants. There were a few, like the Lobster Box, which was called Duryea's at the time. One of my first jobs when I was in high school was working in Duryea's food stand, which is now Johnny's Reef. It was an excellent job for a kid. It wasn't much money, but you could eat all you wanted. Al Duryea didn't care what you ate."

Russell remembers that old Al Duryea was in his 80s then. "He sat at the cash register all night, and he would fall asleep and you couldn't get at the cash register unless you woke him up. He was quite a character. The whole family worked. His wife ran the restaurant, Al ran the stand, then his son in law ran the boat rides, so they had the whole thing sewed up down there, like a family affair."

Russell's take on City Island life appears in a now-famous cartoon that he draws for *The Current*. The strip wasn't his idea. "Sally McPherson was the editor at the time [the early 1970s], and she asked if I could do a cartoon. And then the following month she asked if I could do another one. That's how I got involved in it."

If you are interested in getting a summary of recent events on City Island, all you have to do is read the cartoon. For example, that's how we learned that City Islanders were storming the Post Office for postcards, that spelling errors were made on City Island Avenue's new pavement, and that the February Civic Association meeting was cancelled when nobody present had a key to the Community Center.

He gets a lot of his information simply by keeping his eyes and ears open, but much of the Island news comes to him in the early mornings, when he sits at the City Island Diner with his cronies, Captain Ed Sadler and Stu Hawkins. Very little escapes these fellows, and much of what they hear ends up in the cartoon in one form or another.

Russell plans to continue his cartoon and his reporting on veterans' affairs for *The Island Current*, but he is adamant about one thing. "I have no desire to leave City Island," he says. "In fact, I don't know if you go to a doctor up here, but I go to Sander and he always tells me: 'Don't leave City Island, everybody who leaves dies. Don't leave City Island, everybody lives forever up there.'"

## Museum Nears Completion



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The front porch of the City Island Nautical Museum building at 190 Fordham Street is nearly completed, much to the delight of residents. The museum plans to reopen with a gala event in early November.



The new doors, moldings and columns of the old P.S. 17 building were painstakingly re-created under the supervision of United Homesteads, the contractor rebuilding the porch.

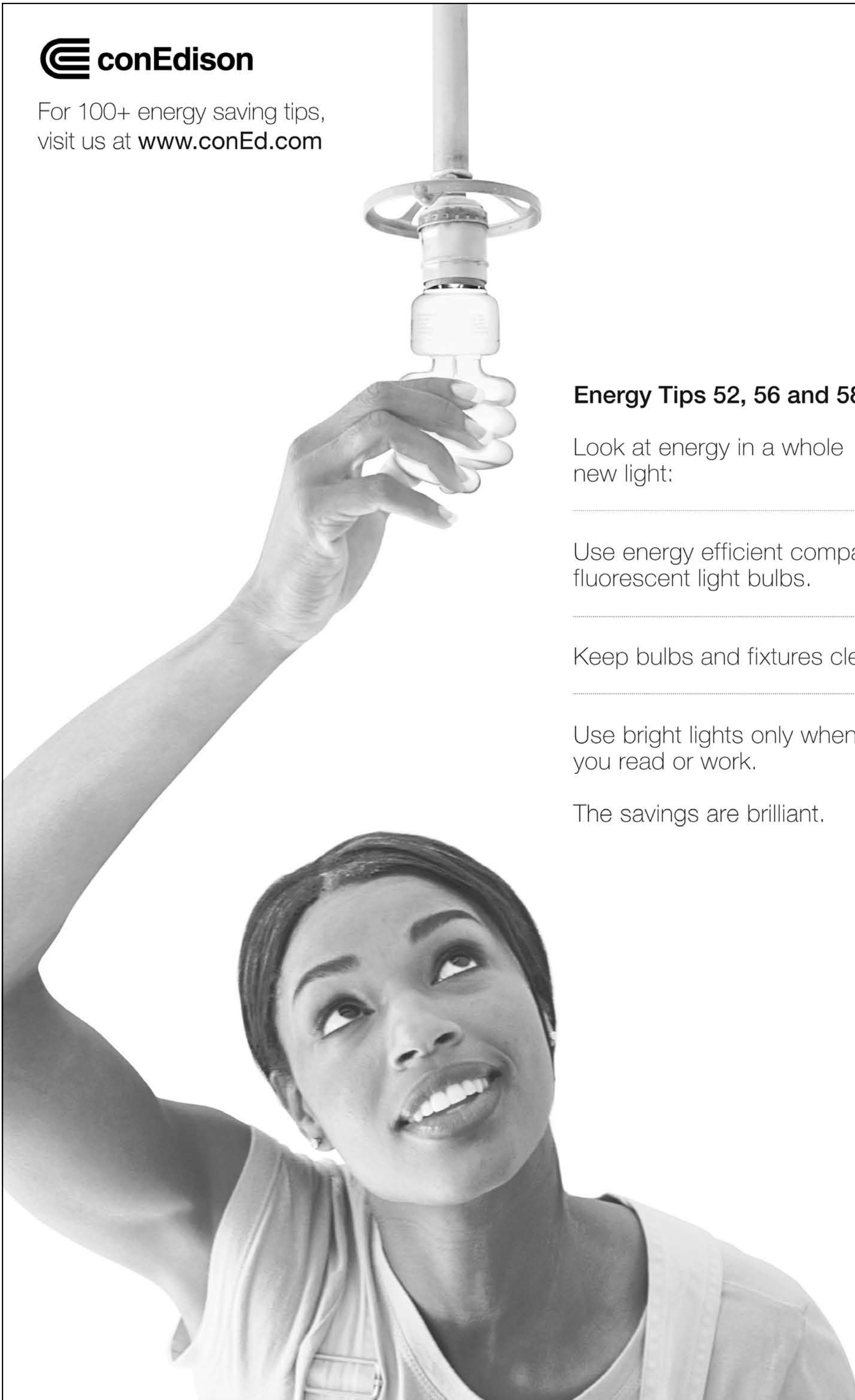


Photo by ETHEL LOTT

On Sept. 3, 2008, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Chapter 318 elected new officers (above, seated l. to r.): Barbara Whalen, president, and Jean Lehsau, vice president. Standing are Mary Carman, secretary, and Lucy Pontecorvo, treasurer. Congratulations to the new board!



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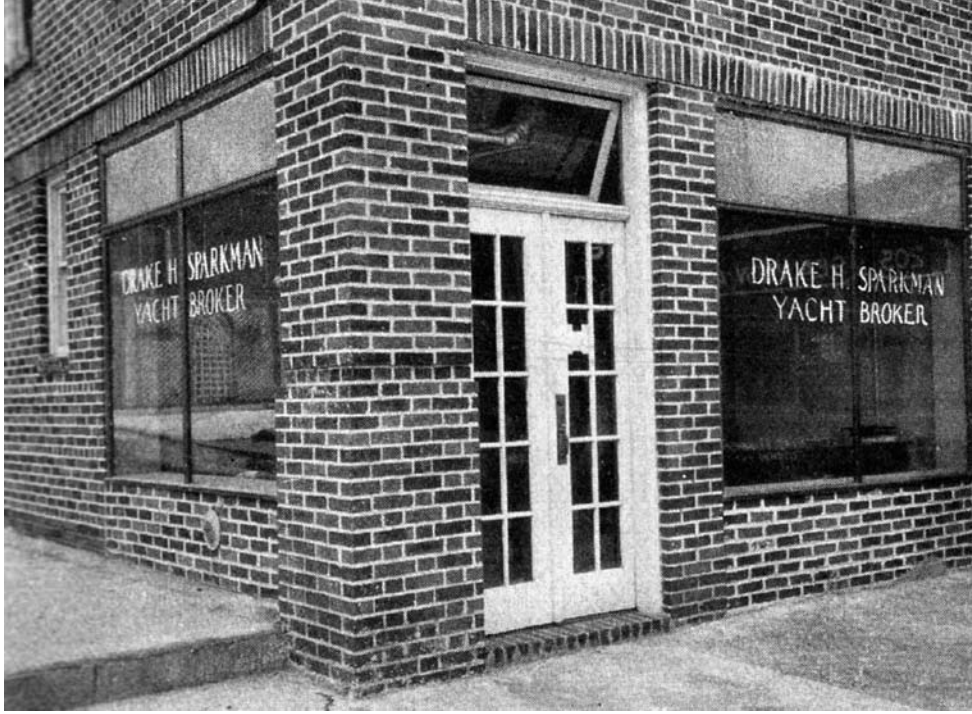
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Photos courtesy CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

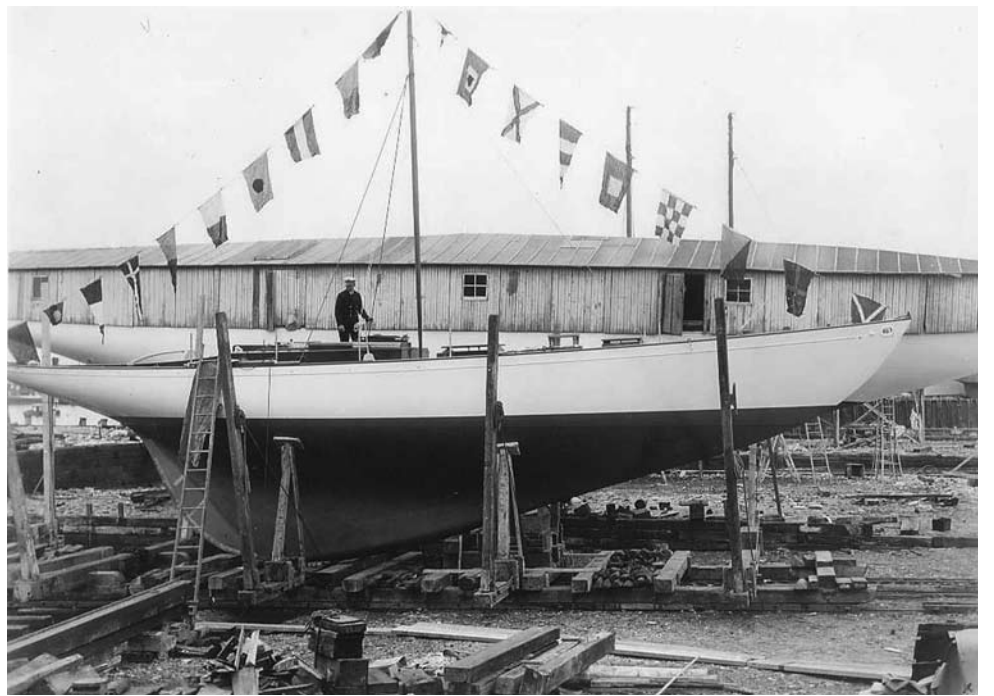
Olin Stephens designed many important yachts at the Sparkman & Stephens office, which was located on City Island Avenue, where the Island Café is now.

# Remembering Olin Stephens

By TOM NYE



The 12-meter sloop *Columbia*, designed by Olin Stephens, successfully defended the America's Cup in 1958.



Olin Stephens was only 26 years old in 1934, when *Stormy Weather*, one of the most famous yachts of the 20th century, was built at the Nevins Yacht Yard on City Island. She was restored during the 1980s and is still winning races.

In talking with Olin on several occasions, I heard him recollect his early experiences at City Island, when his father bought the first family boat, a schooner, at the T. A. Kyle Yard, and worked on it at the City Island Yacht Club yard. When he became a yacht designer, he found the City Island yards the most capable of building a yacht above and beyond his requirements.

He was happiest when Henry B. Nevins was chosen as the builder. Olin and his brother, Rod, had become close to Mr. Nevins during the 1920s, when both were learning the trade at the Nevins yard, which was located where P. S. 175 now stands. After Olin entered a partnership with Drake Sparkman, Rod stayed at the Nevins yard until about 1934. It has been said that Olin and Rod were like the sons Henry Nevins never had and that they could well have been heirs apparent to the Nevins yard.

In fact, when Olin's father sold the family business, the Stephens Coal Company, the proceeds were not only used to help build *Dorada*, but they were helped to finance the new large elevator dock at Nevins (which was removed in the early 1990s from behind P. S. 175).

From 1929 to 1935, the storefront at 205 City Island Avenue (now the Island Café) housed the design offices for Sparkman & Stephens (S&S). From that office came the designs of such classics as *Dorada*, *Edlu*, *Stormy Weather* and *Brilliant*, a number of successful six-meters and other yachts; eventually the office was incorporated into the office in Manhattan.

Olin developed a deep relationship with many yacht builders at the different City Island yards, but the most special was his connection with Nevins loftsmen Nils Halvorsen, who had a sixth sense in interpreting Olin's designed lines and bringing them

to reality. I can recall several S&S alumni speaking with reverence about certain City Island shipwrights. Throughout his life, Olin always had a soft spot for City Island and recognized how great a part it had played in his career.

There is no doubt about the influence Olin Stephens has had on yacht designing and the marine industry, and yet he was so much more than a one-dimensional person. Very personable, he also had a keen interest in music, photography and the arts. During sea trials for his yachts, several shipwrights, sailors, S&S designers, the yacht owner and Olin would be observing from another boat. And while most eyes were focused on the new yacht, Olin was on the other side of the boat taking photographs of cloud formations.

Olin has always been considered the dean of yacht designers, but it is amazing to think that he was still just in his early 20s when he designed *Dorada*, *Brilliant*, *Edlu*, *Stormy Weather*, *Conewago* and a number of other successful six-meters back in the early 1930s. He is one of the last direct links to such City Island legends as Henry B. Nevins; Robert Jacob (Sr. and Jr.); H. S. Sayers and Henry Sayers (Minneford Yacht Yard); Bill Kretzer; George, Ernest, Colin and George Colin Ratsey; Buster Ulmer; and Gunnar Valentine, since he worked directly with each of them.

I believe John Lemmerts van Bueren, secretary of the International 8 meter class, said it best: "Olin was unique in so many ways and has been an example and inspiration to so many. On a personal level, I have never met a man who combined the will to excel and win with the most humble and modest presence. A true gentleman in every way imaginable."

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## Organization News

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

### Current Calendar

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 10–12, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale.** Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

Thurs., Oct. 16, **Community Board 10 meets,** 7:30 p.m. Call 718-892-1161 for location.

Sun., Oct. 19, **Flu Clinic,** hosted by Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Influenza and pneumococcal immunizations.

Fri., Oct. 24, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner,** Lido Restaurant. Call 718-885-9100 for reservations.

Sat., Oct. 25, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street; drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Tues., Oct. 28, **City Island Civic Association meets,** 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 4, **Election Day Bake Sale,** P.S. 175, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club of City Island will be Monday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m., at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. Our guest speaker will be Edward Vincent, who will talk about the steps necessary to prepare our gardens for winter. Fall is not only bulb-planting time, but we will learn which bushes, shrubs and trees need pruning, how it is done; what plants should be winterized indoors (and when and how); and how to prepare your garden for a beautiful spring awakening.

Our wooden tree-pit guard and planting project is moving along well. The first of our planned five-per-year tree-pit gardens is located in front of Lina Petite Salon and three more are being placed in front of the City Island Nautical Museum. Our gardener will be planting bulbs and perennials within the fences shortly. Speaking of the Museum, we understand that it will be open in the near future. The Garden Club has committed to grooming some of the existing bushes and plantings of new perennials on the front lawn. Our landscape gardener has been hired and will begin the clean-up, pruning and new plantings as soon as the Museum's facade construction is complete.

Once again, we are grateful for all of the gracious donations to the Beautification Fund that makes these projects possible. We are delighted to report that this year's contributions by Island residents and businesses have already exceeded those of last year.

The Garden Club also thanks all who purchased City Island t-shirts at the recent Chamber-sponsored Craft Fair on City Island Avenue. The shirts were a big hit, and some still are available at Lina Petite Salon or Buddy's Island Hardware for \$15 each. The words "City Island" are created with stylized flowers on these high-quality shirts, which make terrific gifts for friends and family, as well as for former Islanders.

Barbara Harrison Kaye

### Grace Episcopal Church

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

Sunday, Oct. 5, 12 noon: Fifth Annual 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!

Sunday, Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Flu Clinic in Grace Parish Hall. Preventa Health will be offering influenza and pneumococcal immunizations. The cost of each immunization is free for those with Medicare Part B (must present card), and for all others a flu shot is \$25 and the pneumonia shot is \$45. Cash or check only; no private insurance will be accepted, but a receipt will be provided for filing. For further information, contact Preventa Health at 203-274-7896.

Thursday, Oct. 30, 4:30 to 6 p.m.: Children's "All Hallow's Eve" event in Grace Parish Hall. All little City Island ghosts and goblins are invited to come learn the true story of Halloween through story, song and crafts. Costumes encouraged! This event is particularly appropriate for children ages 5 to 10, but all are welcome. For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact EYVONNE BAKER at [neuvearts@yahoo.com](mailto:neuvearts@yahoo.com) or Mother Patty at 718-885-1080.

Sunday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.: All Saints' Sunday. Please leave a message on 718-885-1080 by Friday, Oct. 31 to remember a departed loved one at the altar.

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

Rev. Patricia Alexander

### Trinity United Methodist Church

We here at Trinity are revving up for the fall season. Our Sunday school is now in session at 10 a.m. every Sunday; our worship services are at the same time. All are welcome to join us.

Reverend Sue is continuing her study of the Book of Psalms on Wednesday nights at 7:30. If you would like to join the study, call her at 718-885-1218. Our lay leader, George Cavalieri, is also continuing his study of the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians on Sundays after our regular worship services (see below).

The Budget Corner is now open for business. Check for our hours, and come and buy. We have a lot of great things coming in every day. We are, as usual, in desperate need of volunteers. Budget does a great service for our church, as well as for the community, providing much-needed income to keep our doors open and making available clothing and household items for people on and off the Island. If you have the time, please consider volunteering. There are spots open for those who enjoy working with people, as well as jobs behind the scenes. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 if you are interested.

This will be my last newsletter for Trinity, as I am moving out of state. I have enjoyed my time as correspondent for my church, and I will miss all the wonderful people at Trinity, as well as all the people on City Island. Look forward to hearing from our new correspondent, Ellie Hebard!

#### Bible Study

From Oct. 19 through Nov. 23, a study of



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

**Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street got a face lift in September 2008 thanks to the Nailite company, which honored its warranty and replaced the crumbling and faded siding. All three buildings—church, rectory and parish hall—have new hand-split shake-style siding. Stop by and admire the heavenly new look!**

the New Testament first letter of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians will resume and complete the remaining chapters 11–16. The group will meet for six Sunday sessions in Trinity's Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. George Cavalieri, Trinity's lay leader, will be the moderator of the round-table discussion. No registration is required and the texts will be provided. An appropriate video excerpt will be shown at the beginning of each session and light refreshments will be offered. Everyone in the community who is interested in Bible study is welcome.

The study will give a view of what a first-century church was like with its problems and concerns, a subject that Paul addresses forcefully and lovingly. Some surprising and eye-opening differences then and now challenge us today as to how faithful we are in maintaining the Apostolic commandments.

Subjects to be covered: the gender requirements involving head covering for prayer and prophecy; the Lord's Supper; spiritual gifts; the one body, but many members; the gifts of prophecy and tongues; the supremacy of love, along with faith and hope; orderly worship and the use of the gifts in church gatherings; Christ's resurrection; the resurrection of the dead, and why the resurrection is indispensable to the Gospel proclamation; a proposed collection for the poor Hebrew saints of the Jerusalem church who were in need; and the Apostle Paul's final greetings.

This continues to be a full plate of study, giving us insight as to where the Church is today compared to its beginnings under the original Apostolic leadership. Come join us to be both challenged and encouraged. For further information, call Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218.

Anne Sill

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

In early September, we said good bye to Fr. Alexander Iheonunekwu, who was with us for the summer months. We wish him well as he returns to his parish in Nigeria.

Both St. Mary's School and our religious-education program have begun well. Our students seem engaged and enthusiastic about the new school year. Our Bible study class began on Tuesday, Sept. 23, and will continue to meet each Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the parish rectory.

Our monthly Holy Hour will begin in the month of October on Friday, Oct. 3, from 4 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. 5, at 2 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard or in the school gym in case of rain.

All are welcome to attend our coffee hour on the second Sunday of the month, Oct. 12, after the 10 a.m. Mass in the rectory.

Oct. 19 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. 26, there will be a special Enrollment Mass 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. 27, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Sr. Bernadette



### AARP Chapter 318

AARP Chapter #318 meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, at 1 p.m.

Officers for the new season were installed at the September meeting. They are: Barbara Whalen, president; Georgina Lehsau, vice president; Mary Carman, secretary; Lucy Pontecorvo, treasurer; Florence Bonicoro, travel.

Our yearly penny auction and luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 15. Lunch will be served at 12 noon, and the auction will follow. All of the proceeds for this affair are donated to houses of worship on City Island, our two schools and other worthy organizations.

An Octoberfest luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 30. Contact Flo Bonicoro if you are interested in attending.

Carmelia A. Ramftl

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Fall Art Classes** by Laury Hopkins begin Oct. 6. Story and Picture for K through second grade: Mondays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.; eight classes for \$70. Build a Beast Workshop for grades 4 through 8: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; nine classes for \$120; Colorscape for grades 3 through 6: Thursdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; nine classes for \$80; Storytime Art for Preschoolers, accompanied by caregiver, Thursdays 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.; nine classes for \$70 (individual classes \$10; must call ahead). Call Laury at 718-885-3202 for more information or to sign up. Leave a message!

**Drama Club** will be held on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8 p.m. starting Oct. 7, for ages 8 to 12. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 for more information.

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

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

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

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

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

**ADULT PROGRAM**

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

**Belly Dancing:** "Shimmy by The Sea" Theresa Mahon a.k.a. Salacia teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind: Egyptian belly dancing. It is a

low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each class is \$15 for one hour. Call 845-358-0260.

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

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

**Yoga:** A beginner-to-intermediate class, which 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@ohmchi.com](mailto:marc@ohmchi.com) or call 718-885-2445.

**FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS**

**Wilma's Music Together:** Music and movement for children ages birth through five and adults that love them! Fridays or Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.vilmasmusictogether.com](http://www.vilmasmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

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

Amy Gottlieb

**Temple Beth-El**

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, wishes our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5769).

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

Yom Kippur Eve (Wednesday, Oct. 8) will be preceded with a pre-fasting dinner around 4 p.m. Call Bob Berent (718-885-3098) for information and reservations as soon as possible. Kol Nidre and the evening service will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Morning Service for Yom Kippur begins at 9:30 a.m., the Rabbi's sermon around 10 a.m. and Yizkor at 11 a.m. Our closing service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a break fast (thanks to our 75th Anniversary Year Events Committee led by Michael Eiron).

Shabbat and Sukkot will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 17 (at 7:30 p.m.) and on Saturday, Oct. 18 (at 10:30 a.m.). A potluck lunch (dairy and vegetarian foods) will follow our Torah Study session. (Rabbinic intern Molly and Cantor Elaine will lead these sessions.)

Finally, a Simchat Torah Celebration will be led by our Rabbinic intern Molly and Cantor Elaine on Friday evening, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Once again we will publish our annual Book of Remembrance to memorialize our loved ones at Yizkor services on Yom Kippur. The donation for each name is \$18. See or contact Mort Ellis (718-885-2820) by Oct. 5.

And visit our Web site at [www.yourshul-bythesea.org](http://www.yourshul-bythesea.org).

Bob Berent



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The cast of "The Dining Room," to be presented by the City Island Group in October is (seated l. to r.): Susan Rauh, Lindy Tabano and Katrina Snyder; (standing, l. to r.) Nathan Simmons, Eileen Marcus (director), Robert Mulroy and Matthieu Regney.

**Legion News**

Fall officially arrived on Sept. 23, heralding not only cooler weather but also a plethora of Post activity.

The annual legislative breakfast will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5, at the Turner Club, at 10 a.m. Since this is an important election year, we anticipate a full house of politicians on hand to dazzle the proletariat with their words of wisdom. They will also entertain your questions. The cost is \$20.

The annual pumpkin sale will be held at the Post on Friday through Sunday, Oct. 10 through 12, rain or shine. Volunteers are always welcome. We have gourds, mums and more.

The annual Octoberfest will be held Saturday evening, Oct. 25. Those with high cholesterol are advised to consult with their physician before attending!

Comrade Treat reminds us that dues are due for 2009. This year's dues will be \$45. Only \$13 of that will be retained by the Post.

Keep these dates in mind. Servicemen's Annual Dance on Saturday, Nov. 22, and the Post Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 15. The commander reminds us that this event is very well attended. Chow hounds note: come early for choice seats close to the serving table.

The Post Dispatch writer Jack Katz informs me that he will have the paper in the mail by the end of September.

There will be a Post Everlasting Service on Oct. 20 for our recently deceased members: John Jangl, Michael Sarlo, Richard Bach and James Carroll. Please try to attend.

Regular meetings for October are on Monday, Oct. 6 and 20. The executive committee will meet Oct. 13.

And now let's go back to October 1945 in Germany. The 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron was scheduled to go to the Pacific theater as part of the First Army General Hodges First Team. The atom bomb and Japan's surrender changed all that. In a matter of a few weeks, we were on the way to Le Havre and home. We arrived in Boston, and I was told that we were the first big troop ship to disgorge its human cargo. After an official greeting by the Red Cross

and an Army band, we boarded a train to Camp Miles Standish. After a hearty meal, we were told that the 33rd Photo Recon Squad was no more. I think that I had tears in my eyes. I would miss all the friends I had known over a period of nearly three years.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

**City Island Republicans**

The McCain-Palin ticket has really energized the party faithful. The City Island Republicans will be doing their part to help elect the ticket come November. Senator John McCain actually has a chance to carry New York despite what the liberal news media wants us to believe. If all Republicans get out and vote, we can carry this state.

Currently, we are trying to get McCain-Palin items. Once we can get them, they will be distributed around the Island.

We would like to remind our fellow Republicans that the last day to register to vote or change your registration to Republican is Friday, Oct. 10, 2008.

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

Fred Ramftl

**City Island Theater Group**

Join us as we close our 2008 season with our fall show "The Dining Room." Written by A.R. Gurney, the play is set in the dining room of a typical well-to-do household, the place where family assembles daily for breakfast, dinner and any special occasion. The action is composed of a mosaic of inter-related scenes—some funny, some touching and some rueful—which taken together create an in-depth portrait of a vanishing species: the upper-middle-class WASP.

Each vignette introduces a new set of people and events, and the actors change roles, personalities and ages as they portray a wide variety of characters. The scenes come together in a theatrical experience of exceptional range, compassionate humor and abundant humanity.

The show's performers include CITG veterans and City Island residents Robert Mulroy, Susan Rauh and Lindy Tabano. Also featured in the cast are Katrina Snyder, Matthieu Regney and Nathan Simmons. Eileen Marcus, Island resident and CITG veteran and board member, directs this classic play.

Don't miss this great show! Call now to make your reservation. Performances are: Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at 8 p.m., 19 and 26 at 3 p.m. at Grace Church Paris Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. Call 718-885-3066 for tickets or e-mail [tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com](mailto:tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com).

Nick Sala

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### Deborah Winger "Undiscovered"

This summer actress Deborah Winger released her first book, "Undiscovered," a series of personal poetic essays. When she turned 40, she put aside her very successful acting career. In 2002, actress Rosanna Arquette directed a perceptive documentary called **Searching for Deborah Winger**, in which she interviewed dozens of actresses, including Vanessa Redgrave, Diane Lane, Jane Fonda, Whoopi Goldberg and Gwyneth Paltrow, about the pressures they face in the film industry. Winger returned to acting after the release of this documentary. This month's focus is on Winger's early films.

Her first starring role was as Sissy in **Urban Cowboy** (1980), which is set in Gilley's country-western bar in the heart of Houston, where Sissy falls in love with Bud (John Travolta), who has come to town to find work at an oil refinery. Their romance is threatened by Wes (Scott Glenn), an ex-convict who rides bulls. Life on the dance floor is a great escape from their mundane existence. No one will ever forget seeing Winger ride the Gilley's mechanical bull.

1982 brought the blockbuster **An Officer and a Gentleman**, for which Winger earned her first Academy Award Best Actress nomination as Paula, who works at a local paper mill with her friend Lynette (Lisa Blount). The girls dream of finding romance and ultimately security with naval officer candidates Zack (Richard Gere) and Sid (David Keith). Louis Gossett Jr. gives a stellar performance as Sergeant Foley, who makes life hell for the men who want to fly jets.

**Terms of Endearment** (1983) received eleven Academy Award nominations including one for Winger, and five wins, including Best Picture. This is an intense drama about the complex relationship between mother Aurora (Shirley MacLaine) and daughter Emma (Winger), which is exacerbated when Emma is diagnosed with cancer. The supporting cast includes Jack Nicholson as astronaut Garrett Breedlove, the mother's love interest; Jeff Daniels as Flap, Emma's philandering husband; and John Lithgow as Emma's unhappily married confidant. I personally

found this movie too sad to see ever again, but it's perfect for those who like to have a tissue box handy for a good cry at the movies.

**Black Widow** (1986) is a femme fatale thriller. Through careful data analysis, FBI desk jockey Alexandra Barnes (Winger) suspects that she has discovered the existence of a serial killer. She gets reluctant permission from her boss (Terry O'Quinn) to pursue the glamorous Catharine (Theresa Russell), who poisons each of her wealthy husbands. This is an erotic and absorbing suspenseful story.

Winger plays yet another FBI agent in **Betrayed** (1988). After the brutal murder of a talk show host, Katie is sent to infiltrate the local white supremacist movement. Her objectivity is compromised when she falls in love with Gary (Tom Berenger), a prime suspect. The film requires a serious suspension of disbelief, but this Costa-Gravas-directed film raises many questions and is based on actual news events.

In **Leap of Faith** (1992), Jane (Winger) is an assistant to evangelical preacher/healer Jonas Nightengale (Steve Martin), in a brilliant depiction of how a traveling ministry can give false hope to a broken-down town. When Jonas meets Marva (Lolita Davidovich), a local waitress with a crippled brother named Boyd (Lukas Haas), the boy, to Jonas's dismay, believes he can be healed. Liam Neeson is on hand as Will, the local sheriff, a non-believer who becomes Jane's love interest. This is a stirring and fascinating film.

Winger received her third Academy Award Best Actress nomination for her performance as real-life American poet Joy Kesham in **Shadowlands**. For many years, she had an epistolary relationship with C.S. "Jack" Lewis (Anthony Hopkins), the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, the classic series of children's fantasy novels. Fleeing an abusive marriage, Joy eventually comes to England, where Jack surprises his friends by agreeing to marry this divorcee. Their platonic relationship eventually deepens when sadly a life-threatening illness afflicts one of them.

I saw Winger interviewed by film critic Janet Maslin this past summer at the Jacob Burns Film Center, and I must report that Winger is as beautiful and articulate as ever. I look forward to continuing to follow her career in the cinema. Now, however, she refuses to become overwhelmed by the Hollywood celebrity system.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

## Council Member Vacca Sponsors Elder Abuse Law

A landmark piece of legislation that mandates training for senior service employees and provides seniors with tools they need to detect and report elder abuse was signed into law in September. The bill was sponsored by Council Member James Vacca, chairman of the Senior Centers Subcommittee.

The bill, which passed the City Council unanimously on Sept. 4 and will become effective mid-January 2009, requires all employees of city-run senior centers and all other entities that contract with the Department for the Aging to undergo training in elder abuse prevention, detection and counseling every three years. Similar training is already required for personal care and home-care workers. Also, senior centers are required to offer informational workshops to senior center members twice a year, and to post a sign directing elder abuse victims to call 311 or the Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center at 212-442-3103.

The bill defines elder abuse as any in-

jurious act inflicted on a vulnerable older adult by someone in a trusting relationship, including "physical, emotional, sexual, or financial harm, or neglect, abandonment, or confinement." Nationwide, it is estimated that as many as 2 million seniors have been the victim of some form of elder abuse, but only one in six reports the abuse, largely because the assailant is often a family member, caregiver or close friend. It is estimated that only one in 25 cases of financial elder abuse is reported.

Mr. Vacca hopes that his newly signed legislation will help end the stigma associated with elder abuse. He said: "Elder abuse is something that many of us do not often talk about, and that includes many in the senior community. By bringing this issue into the open, this bill seeks to change that. Those seniors who attend their local center and take part in workshops will share their knowledge with peers at other community organizations, at church, and at social gatherings."



### Public School 175

Principal Amy Lipson and assistant principal Deana Crawford would like to welcome back the children, parents and faculty for the 2008-2009 academic year. Mrs. Miskimmon, Ms. Bellon and Ms. Palazzo are teaching kindergarten, and Mrs. Cambria and Mrs. Stevelman will be working with the first-graders. The second- and third-graders are fortunate to have Mrs. Carter-Spencer, Mrs. Eisen, Mrs. McManus and Ms. Stanford. Grade 4 teachers are Mrs. Mazzella and Ms. Maryl and the fifth grade will be taught by Ms. Minor and Ms. Wiehler. The home-room teachers for the sixth grade are Ms. Jensen and Ms. Tighe; Ms. Goulian and Ms. Ramos have the seventh grade and Ms. Marron and Ms. Heil have Grade 8. Ms. Rodrigues teaches both foreign language and computer technology; the art instructor is Ms. Lopez and Mr. Fecht runs the physical education program. The guidance counselor is Mrs. McDonald; Mr. Weis supervises speech services; and the parent coordinator is Mrs. Gisante.

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We welcome our new students and incom-



### Leaving Work in 2009? Now's the Times to Apply for Retirement

Are you planning to "clock out" of the workforce once and for all in January 2009? Generally, you should apply for your Social Security retirement benefits three months before you'd like them to start. So now's the time to apply for retirement benefits to beat the rush—and you can do it online. Applying online is a convenient and secure way to apply for your benefits.

Not only can you apply for retirement benefits online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), you can use several tools to help you estimate your monthly benefit. Visit our online Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator) or use one of our other online benefit calculators.

Although applying for benefits online is convenient, choosing when to begin receiving your benefits can be complicated. Remember, you can get a reduced Social Security retirement benefit as early as age 62, wait until your full retirement age (66 for people born between 1943 and 1954), or increase the amount of your benefit by working as late as age 70. To assist you, Social Security has created an online publication, *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html). This publication explains the factors to consider before deciding when to collect benefits.

Regardless of when you retire, you become eligible for Medicare at age 65. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for updates and improvements that soon will make applying for benefits online even faster and easier.



ing students from Sacred Heart School since their school has closed, and we welcome back our continuing students as well as our qualified, caring and long-standing faculty and staff.

The Pre-K teacher is Mrs. Joyce Occasio. Mrs. Beth Neshiewat will teach kindergarten, and the first-graders will have Sr. Joan McKinney. Second grade will be taught by 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. Sixth-graders will have vice principal Mr. Robert Garrison, the seventh grade will be taught by Mr. Evan Beskin, and Mrs. Audrey-Cabbell-Delgado will teach Grade 8.

Mrs. Diana O'Halloran will head the computer program; the art instructor is Ms. Lais Moises; Ms. Elizabeth Tedesco will teach music, and Ms. Rachel Mirabito is the physical education instructor. The school nurse is Mrs. Maria E. Torres.

Principal Mrs. Jane Dennehy is delighted with the successful enrollment for this 2008-2009 school year and is planning, along with her faculty, challenging additions to the already comprehensive curriculum of the school.

There will be a reunion of the St. Mary's class of 1956, along with the P.S. 17 class of that year. Barbara Harrison Kaye, development director, is asking that alumni of the St. Mary's class contact her at [bhk@gmail.com](mailto:bhk@gmail.com) with current class contact information. In addition, St. Mary's would like to celebrate the Class of 1959 on the 50th anniversary of their graduation in June. If there is an alum of that class who would like to work with Mrs. Kaye to spearhead the event, please e-mail her at the above address.

### America's Life Insurance Program

You might worry about how to protect your family if something suddenly happens to you, but you probably have life insurance you haven't even thought about.

If you are working and paying into Social Security, your family may qualify for Social Security benefits if you die. You see, some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward survivors' insurance. In fact, its value may be more than the value of any other life insurance you may have.

If you die, your family could be eligible for monthly benefits based on your earnings. Your family members who might qualify include your minor children and your spouse. Similarly, if your spouse is working and dies, you and your children may qualify for benefits on your spouse's record. More than six million people currently receive Social Security survivors' benefits.

This is how it works. You can earn up to four Social Security credits each year. In 2008, for example, you earn one credit for each \$1,050 of wages or self-employment income. When you have earned \$4,200, you have earned your four credits for the year.

The number of credits you need for your survivors to receive benefits depends on how recently you worked at the time of death. For example, if you have worked for only one and a half years in the three years prior to death, benefits can be paid to your minor children and your spouse who is caring for them. No one needs more than 40 credits (10 years of work) to be eligible for any Social Security benefit.

The benefit may be more than you think. In 2008 the average survivors benefit for a widowed parent and two children is \$2,243. At [www.socialsecurity.gov/survivorplan](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivorplan) you will find three different calculators that will help you estimate how much your family might be eligible to receive. You also will find a detailed explanation of survivors' benefits.



# The Far Side of the Bridge

A COLUMN ABOUT BRONX COUNTY

## The Bronx's Answer to Disneyland

On Sunday, Sept. 7, nostalgia got the best of me, so I packed up the car and my family and we headed toward Brooklyn—Coney Island, to be precise. We were off to pay homage to a New York City institution that would soon be just a memory. On that day, Coney Island's Astroland was closing forever. It was the end of an era.

Located beside the historic Cyclone roller coaster, the first Nathan's hot dog stand and a few seedy freak shows, Astroland first opened in 1962 on the Coney Island boardwalk and has been delighting families every summer since. The 3.1-acre amusement park originally billed itself as a "space-age" amusement park, although in recent times a visit there has felt more like stepping into the past than into the future.

When we arrived that Sunday, one of the first things that greeted us was a rusted tin sign boasting "Astroland—NYC's largest theme park." This struck me as odd as I never considered Astroland to be either large or a theme park. And truthfully, I was never particularly fond of the place, as it was very run down, dilapidated. Having said that, I was still sorry it was to be no more.

As I walked around this doomed relic, my thoughts turned to Freedomland U.S.A., the Bronx's answer to Disneyland whose slogan was "The

World's Largest Entertainment Center." Freedomland was conceived by Texan Cornelius Vanderbilt Wood (1922–1992), who had previously worked in the planning, construction and management of Disneyland. Wood selected a 205-acre site, which had once served as a small municipal airport in the Baychester area of the Bronx, to construct the world's largest and greatest theme park. Although the property was spread out over more than 200 acres, the actual amusement park was 85 acres. This was larger than Disneyland's 65 acres, and at a construction cost of \$65 million, the creation of Freedomland would outspend Disney by 3 to 1.

The park's original concept was based on American history, and the layout was arranged in the shape of a large map of the United States. Guests would enter the park at the approximate location of Washington, D.C., while Baychester Avenue, at the park's eastern edge, represented the United States border with Canada. Freedomland was divided into different themed areas based on eras of American history, each area with its own attractions, shops and restaurants. This made Freedomland a true theme park, as it had one recurring theme throughout.

On June 19, 1960, Freedomland opened its gates for the first time to great fanfare and recorded 65,000 patrons on its inaugural day. The New York Times ran a front-page story on the Bronx



Freedomland. Drawing by Terry McElroy

theme park, and Robert Wagner, the mayor of New York City, read a proclamation declaring June 19 "Freedomland Day." That same evening, the "Ed Sullivan Show," the most-viewed television show in the country, presented a promotional tour of the park and referred to it as "Disneyland's equal on the East Coast." On its second day of operation, the park reached capacity attendance and was forced to stop ticket sales.

Despite enormous enthusiasm for Freedomland, problems started to surface immediately. Its easy accessibility by automobile, originally considered a major asset, soon proved to be a logistical problem. On days with nice weather, major traffic jams were commonplace, with every access road to the park plagued with traffic snarls.

Traveling by public transportation was less convenient, because it required a bus transfer from the last stop of the number 6 subway line, which at the time also meant paying two separate fares. Coney Island, by contrast, was (and is) served by four separate subway lines.

Another issue with the site was the fact that the area was a swamp (nowadays called a wetlands) situated very close to the Hutchinson River and Eastchester Bay, which resulted in a profusion of mosquitoes during much of the season.

On June 25, just five days after Freedomland's spectacular opening, a stagecoach overturned in the Great Plains section of the park, injuring 10 people. Three of the victims were hospitalized, including one with a snapped spine. The park initially denied any responsibility for the incident until a visitor publicly released a photograph of the accident. Eventually, the injured parties filed huge lawsuits against the park. Just two months later, on Aug. 28, the front office was robbed of \$28,836 by four armed men who escaped by boat. The bandits were caught two weeks later and convicted the following year. By the end of the first season, Freedomland U.S.A. was already \$8 million in debt.

As it struggled to break even, the management of Freedomland desper-

*Continued on page 15*

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## REFRESH YOUR WORKOUT

By BRUCE NIEVES

I am often asked by frustrated fitness enthusiasts: "Why have my results stopped? I am doing the same routine as before. What happened?"

This is a common place to end up, usually a few months after starting a new exercise routine. At first your body responds to your routine in lost pounds and gained muscle tone, and then one day your results screech to a stop. What happened? And, more importantly, what can you do about it?

You may have heard the saying "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best idea is to get off." This is the perfect analogy for your stale workout routine. The problem is that your body has adapted to your routine. Let's face it. When you can do your workout routine in your sleep, it's time for something new.

**The Solution:** Shake things up and apply the concept of muscle confusion. Muscle confusion means that you keep your body guessing by changing your routine. The following are great ways to do just that:

**Exercises:** When you know that your routine has lost its effectiveness, the first obvious things to change are the actual exercises. It is important to include every major muscle group in your routine, so be sure to exchange each exercise for one that works the same muscle group.

**Resistance:** Do you find yourself always reaching for the same dumbbells or placing the pin in the same notch of the weight stack? Change your weight as well as the number of repetitions performed. If you normally do 12 to 15 repetitions, then increase the weight and do 6 to 8. The key is to challenge your muscles in a new way.

**Equipment:** There are so many different pieces of exercise equipment out there—don't limit your routine to just one type. If you love working with dumbbells but your routine has fallen flat, put them aside and try something new. A little creativity can really jump-start your progress.

**Style:** So often the training style that we are first taught sticks with us forever. For you, this may be the style of doing one set, taking a rest period, and then doing another set. Or maybe you have caught on to the circuit training style that keeps your heart rate elevated throughout the routine. Whatever your chosen style, be sure to change it once your routine ceases to produce results.

Don't worry. I don't mean that you need a brand-new workout every day of the week. In fact, your body will take some time to adjust to each new workout, so it should be done for the appropriate amount of time before results start to slack off.

What is that "sweet spot" of time that each new routine should be used before moving on to the next? The answer to that question is as unique as each person reading this. For some this will mean a new routine every three weeks, and for others it will mean a new routine every eight weeks. Typically, the fitter you are the quicker your body will adapt to each new routine.

*Butch Nieves is a City Island resident who owns a personal fitness training business. His Web site is [www.mramericaspersonaltraining.com](http://www.mramericaspersonaltraining.com)*

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

OCTOBER 2008										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET		
01	Wed	0129	7.62	0739	0.35	1334	8.07	2012	-0.01	Wed 01
02	Thu	0204	7.32	0759	0.68	1402	7.82	2043	0.39	Thu 02
03	Fri	0236	7.04	0815	0.98	1429	7.58	2107	0.80	Fri 03
04	Sat	0308	6.79	0846	1.27	1502	7.34	2133	1.16	Sat 04
05	Sun	0346	6.60	0927	1.58	1543	7.12	2214	1.48	Sun 05
06	Mon	0434	6.47	1015	1.87	1631	6.92	2306	1.72	Mon 06
07	Tue	0539	6.44	1112	2.06	1730	6.80			Tue 07
08	Wed	0010	1.81	0702	6.56	1217	2.07	1841	6.80	Wed 08
09	Thu	0126	1.70	0800	6.83	1333	1.85	1958	6.96	Thu 09
10	Fri	0224	1.43	0843	7.17	1442	1.40	2051	7.20	Fri 10
11	Sat	0309	1.06	0917	7.56	1534	0.85	2132	7.46	Sat 11
12	Sun	0349	0.65	0950	7.97	1620	0.28	2212	7.69	Sun 12
13	Mon	0427	0.26	1026	8.37	1703	-0.23	2252	7.88	Mon 13
14	Tue	0506	-0.06	1105	8.71	1745	-0.60	2335	7.97	Tue 14
15	Wed	0547	-0.25	1147	8.93	1830	-0.79			Wed 15
16	Thu	0019	7.96	0630	-0.27	1231	8.99	1917	-0.77	Thu 16
17	Fri	0106	7.82	0716	-0.12	1318	8.85	2008	-0.54	Fri 17
18	Sat	0157	7.56	0806	0.21	1409	8.53	2106	-0.15	Sat 18
19	Sun	0253	7.24	0903	0.65	1506	8.06	2220	0.28	Sun 19
20	Mon	0401	6.93	1015	1.09	1614	7.56	2344	0.58	Mon 20
21	Tue	0538	6.81	1201	1.28	1802	7.22			Tue 21
22	Wed	0058	0.65	0702	7.00	1324	1.09	1931	7.26	Wed 22
23	Thu	0203	0.54	0808	7.35	1431	0.68	2036	7.44	Thu 23
24	Fri	0301	0.34	0904	7.73	1529	0.21	2132	7.61	Fri 24
25	Sat	0353	0.16	0954	8.04	1621	-0.20	2222	7.72	Sat 25
26	Sun	0441	0.04	1040	8.23	1709	-0.47	2308	7.72	Sun 26
27	Mon	0524	0.04	1123	8.29	1754	-0.56	2351	7.62	Mon 27
28	Tue	0604	0.14	1202	8.23	1835	-0.49			Tue 28
29	Wed	0031	7.46	0639	0.34	1237	8.08	1913	-0.27	Wed 29
30	Thu	0108	7.26	0707	0.60	1306	7.88	1947	0.04	Thu 30
31	Fri	0141	7.06	0722	0.84	1328	7.69	2013	0.38	Fri 31
NOVEMBER 2008										
01	Sat	0209	6.90	0741	1.03	1352	7.53	2029	0.67	Sat 01
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 2										
02	Sun	0134	6.78	0715	1.23	1324	7.38	1956	0.91	Sun 02
03	Mon	0206	6.71	0756	1.42	1404	7.22	2034	1.11	Mon 03
04	Tue	0247	6.68	0844	1.59	1450	7.06	2120	1.25	Tue 04
05	Wed	0334	6.70	0937	1.68	1542	6.91	2211	1.31	Wed 05
06	Thu	0427	6.79	1035	1.64	1639	6.82	2306	1.26	Thu 06
07	Fri	0523	6.99	1138	1.43	1740	6.83			Fri 07
08	Sat	0003	1.08	0619	7.28	1244	1.04	1842	6.93	Sat 08



### WHY SOME LEAVES DON'T CHANGE COLOR

It's autumn again, and all around us trees are making themselves conspicuously colorful. Here and there, however, the evergreens are at it again, too—steadfastly staying green, that is. How they do it is a testament to the evergreen's uniquely adapted leaf.

Take the needle-shaped leaf of the common Christmas tree, for instance. Like its broader, falls-in-the-fall cousin, the leaf is the food-making part of the tree. And to make tree food (a simple sugar called glucose) water is required. All leaves have tiny holes, called stomata, but evergreens have smaller stomata than their cousins. Stomata are like the pores of a person's skin, through which the water we call perspiration is released from our bodies. In addition, the leaves of an evergreen tree have more internal space for water to be stored, while deciduous trees are constantly releasing water vapor into the air.

As temperatures drop in the autumn and as water in the ground is more likely to freeze, a deciduous tree sheds its leaves. There is not enough usable water for the leaves to do what they do, anyway, and so, not being needed, the leaves are dropped. An evergreen, on the other hand, has more than enough water stored in its leaves. Food-making goes on in spite of the cold. As long as it continues, chlorophyll, a natural chemical that gives leaves their green color, does not disappear. And that is why the leaves of an evergreen tree do not

change color.

This next one is for all you snapper fisherman. It is a recipe\* for Sicilian-style stuffed sardines, one that Dom and Carol use for the snappers Dom catches from the Fordham Street pier:

#### Stuffed Snappers

For the filling, sauté one finely chopped red onion in olive oil in a sauté pan for two to three minutes. Stir in ¾ cup of breadcrumbs and cook for two to three minutes to toast the crumbs. Remove the pan from heat. Add 5 tablespoons of currants (which have been soaked in water for up to five minutes), 5 tablespoons of pine nuts and ½ cup of minced parsley. Stir into the mixture ¼ cup of a mixture of lemon and orange juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper, and mix well. Let this filling cool.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Oil an 8-inch-square baking dish.

Scale, clean, split and bone each snapper and remove the head, until you have 2 pounds of fish. Fill each fish with 1½ teaspoons of filling. Roll each one, going from the head to the tail. Place the snappers close together in the baking dish with their tails sticking up and all facing in the same direction. Sprinkle them with the remaining filling. Place slices of lemon and orange and some bay leaves decoratively around the dish, alongside or in-between the snappers.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until tender. Serve warm or at room temperature.

And enjoy thoroughly!

\* Recipe adapted from one that appears in *The Heart of Sicily* by Anna Tasca Lanza.

## Far Side of the Bridge

*Continued from page 13*

ately tried to reinvent the image of the park. In an effort to appeal to more teenagers, the history exhibits and events were combined with more conventional amusements, such as bumper cars, roller coasters and other thrill rides. To broaden the appeal of the park's fireworks displays, major concerts were staged. But even with big headliners such as the Benny Goodman Orchestra, Freedomland never regained financial footing.

On Sept. 14, 1964, citing competition from the newly arrived 1964 New York World's Fair, Freedomland filed for bankruptcy and was eventually torn down. Although it lasted only

five seasons, it will always be fondly remembered by the tens of thousands of families who visited the park, and it will always hold a special place in the history of our borough and our city. And despite the many problems that it faced, Freedomland U.S.A. is listed among the greatest theme parks in America's history.

In 1968, at the former Freedomland site, construction began on Co-op City, the largest residential development in the United States. Co-op City was completed in 1971 and is now home to more than 50,000 residents of the Bronx.

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

## FISHING FORECAST

By JOHN DE CUFFA



Photo by JOHN DECUFFA

Pasquale Pedoto caught this 56 ½-pound bass while fishing with his brother Anthony (right) between Fort Totten and the Throggs Neck Bridge this past summer. There is plenty of good fall fishing left, so check out *The Current's* new fishing report below.

In the final weeks of the summer 2008 the porgy fishing was at its best, with large porgies being caught locally by Pea Island, Huckleberry Island, Hen and Chicken, Buoy 2 off New Rochelle, Prospect Point, Sands Point and Matinicock Point. Anchoring up and chumming is probably the best bet in 15 to 20 feet of water with sandworms, clams and bloodworms. These porgies hide from the bluefish which are also being caught in all of these same areas. The bluefish love fresh

bunker, and they are being caught in the 6- to 10-pound range with some up to 12 pounds. As the water gets cooler, the larger striped bass will mix in with these bluefish and will be back for their fall run.

Blackfish season opened Oct. 1, and it looks to be a good one with some nice blackfish already being caught with the porgies. Fiddler crabs, green crabs, fresh clams and Asian crabs will be in stock by the time this issue of *The Current* hits the stands.

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The yacht *Intrepid*, winner of the America's Cup in 1967 and 1970, being launched from Minneford Yacht Yard.

## Olin J. Stephens II

It was with great sadness that City Islanders learned of the death of the great yachtsman and designer Olin Stephens, who passed away on Sept. 13, 2008, at the age of 100. Born in the Bronx on April 13, 1908, Olin moved with his family to Scarsdale when he was five years old. His father, Roderick, was not a boating enthusiast but during family vacations on Cape Cod, Olin and his brother, Rod Jr., were introduced to sailing and thus began one of the most extraordinary careers in the history of yacht design.

In 1926 Olin Stephens attended MIT to study naval architecture but soon left because of illness. Although he always regretted not having more training in mathematics and engineering, he had an aptitude for designing boats. As veteran yachtsman John Rousmaniere pointed out in his obituary of Stephens, Olin "had aptitudes that suited his calling." In his autobiography "All This and Sailing Too," Stephens wrote: "I started my career with the tools of observation and intuition to which quantitative analysis has been gradually added. Whenever possible I studied lines and tried to see the way shape was coupled to performance."

By 1926 he was sailing regularly at Larchmont Yacht Club and in 1927 he became an apprentice at the Nevins Yacht Yard on City Island. By 1928 he had learned how to draw plans and that year his first published design for a six-meter appeared in "Yachting" magazine. That same year he sailed in his first Bermuda race. A year later, he formed the firm Sparkman & Stephens with Drake Sparkman, a successful yacht broker. Their first project was a 21-foot keel boat that was built at Kretzer's on City Island and is still sailing today (as the Manhasset Bay One Design) and their fourth was a 52-foot sloop, *Dorada*, commissioned by Stephens's father, who had sold the family coal business that year.

*Dorada* was built at the Minneford Yacht Yard on City Island under the supervision of Olin's brother, and in 1931 she won the transatlantic race to England, beating larger boats by as much as two days, as well as a Fastnet race. These victories resulted in a tickertape parade up Broadway, the first of only two such honors for yachtsmen (the other was for Dennis Connor in 1987 after he successfully defended the America's Cup.)

In 1933, Olin Stephens designed another ocean racer, *Stormy Weather*, which he regarded as the better boat. As John Rousmaniere puts it, "These two boats transformed the design of offshore sailing yachts." He continued to design six-meters,

as well as twelve-meters and cruiser racers, including the schooner *Brilliant*, also built on City Island and now owned by Mystic Seaport.

Between 1937 and 1980, Stephens designed eight of the nine America's Cup winners, the most remarkable of which were *Intrepid*, the defender in 1967 and again in 1970, and *Courageous*, which won in 1974 and 1977. He also designed powerboats, motor sailers and cruising boats, along with a number of day-sailers, including the world-famous Lightning and Blue Jay class boats. He retired in 1978 after having realized more than 2,000 designs and was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame at the Herreshoff Marine Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island, in 1993.

After he retired, Stephens moved with his wife to New Hampshire, where he studied mathematics at Dartmouth and taught a course on sailing for engineers. He continued to participate in sailing by helping develop computer software and attending international conferences. In 1998, when *Dorada* was restored by a new owner in Italy, he joined her crew as she won two out of three races. That same year he was presented with the first Maritime Heritage Award by City Island's community group IDEA.

Olin Stephens's wife, Florence Reynolds (called "Susie," passed away in 1993; he is survived by his sons Olin III, of Newfane, Vermont, and Samuel of Keene, New Hampshire, and a sister, Marite Sheridan of California, Maryland, and a grandson, Olin J. Stephens IV of Stratton, Vermont.

## Martha Ellen Markey

Martha Ellen Markey, who was raised on City Island, passed away in Chester, New Jersey, on Aug. 14, 2008, one week shy of her 90th birthday.

She was raised in a large, loving family on City Island by her parents, William and Esther Jane Riley. Her brother, Ebeling Riley, was a well-known poet and resident of City Island for years. Martha married a local boy, Walter M. Markey Jr., and they were married for 65 years.

She always said that her greatest accomplishment, and there were many of them, was raising her four children to love and care for each other, to have compassion for those less fortunate than themselves and to recognize and appreciate the beauty of the natural world.

She and her husband lived in Chester, New Jersey, from 1967. She was a Eucharistic minister at St. Lawrence Church and worked at the church resale shop.

She is survived by her husband, three of her children and their spouses: Jean Markey-Duncan (Robert) of Burlington, Vermont, Susan Randolph (Stephen) of New Milford, Connecticut and Walter Markey III (Joan) of Hackettstown, New Jersey. She is also survived by her seven

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grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2)


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If you enjoy baseball or softball or just getting out on a Sunday morning, why not come down to the Ambrosini ball field next to P.S. 175 and watch the Pelham Bay Belles Girls Softball Team play a game or two. The Belles will play double headers every Sunday morning at 9 and 11 a.m. between Sept. 28 and Oct. 26.

The Belles have competed in and won numerous Metro-State Championships, and in 2006 the 14u Division won the Babe Ruth Mid-Atlantic Regionals in New Jersey.

Anyone between the ages of 5 and 18 interested in playing softball in the summer months are asked to call the Pelham Bay Little League at 718-931-9585 or e-mail: [info@pelhambayll.com](mailto:info@pelhambayll.com).

Anyone over 17 capable of competing in fast-pitch games is asked to contact Bob Carmody at [justbobc1957@verizon.net](mailto:justbobc1957@verizon.net) or to stop by AER Property Management at 300 City Island Avenue, for more information about Fast-Pitch Softball in the summer months.

## New Captain

*Continued from page 1*

The 45th Precinct encompasses most of the neighborhoods between Co-op City and the Whitestone Bridge and is the largest geographical precinct within the New York City Police Department. Captain Roumeliotis is familiar with a couple of other boroughs in New York. He grew up in Queens, where he currently resides. He was a patrol officer for 21 years, serving in many parts of the city, including Washington Heights, East Harlem and the upper east side of Manhattan. Most recently, he also served in the Chief of Patrol Office at 1 Police Plaza.

Barbara Dolensek of *The Current* asked the captain about the recent and alarming problem of rabid animals on City Island. She told him about the efforts that frustrated Islanders are making to trap and remove skunks and raccoons, some of which appear to be rabid. He explained that the role of the police in animal control is limited to containment. "We will respond to reports

of rabid animals, but we have to call in special units, such as Animal Care and Control or ESU [Emergency Services Unit]." However, since the problem seems to be escalating, he said he would reach out to the Board of Health to further address the issue.

Ms. Dolensek, who is also an officer of the City Island Civic Association, invited him to attend an upcoming association meeting. She also suggested that he consider holding town hall meetings on City Island periodically, as did some of his predecessors. The new commander said he looked forward to meeting more Islanders in one or more of these venues.

On a humorous note, the new captain said that he was aware of City Island's great restaurants and looked forward to an in-depth tour of all the businesses on the Island with his Community Affairs team. "But I better stay away from all the good food," he joked.

# FALL FAIR EXTRAS



Photos by RICK DeWITT

There were plenty of original handmade crafts and artwork on sale at this year's Fall Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce during the weekend of Sept. 13-14, 2008. The event is juried for handmade products, including jewelry made by Islander Ashley Kinford (second photo), paintings, stained glass, candles, clothing, food and more. The Garden Club unveiled its City Island T-shirt at their table, and it was an instant hit (see Garden Club Organization News if you missed the opportunity to buy one). For those interested in used items, there was also a Flea Market/Swap Meet at the Fordham Street Beach Club, coinciding with the Arts and Crafts Fair (bottom photo). Sunny skies helped make both events a success.

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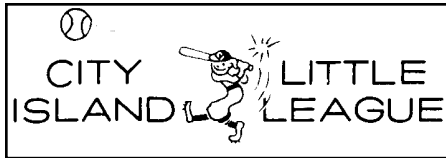
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This fall the City Island Little League has recruited a travel baseball team managed by Charlie Krieg, and coached by Chris DiMarco, Keith Krieg and Al Santiago. The players have all shown tremendous initiative both on and off the field. Already they have had two games at the Throggs Neck Little League field, and they are learning quickly how to play baseball on a major league-size field.

The members of the team are Nicholas Connolly, Kyle Crimmins, Christopher DiMarco, John Fanelli, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Michael Forgione, Ryan Henning, Kyle Krieg, Dylan Monserrate, Daniel Pirraglia, Michael Pirraglia, Robert Pirraglia, Gabriel Santiago and Gregory Sexton.

On the weekend of Sept. 13 and 14, the boys held a lucrative bake sale at the Arts and Crafts fair. Thanks to the generosity and

thoughtfulness of Paul Klein, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, the boys were given a prime spot near his store, Exotiq, to sell baked goods. Beyond these sales, the players took it upon themselves to pursue customers in the stores and restaurants on City Island Avenue. The young entrepreneurs made \$546 to benefit the City Island Little League.

We all want to say a special thank-you to Julia DiMarco and Robert Connolly, who contributed their time to selling baked goods. Also, we want to express many, many thanks to Gina DiMarco and Regina Krieg, two diligent mothers, for all their behind-the-scenes work to get this successful bake sale off the ground.

This column will keep you posted about registration for spring Little League. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer in any way for the City Island Little League, please e-mail me at [sallypconnolly@aol.com](mailto:sallypconnolly@aol.com).

Sally Page Connolly

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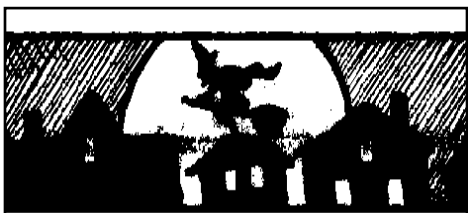


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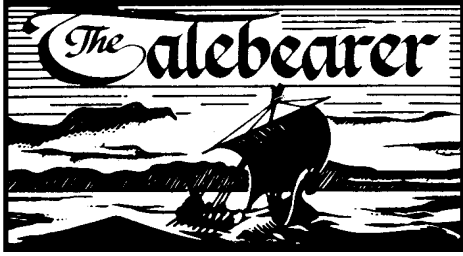



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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Welcome into the world, Dylan Joseph, born July 3 to Christa (Lachman) and Nathan Cady of Delmar, New York. Proud and very happy grandparents are Mary Lou and Bob Lachman of City Island, and great-grandpa Bob Lachman. Dylan's Vermont grandparents are very excited too! Congratulations and God bless Christa, Nathan and Dylan!

If you are running in the ING New York City Marathon on Nov. 2, please call Judy Rauh at 718-885-2079. We would like to get a group photo.

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

Happy birthday across the miles to former Islander Sunjay Sebastian, who turns 22 on

Oct. 29. Sunjay would love to hear from his old classmates and friends who might like to send him a birthday card. His address is Carmel Group Home, 3444 Route 301, Carmel, New York, 10512.

Happy 22nd birthday on Oct. 22 to King Avenue resident Mark Nani. Mark recently started his first full-time job with the Patriot Energy Group, based in Stamford, Connecticut. Mark also helped celebrate his Aunt Evie's 98th birthday in September (see photo).

Congratulations to Tim and Diane Stiene, who were married on Aug. 30, 2008, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Little Timmy was the ring bearer, and everyone had a wonderful time. The newlyweds honeymooned in Bermuda.

Welcome to Amelia Rain Kelly Goldberg, who was born on Sept. 5, 2008, to Brett Kelly and Jonathan Goldberg of Carroll Street. Delighted grandparents are Carmen Mason and Don Kelly of City Island and Norman and Karen Goldberg of Westbury, New York.

Happy 50th birthday wishes on Oct. 12 to former Island resident Jimmy Piranio, son-in-law of Lucy and Buddy Pontecorvo. Love from all your girls, Theresa, Jamie, Michelle, Bonnie and Alyssa.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BARBARA STIENE

Tim and Diane Stiene, who were married on Aug. 30, 2008, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.



Photo by KAREN NANI

Congratulations to Islander Evelyn Gauss (seated second from right), who turned 98 on Sept. 23, 2008. She was blessed by the Reverend Patricia Alexander during church on the Sunday before her big day, as friends and family members looked on. Her 13 great-grandchildren want to know if she remembers meeting Abraham Lincoln!

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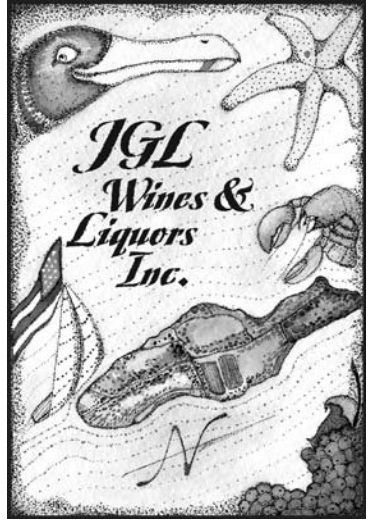
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