

# The Island Current

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## CITY ISLAND: THE MOVIE

By MARSHA TREIBER

The summer of 2008 will long be remembered on City Island for the excitement generated by the production of an independent film called, not coincidentally, "City Island." This story of a dysfunctional Italian-American family is set primarily on Horton Street, although various other Island settings were also used.

Writer-director Raymond De Felitta was in the middle of writing the script when he saw a *New York Times* article about City

Island and decided it would make a perfect setting for the film. When Andy Garcia, who shares an agent with Raymond, read the script, he knew that he wanted to do the film, not just as an actor but also as a producer. Other members of the crew concur with the quality of the script; the sound technician told me after the shooting of a scene at the Morris Yacht club that "the script is incredibly well written."

"Manhattan is only a piece of New York



City. It is surrounded by an infrastructure of the outer boroughs," Raymond explains. He wants to show a unique community within the city limits that is not Manhattan-centric. He calls the movie "a comedy that plays like the truth," pointing out that the great Rus-

*Continued on page 13*

Photos by RICK DEWITT, JOE NIXON and MARSHA TREIBER

The independent movie *City Island* was filmed for three exciting weeks in July and August 2008 on Horton Street and at various other Island settings (top photos). Writer/director/producer Raymond De Felitta (photo below left with Andy Garcia) read a *New York Times* article on City Island and decided it would make the perfect setting for his story of an Italian-American family. The film stars Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies and Steven Strait (photos below), as well as Alan Arkin. Laura Nilon Tressel, who grew up on Pilot Street (above far right), was the City Island liaison for the film. Some of the friendly stars took time to pose with Islanders, including Buckley Street resident Miriam Nixon (bottom photos) shown with Mr. Garcia and Ms. Margulies. When it is released, the film will include vintage scenes of City Island during the opening credits.



## Rabies Alert on City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

For the first time rabid raccoons have been found on City Island in the Bronx. Two rabid raccoons were found in May of this year, followed by a rabid stray kitten in July. Although rabid raccoons are found in the Bronx each year, this is the first time they have been found on City Island.

The Health Department is asking all City Island residents to make sure that they have vaccinated their pets against rabies and to stay away from wild and stray animals. Rabies is almost always fatal for humans and animals.

On May 5 of this year, a rabid raccoon was found at Rochelle Street and City Island Avenue, and on May 29 another was found near the same location. On July 15, a stray kitten found at Minneford Avenue and Cross Street tested positive for rabies after being attacked by a raccoon. No new rabid animals have since been reported on City Island.

Rabies is a viral infection that affects the nervous system. It is spread to people and pets by bites from infected wild animals, usually bats, raccoons and skunks. In New York City, animal rabies is most common in the Bronx and Staten Island and most often occurs in raccoons. Rabid bats have been reported from all the boroughs.

To date this year, a total of 11 animals have tested positive for rabies including three raccoons, two skunks and one cat in the Bronx; four raccoons on Staten Island, and one raccoon in Queens. There have been no human or dog cases of rabies in more than 50 years.

### Protect Your Pet and Your Family

Get your pet vaccinated regularly for rabies. It's the law! Maintaining vaccination against rabies is required for all dogs and

cats in NYC and is the best way to protect them from being infected with rabies.

Keep your cats indoors if possible and supervise your dogs while they are outdoors. Pets that roam may come into contact with rabid animals, get infected and then expose you. Any unvaccinated dog or cat that may have been exposed to a rabid animal is required to enter a six-month isolation or be euthanized.

Keep garbage in containers to avoid attracting animals. Raccoons are very clever, so be sure that the lids are on tight. If you see an open garbage container at an Island restaurant, ask the management to keep it covered.

If you must feed pets out of doors, leave the food out for only a few minutes and bring it in before twilight, which is when raccoons and skunks are most active. Never leave pet food out all night.

Call a veterinarian if your pet has been in contact with any wild animal or with one that might be rabid.

### Stay Away from Wild or Stray Animals

Never approach a wild, stray, sick or injured animal, no matter how helpless it looks. Raccoons, skunks and bats are more likely than other animals to have rabies. Be careful around these animals, especially if they look sick or behave strangely, such as acting too aggressive or too friendly, or has trouble standing up. If it is a night animal, such as a raccoon, and you see it walking around during the day, stay away from it.

If you see any animals acting this way, call 311 and ask for Animal Care and Control for advice on what to do.

For more information, visit [nyc.gov/health.rabies](http://nyc.gov/health.rabies).



**BRIEFLY...**

**SEPTEMBER ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR** will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Join the Chamber of Commerce's annual fall fair on City Island Avenue, from Bay Street to Carroll Street, featuring 50 or more vendors with jewelry, stained glass, paintings, photography, candles, clothing, personal care products, crafts and more. Music by The Lickety Split Band. Rain or shine.

**FLU CLINIC** will be hosted by Grace Episcopal Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Preventa Health will offer influenza and pneumococcal immunizations at no cost for those with Medicare Part B (must present card); 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. The Center for Disease Control recommends that everyone over the age of four should get a flu shot every year. For more information, call Preventa Health at 203-274-7896.

**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP:** The 11th annual beach clean-up, sponsored by the American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed to remove and record the amount and types of litter found by the City Island bridge and adjacent beach areas. We will meet at 9 on the City Island side of the bridge. For more information, call 914-882-9578.

**"AN HONEST DOLLAR,"** a comedy written by Island resident Robert Mulroy, is being performed at the Producer's Club, 358 West 44th Street, in mid-town Manhattan. The play opens on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 8 p.m., with performances also on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12 and 13, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 3 p.m. The play, which is directed by Madeline Balmaceda, is in three acts and tells the story of two brothers, Hank and Arthur, the financial difficulties they encounter and the unorthodox ways they try to get back on their feet. Along the way they encounter a venal landlady and her talented daughter, a local tough and his girlfriend, three judges and a blabbermouth delivery person. The production features Craig Beatty, Joseph DeBona, Tee Cotter, Mary Mulroy, Cori Ann Roublick, Bill Kozy, Mike Hogan, Carol Dooner, Natardia Lee Soy and Madeline Balmaceda, many of whom are familiar faces on the City Island Theater Group stage. For tickets and information, visit [www.ahonestdollar.com](http://www.ahonestdollar.com).

**NEW YEAR FOR BOY SCOUTS:** Boy Scout Troop 211's first meeting of the new scouting year is on Friday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall on City Island Avenue at Bay Street. Another exciting year is planned, with camping trips, hikes, travel to other cities and much more! If you know someone who wants to join, the troop is open to 11- to 18-year-old boys who like the outdoors and are willing to learn and be challenged. E-mail Scoutmaster Waldo Persteins for more information at [Troop211ideas@yahoo.com](mailto:Troop211ideas@yahoo.com) or call him at 718-885-9122.

**Last Sewer Phase Completed to the Relief of Schofield St. Residents**

By KAREN NANI

In spite of a few mishaps in the final phases of the years-long sewer and water main project, the work will be 100 percent completed ahead of schedule, according to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

The last major phase was installation of pipes in the 39-foot-deep sanitary sewer on Schofield Street over this past summer. Work was proceeding smoothly until Aug. 3, 2008, when residents on the east side of the street were roused from their beds by firemen and Con Edison workers alerting them to a possible gas leak.

Workers from Carp Construction, the contractor assigned to the project, accidentally hit a two-inch pressurized gas main while replacing the sewer pipes. They immediately notified Con Edison and the New York City Fire Department, which took over at the scene.

Con Edison repaired the gas main within one hour, according to Andy Macagnone, DDC community liaison for the project. Firemen knocked on the doors of residents to check for any gas in the basements of the houses on the block. When asked how these "accidents" happen, Mr. Macagnone told *The Current* that the markings for the gas mains are not always precise and can be off by as much as 15 feet.

Then on Aug. 8, Schofield Street residents awakened to find that water had been shut off unexpectedly. While completing the sewer work, Carp Construction crews hit the existing water main on the block, necessitating the turn-off of water while repairs were made. Water was back on within two hours, according to DDC.

Even before these unexpected incidents, the sewer project had been an ordeal, according to some Schofield Street neigh-

bors. "In addition to having to move our cars out before 7 a.m. every day, we have been living under a cloud of dust," Sailmaker resident Ann McGuire told *The Current*. Although the residents understand that this work has to be done, the large amount of equipment needed for the project has made walking and navigating the street difficult.

According to Mr. Macagnone, relief is to come by Labor Day (Sept. 1), when this last major phase of the entire project will be completed. "After that, we just have the final clean-up steps."

This includes a punch list of curb and sidewalk repairs up and down City Island Avenue. "We will go over the condition of the avenue, block by block and make repairs," he said. The repaving of City Island Avenue is complete, for which most Islanders are grateful, but minor repairs will be made as needed.

Some residents say that all in all, Carp and DDC have done an admirable job directing traffic and minimizing the disruption to residents throughout the major construction. DDC projects they will be complete before December 2008, one month ahead of schedule. A toast with sparkling water, anyone?

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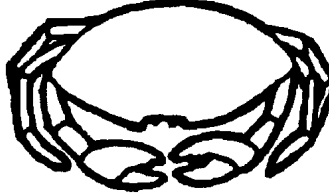
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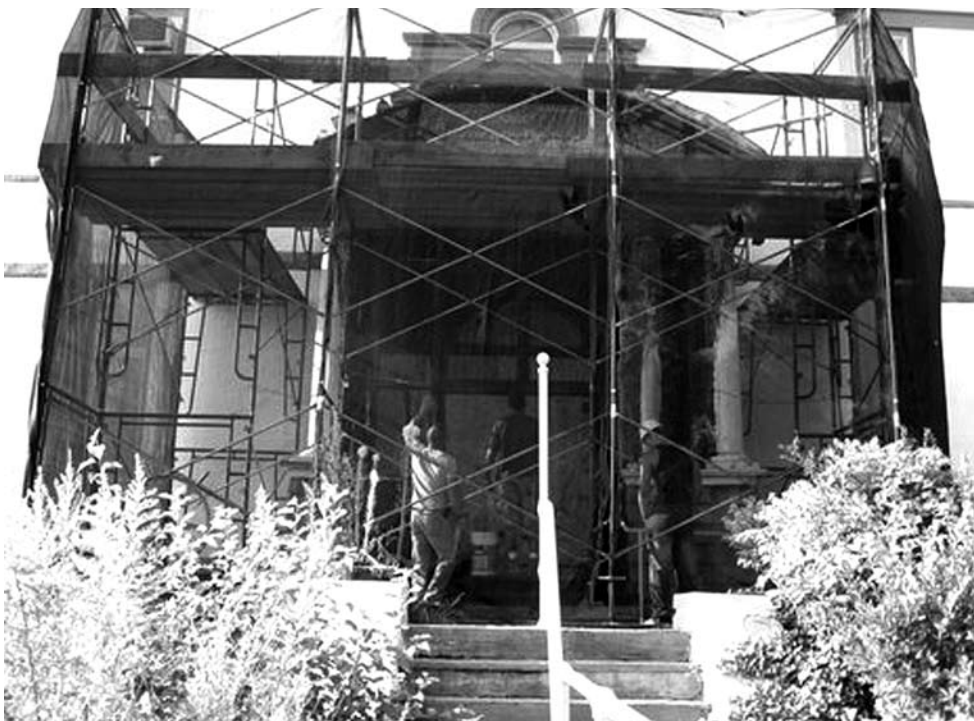
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# FIRE DAMAGE REPAIRS BEGIN



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and courtesy of UNITED HOMESTEADS, INC. Demolition began the week of Aug. 11 on the porch of the P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street, which houses the City Island Nautical Museum and the Community Center. While waiting for various permits, millworkers were hard at work replicating the original entrance to the building (photo right).



# STOP WORK ORDER ISSUED



Rendering of residences proposed for the Royal Marina site.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, the Department of Buildings (DOB) put a stop-work order on the former site of Royal Marina, at 521 City Island Avenue, bringing to a halt the preparatory work being carried out by the developer and current owner, Haim Joseph, who plans to construct 22 two-family houses and one commercial/residential structure on the lot.

The stop-work order was imposed after a complaint was filed with the DOB claiming that an authorization issued in July 2004 to the former owner of the property, Beechwood Homes, had expired at the end of July this year. According to the Department of City Planning, the authorization was issued before the adoption of the Lower Density Growth Management (LDGM) regulations and made the development exempt from them.

Some residents of City Island who have been watching and listening with dismay to the pile driving at the site expressed their concern about the development several weeks ago to City Council Member James Vacca, who met with Mr. Joseph to discuss his plans for the property.

Mr. Joseph explained that he had bought the property, including the approved building plans, from Beechwood and could not at this stage afford to change the placement or layout of the houses or to reduce their number. He expressed confidence that when the houses were completed, about two years from now, he would be able to sell them, in spite of the current housing crisis. When he was asked about the design of the houses, which is similar to that of the single-family houses built by Beechwood on Reville Street, he said that he was open to suggestions from the community.

Mr. Joseph told *The Current* that he was not even aware of the authorization or of its expiration date until the stop-work order was issued, but that his architect had already met with City Planning and that he was planning to adjust the parking spaces to conform to the current zoning regulations. According to City Planning, the approved site plan had a parking configuration that was not compliant with LDGM and this may also be the case with the private road.


In the meantime, the complaints voiced by the community have been aired in the Bronx Times and on Bronx 12 television. Resident Bill Stanton, who originally called for the meeting with Council Member Vacca, has been the most outspoken.

"I don't deny anyone the right to make a living," he told *The Current*, "but I take issue with any project that will have a negative effect on the community. City Island is limited in size, and a development like this will over-saturate what is already a crowded place, with inadequate infrastructure and real parking and traffic problems. To put it bluntly, we don't need more houses here."

Mr. Stanton, who grew up on the Island and recently moved back here, is frustrated by the lack of interest that residents seem to take in developments that will destroy what is unique about City Island. "We should be speaking up to our elected officials and telling them how we feel about issues that affect the quality of life here."

For the moment, the decision as to the compliance of the developer's plans rests with the Department of City Planning, which awaits a revised plan that conforms to the current zoning.

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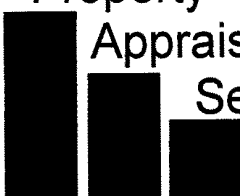
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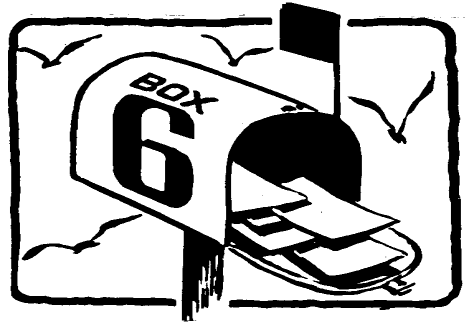
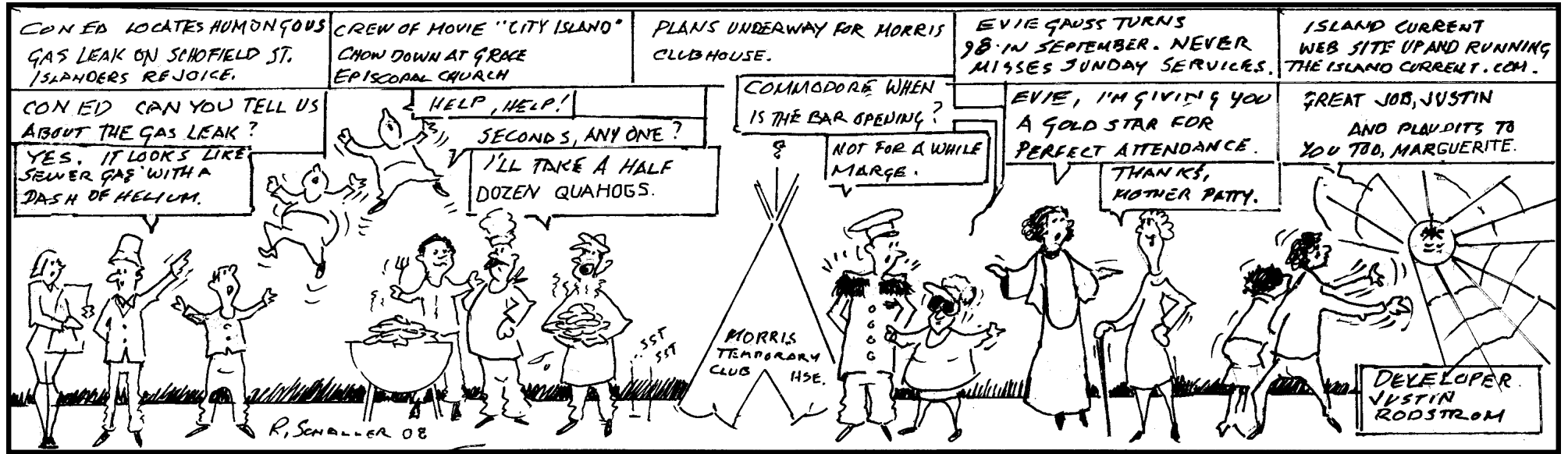
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**Halloween Parade Plea**

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

To: Kenneth Kearns, District Manager  
Community Board 10  
3165 East Tremont Ave  
Bronx NY 10465

Dear Mr. Kearns:  
Per our conversation, please send a letter of support to the 45th Precinct to allow City Island to have a Halloween parade on Friday, Oct. 31, 2008. The time frame should be between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and the parade would last about an hour. We feel that the more people who are out that night, the better we will be able to protect our community from the vandalism that we have experienced in the past. As in former years, the parade route would be from Hawkins Park up City Island Avenue to Ditmars Street and then east to King Avenue, culminating at the Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue. Thank you for your help in this matter.

**Paul Klein, Vice President  
City Island Chamber of Commerce**



**Stop and Go**

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

Mr. Paul Nani  
724 King Avenue  
City Island, New York 10464

Dear Mr. Nani:  
This is in reply to your June 10, 2008, letter requesting the relocation, or the installation of an additional "Stop" sign at Minneford Avenue and Bridge Street.

The Bronx Borough Engineering Office completed a field investigation involving land use and traffic regulations at this location. Consequently, a work order has been issued to install a "Stop Ahead" sign in advance of Minneford Avenue and Bridge Street. This work has been submitted to our sign maintenance unit and will be completed on or before Oct. 31, 2008.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety.

**Constance M. Moran  
Bronx Borough Commissioner**

**Sincere Thanks**

To the Editor:  
All of City Island knows that Gary Gunzl passed away. He's at peace with God.  
God took my son and made me a stronger person. But the world seems more depopulated with each passing day. Thank you, everyone, for being so gracious to me and my family through this sorrowful time. God bless us all.

**Diana R. Gunzl**

**Congratulations,  
Island Current!**

To the Editor,  
And to all our old friends on City Island. I wish I had the words to express our delight when we receive the latest *Current*. (Not having words must be a first for me!) Everyone on the staff is doing such a great job. And now a Web site! Terrific! We've finally caught up with the technology.  
It's also a delight to read all the names of those whom I've never met but who are now involved in the community, and those who are writing for *The Current*. Keep up the good work, all of you.

All is well in Wisconsin, with us and the weather! I have more aches and pains than Bob, who is very busy with his boat repair business! (And he thought he might retire—not!) We miss you all and think of City Island and our friends there often. Fortunately, the terrible flooding this spring was south of us, and we were spared all the damage other towns suffered.

Peace and blessings to all.  
**Sara (Sally) McPherson,  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
saramc38@yahoo.com**

*Editor's note: Sally McPherson was editor of The Island Current from 1974 to 1997.*

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## VIEW FROM A BRIDGE

Photo by RICK DeWITT

Many Islanders, including *Current* photographer Rick DeWitt, caught the annual Bronx Fireworks Extravaganza on Friday, June 27, 2008, from the City Island Bridge. The colorful pyrotechnic display, billed as “New York Salutes America,” was sponsored by Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and State Senator Jeffrey Klein.

## New Pelham Bay Park Administrator

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Bronx Parks commissioner Hector Aponte recently announced that Marianne O’Hea Anderson has been appointed the new administrator of Pelham Bay Park. She has worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation since 1986 and joined the Bronx office in 1989, first as staff writer and eventually director of community outreach.

Throughout her career at Parks, Marianne has written and edited a variety of publications, including, “Woodlands, Wetlands and Wildlife: A Guide To New York City’s Natural Areas”, the John Muir Nature Trail Guide, and “Native Americans of Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks” as well as numerous newsletters, articles, and press pieces.

As administrator of the city’s largest park, Marianne will oversee all aspects of its 2,766 acres, not only special events, capital investments and planning, but also forest, meadow, wetlands and a lone coyote or two. Her intimate knowledge of the park, ease of manner, and dedication to public service will be valuable assets as she helps Pelham Bay Park realize its full potential.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Marianne attended Herbert H. Lehman College, where she earned two B.A. degrees in History and Environmental Studies. Marianne and her husband, Brian Anderson, commissioner of the NYC Department of Records, have three children and live in the Norwood section of the Bronx.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

After working with the community and New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) for over a year, Senator Jeff Klein helped reopen Exit 3E on the New England Thruway from Pelham Parkway on Monday, July 7, 2008. The exit was originally closed because of construction, which caused serious congestion in the Pelham Bay neighborhood. The closure of the exit was a major inconvenience for residents of City Island and Co-Op City, as well as for drivers throughout the area.

## Cinderella Takes City Island

By MARY MCINTYRE



Photos by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast of “Cinderella Wore Combat Boots,” presented by the City Island Theater Group on Saturday, July 12, 2008, on the lawn at Grace Episcopal Church (l. to r.) Frank Siciliano, Connie Del Vecchio, Katrina Snyder, Mary Mulroy, Anthony Colon, Susan Rauh and Tara Brant.



After the performance, Islander Eileen Marcus helped some young Cinderellas make their own wands and crowns.

July 12 was a perfect summer Saturday on City Island, warm but breezy and full of sun. Chairs were set up and sheets were hung on a clothesline on the lawn of Grace Episcopal Church. By 2 p.m. there were chairs and blankets filling the churchyard, when Nick Sala, president of the City Island Theater Group, took center curtain and announced the production of “Cinderella Wore Combat Boots,” written by Jerry Chase.

Enter the stepsisters, who were as nasty as they could be, although neither one was ugly. Mazzarella, played by an all time CITG favorite Susan Rauh was “ditzzy but not dumb,” having a “universe” of knowledge in that pretty little head of hers, although apparently a very small universe. Her focus was definitely on snagging that prince. Godzella, her stepsister, was more suave and sophisticated, but her nastiness somehow interfered with that. She was played by Tara Brant, easily recognized from her previous performances with the group. Enter Motherella, wickedly portrayed by Connie Del Vecchio. It was readily apparent that the sisters acquired their warm, charming ways from the matriarch of the Ella family.

The story centered, of course, on the

Charming family. It was time for the prince to become more serious, to spend less time dragon hunting and to find a woman to become the future queen. Frank Siciliano, another familiar CITG face, played the king, a role that combined frustration and snobiness, which Frank was able to portray very well.

The familiar fairy tale was delightfully told by the narrator, Katrina Snyder, who was always on cue and very engaging. Although the story was addressed to the children, it also was fun for the adults and masterfully entertained both segments of the audience and everyone in between. A number of passersby on City Island Avenue were drawn to the crowd and stayed for the pure enjoyment of the production.

Oh yes—Cinderella. Mary Mulroy played the role perfectly, coming across as somewhat naïve but at the same time as a strong and good person, enchanted by the young man who, of course, she did not know was the prince. Anthony Colon played a most endearing prince, a young man who was not particularly enthusiastic about royal pageantry but very smitten with the lovely Cinderella.

Costuming was delightful and creative with old prom dresses and combat boots producing a very unlikely but effective combination.

This free show was creatively directed by Liz Paldino, who has “always wanted to do a summer show for the kids” and was thrilled with the response of the community. She hopes that this will become another CITG tradition, something that Island kids of all ages would be able to enjoy.

Following the play, the younger segment of the audience enjoyed a small craft activity—creating their own wands and crowns—which was cleverly planned and organized by Tee Cotter and Eileen Marcus.



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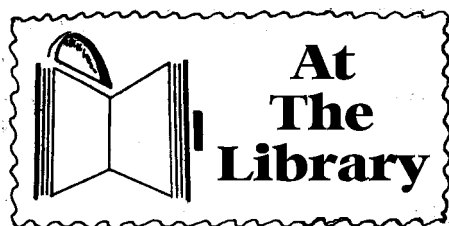
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to *The Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The "Coalesce Custom Vinyl Toy Show," an exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), will open on Friday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Featured are Yolka-Adfunture's New Vinyl Platform and artists such as Pon, MAD, Frank Kozik, HuckGee, Shane Jessup, Coolrader, Boxguts, Codedecoinc, Leecifer, Motorbot, Chuckboy, Dodggr and Nebulon 5. For more information, call 718-885-1403 or visit the Web site [www.Coalescecustomvinylshow.blogspot.com](http://www.Coalescecustomvinylshow.blogspot.com).

The **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779) features a month of debut performances, plus the return of old friends and lots of "good jazz." The first Friday of the month, Sept. 5, is the debut of Kagero, a Japanese gypsy rock band that wowed the audience during a summer open mike performance. That Saturday, Sept. 6, talented singer-songwriter Susan Kane is back on our stage, starting at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 7, it's time to relax and meditate as our friend John Martino returns for a 3 p.m. sitar performance. The following weekend is similar in its musical structure. First, Fred Kimmel and friends debut on Friday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. with an eclectic pop mix, electronica to rock. Next it's the harmony-drenched acoustic rock sound of the award-winning band, Project Mercury, on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m., returning to our stage. Then Sunday afternoon, Sept. 14, Peter C. North brings back the "lost verses" from the Great American Songbook, starting at 3 p.m. There's plenty of powerhouse guitar in store for the audience for John Guth's performance on Friday,

Sept. 19, at 8 p.m. Then Saturday, Sept. 20, brings City Island's Frank Strazzera and his bandmates—Frank Greco, Michael Dimaggio and George Mascia—to our stage for the first time with an 8 p.m. performance of Blue Collar Unplugged. On Sunday, Sept. 21, the "sweetheart of the Starving Artist," Theresa Sareo, is with us for an afternoon that sure to delight, starting at 3 p.m. As September ends, there's our last-Friday-of-the-month "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night for songwriters/poets/comics/actors on Friday, Sept. 26, beginning at 8 p.m. On that last Saturday, Sept. 27, there are two sold-out performances at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. from the Beatles tribute band Rubber Soul. (Check with us closer to the date for any seating that may open up.) And then end the month with a bit of jazz from the City Island Jazz Quartet led by City Island's Roger Scala and featuring jazz legend Lou Volpe on guitar, starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28.

A new **Farmers Market** has opened in nearby Pelham at the corner of Harmon Avenue and Fifth Avenue (near the train station off Wolf's Lane). It operates Sundays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, until Nov. 23, 2008. For more information, go to their Web site [www.communitymarkets.biz](http://www.communitymarkets.biz) and click on the link for Pelham.



**Computer Skills:** We offer basic computer lessons on Tuesday mornings, the second and last Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Bring your questions about Windows, downloading e-mail, cutting/copying/pasting, file management, etc. Everyone is welcome!

**Book Club:** We are planning to start a book club in November. Please let us know

if you would like to join.

**Teen Time**

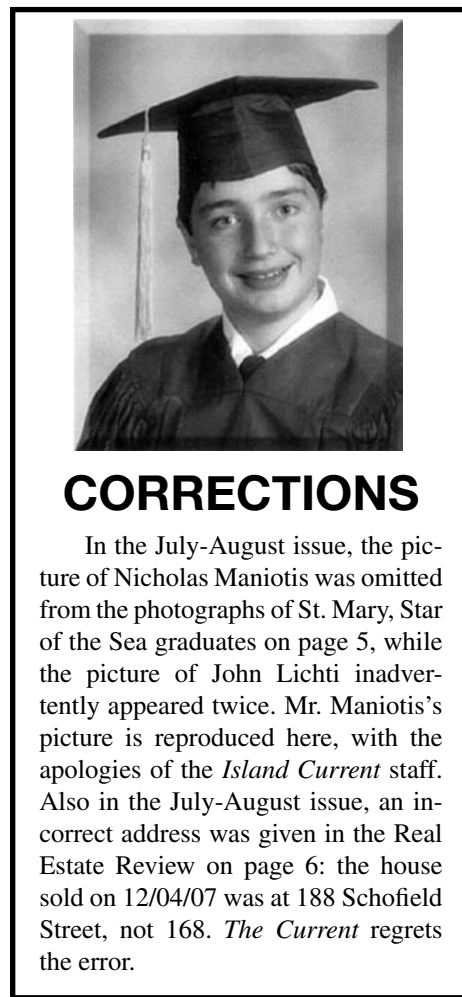
Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m., some and play Scene-It if you are 11 to 17 years old. Watch and talk about Anime, Manga, comic books, video games, Yu-Gi-Oh and much more.

**From the Children's Room**

**Picture Book Program:** Every Thursday in at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 11.

**Pre-School Program:** Coming in October for ages 3 to 5.

For information about any of these programs, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.



**CORRECTIONS**

In the July-August issue, the picture of Nicholas Maniotis was omitted from the photographs of St. Mary, Star of the Sea graduates on page 5, while the picture of John Lichti inadvertently appeared twice. Mr. Maniotis's picture is reproduced here, with the apologies of the *Island Current* staff. Also in the July-August issue, an incorrect address was given in the Real Estate Review on page 6: the house sold on 12/04/07 was at 188 Schofield Street, not 168. *The Current* regrets the error.



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

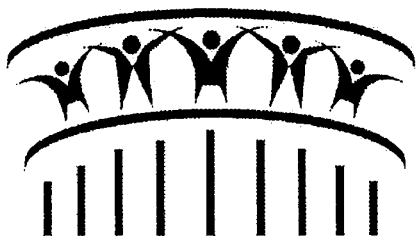
Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
302 William Avenue	6/19/08	\$460,000	1 Family
626 King Avenue	1/31/08	\$1,200,000	1 Family
98 Carroll Street	7/8/08	\$425,000	1 Family

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# ISLAND RESIDENT WINS BERMUDA RACE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In what his friends call a “regular David and Goliath story,” Julien Dougherty of City Island, owner of *Tenacious*, a Bene-teau First 36.7, managed against a good many odds to win the professional division of the famed Newport to Bermuda Race in June 2008. The boat was sailed mostly by amateurs, but because the helmsman, Adam Loory, works for the sailmaker UK-Halsey, *Tenacious* was entered in the professional (Gibbs Hill Lighthouse) division, in which she went up against some of the biggest, most fitted-out boats in the race, many of them 60 to 90 feet against her 36.7 feet.

The Bermuda race is in its 102nd year and is considered one of the biggest ocean races on the east coast with more than 200 boats registered in both amateur and professional divisions. In the good old days,

when City Island was a yachting center, many of the boats were designed, built or outfitted here, and Olin Stephens, who celebrated his 100th birthday in April of this year, sailed and designed many of them.

The *Tenacious* crew, only two of whom had ever sailed in the Bermuda race, included Stephen Cain, Julien Dougherty, Gerard Girsti, Thomas Mikolasko, Heather Schultes and Jeffrey Tyrrel. Sailmaker Adam Loory was the sole professional on board, and the team entered the Gibbs Hill Lighthouse Division to allow him to drive the boat. *Tenacious* had a total elapsed time of 103:00:28 minutes, which corrected out to 56:53:20. She finished two and a half hours ahead of Thomas Carroll’s J 133 *Sirensong*, the second-place boat in Class 10 of the division.



Photos courtesy CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

***Bolero*, launched in 1949 from Nevins Shipyard on City Island, where she was built, became the “undisputed queen of East Coast yachting and in time set a new course record to Bermuda” in 1956, according to author John Rousmaniere.**

## Bartow-Pell Events

The First Friday Trolley will run on Sept. 5 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hop on the free City Island Bronx Seaside Trolley; its first stop is the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road. Guided tours, refreshments and music by classical guitarist Anthony Purdy, all free with admission to museum.

There will be a free outdoor movie on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 8 p.m. Everyone is going back to school, but the weather is still nice and no one wants to say good-bye to summer. Now you can still enjoy the feel of summer with a free outdoor movie on the front lawn of the Bartow-Pell Mansion. Pack a picnic, invite a friend and settle in for a night at the movies. A free shuttle service will be available from key points in the area to welcome guests to the site. Visitors can picnic on the lawn, snack on free popcorn and utilize free lawn chairs that will be made available. Please note that parking will be across the street at the Split Rock Golf Course. Made possible by a partnership between the Picture House, NYC Parks & Recreation and Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Sponsors include: Bronx Tourism Council and NYS Senator Jeffrey Klein. For more information contact 718-885-1461 or [info@bpm.org](mailto:info@bpm.org).

Yoga in the Garden with Sydney MacInnis on Tuesdays, Sept. 9, 16 and 23 from 8:45 to 10 a.m. Start your morning on Bartow-Pell’s beautiful grounds with stretching and balancing postures, breath exercise, deep relaxation and brief meditation for harmony of mind and body. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing. Fee per session: \$125/ \$113 for members of Bartow-Pell and Pelham Art Center (PAC). Joint programming with PAC. Pre-registration is required to ensure there are enough people to have a class. For information about fees, please call 914-738-2525.

There will also be Yoga in the Garden on Thursdays, from Sept. 11 through Oct. 2 from

7:45 to 9 a.m. Enjoy early morning yoga in the garden at Bartow-Pell with lots of vinyasa movement to warm up to the day! Bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. Joint programming with the Pelham Art Center. Fee: to be announced. Pre-registration is required to insure there are enough students to have a class. Please call 914-738-2525.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m., there will be a lecture entitled “Light & Liberty, Thomas Jefferson.” Hear Eric Petersen, editor of “Light and Liberty, Reflections on the Pursuit of Happiness, Thomas Jefferson,” speak about the collected works of Thomas Jefferson. Mr. Petersen is a managing partner at the New York City law firm of Hawkins, Delafield & Wood LLP. He is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Chicago Law School; he has been studying Jefferson’s life and works since 1993. Free with admission to the museum. Registration requested. Contact 718-885-1461 or [info@bpm.org](mailto:info@bpm.org).

The First Friday in October, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., the trolley makes its way again to City Island via the Bartow-Pell. This will coincide with the opening of the art exhibition “Finery and Frillery,” a look at period costumes and accessories from the collection of the International Garden Club. Come see elegant vintage 1840–1920 silk dresses and wedding gowns, babies’ dresses, ladies undergarments and even a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit, on exhibit throughout the period rooms at the Bartow-Pell Mansion. You will also enjoy live music with refreshments listening to the pianist Stefyne Rosenfeld.

On Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5, Hope Friedland will teach students how to render a landscape in watercolor. Museum staff will lead a walking tour about the local flora and grounds and then students will work with the instructor to draw from observation. Joint programming with the Pelham Art Center. Fee: \$90/\$81 PAC and Bartow-Pell members. Pre-registration is required to insure there are enough students to have a class. Please call 914-738-2525.



Photo courtesy SPECTRUM PHOTO/FRANGRENON

Photographer Fran Grenon was the only photographer to get a picture of *Tenacious* just after the start of the Newport to Bermuda Race in June 2008. Apparently, none of the other photographers thought the small boat, owned by Julien Dougherty of City Island, had a chance, but she ended up winning the Gibbs Hill Lighthouse Trophy.

Julien Dougherty’s first trip to Bermuda was in 2007, when he followed the Marion Bermuda Race. Inspired by his visit and his delivery of an Island Packet yacht back to Long Island Sound, he grew determined to sail “one of the three great ocean races in the world.” According to the Newport-Bermuda Web site, it took him almost a year to upgrade the hardware and replace the running rigging to bring *Tenacious* up to ORC (Offshore Racing Congress) specifications.

Mr. Dougherty said: “I explained to the crew that winning a Lighthouse was a great honor and that some people spend a lifetime trying to win one. We are incredibly pleased.” Affirming how difficult it is to win a Lighthouse, especially on the first try, navigator Jeffrey Tyrrel said, “My father and grandfather spent a lifetime trying to win one. They came close.”

Or, as UK-Halsey’s Adam Loory, put

it: “The win was that much sweeter after all the comments we heard from friends on bigger boats about doing the race on such a small boat. Even my boss, Butch Ulmer, yelled over during the pre-start maneuvers: ‘It’s not too late to change your mind.’ I have to admit sailing the 36.7 in this fleet was worse than taking a knife to a gun fight, it was like taking a knife to a laser-guided missile fight.”

City Islanders have yet another reason to be proud. The UK-Halsey sail loft here on the Island made the sails for the first three yachts in the Gibbs Lighthouse race, including *Tenacious*, *Sirensong* and *Sweet Lorraine*. And, as if that weren’t enough success, UK-Halsey furnished the sails for four other winners in the Bermuda series. For more information about the race, visit [www.bermudarace.com](http://www.bermudarace.com) and <http://www.ukhalsey.com/newsletter/july08/>.



Two more Nevins yachts designed by Olin Stephens, *Brilliant* (1932) and *Stormy Weather* (1934) were also stars in the Bermuda Race.

## Islander Receives President’s Award



Cathy Cahill Cokeley, RNC, of Minneford Avenue, is flanked by Elaine Brennan, RN, senior vice president of operations, and Steven M. Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Medical Center. Cathy was honored on July 30, 2008, with the prestigious President’s Award, the highest honor attainable by Montefiore associates, for her insight and efforts dealing with unexpected challenges in transitioning new programs, including the new dialysis facility at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore.



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or use a timer to turn on your AC  
a half hour before you return home,  
rather than having it run all day.

.....

You'll be cool and comfortable.





# BAKE SALE FOR CHANGE



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On June 21, 2008, City Island members of MoveOn.org, a political action committee, held a bake sale to raise funds for programs to elect Senator Barack Obama for the U.S. presidency. The sale was held in front of the Starving Artist Café and was well received by locals, as well as visitors to the island. The group was one of more than 700 nationwide bake sales that were organized for that weekend. Grass-roots fundraising and personal dialogue were the goal, and the City Island group raised \$700 in less than three hours. It was also an opportunity to make new friends and share political opinions.

# Help for the Hutchinson River

By ELEANOR RAE and SUSAN BELLINSON

The Hutchinson River, according to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is one of the most polluted rivers in New York state, but help is on the way. At a meeting of the Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP), on Aug. 12, 2008, the board learned that SoundWatch, a not-for-profit group formed on City Island several years ago, would grant funding to HRRP for the purpose of cleaning up the river and to establish viable green ways along the river.

The organization plans for the short term to concentrate its efforts on the Bronx, working with local organizations and authorities. The goals of the group include making boat trips up the river as far as it is navigable (at least to the Westchester County line) to take water samples and investigate the shoreline for activities that might lead to water pollution. They will then contact the local DEC office about extending the water quality measurements that have been made on the river north of the Bronx.

In addition, investigations will be made on foot to see and document the condition of the banks. The group's efforts will also include continuing community outreach ef-

forts in the Bronx by having a booth at the City Island Arts & Crafts Fair, working with the administration of Pelham Bay Park in such activities as the annual shore cleanup and making a presentation at Co-op City. They plan to launch a Web site and to design and print a brochure with information about our organization and its mission.

In the long term, the group plans to make contact with those who live along the Hutchinson River in Westchester County and with the municipalities they live in, including Pelham Manor, Mount Vernon, Pelham, New Rochelle, Eastchester and Scarsdale. The aim would be to begin action that could clean up that part of the river and make its banks pleasant and accessible. The ultimate goal, of course, is to establish the Hutchinson River as a living memorial to Anne Marbury Hutchinson, for whom the river is named.

For further information on the HRRP or to become actively involved in the organization, call Eleanor Rae at 718-885-9653.

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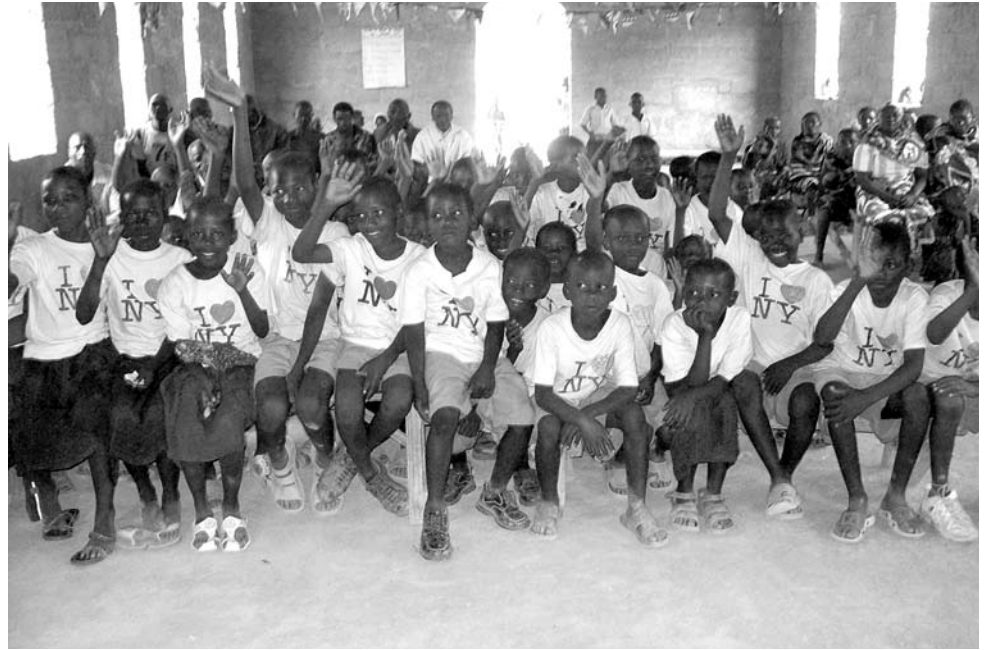
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City Island  
Art & Craft Fair**

# Grace Church Makes an African Connection

By THE REV. PATRICIA ALEXANDER



Photos by the REV. PATRICIA PHANEUF ALEXANDER and SEALE BALLENGER

Grace Church's vicar, Mother Patty Alexander, went on a spiritual pilgrimage to Tanzania in July 2008 as part of the Carpenter's Kids program, a joint endeavor of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Scenes from her life-changing trip include the Carpenter's Kids in Mlowa Barabarani parish before they received a distribution of uniforms, shoes and supplies (top photo). Some of the children received shoes for the first time in their lives. The bottom photo shows Mother Patty (center) and other members of the parish dancing in celebration.

At its August meeting, the Vestry (lay leadership) of Grace Episcopal Church voted unanimously to establish a five-year partnership with an Anglican parish in Tanzania, East Africa, as part of its outreach ministry. This is an exciting and historic move for Grace, which not too long ago was struggling to keep its own doors opened. Having devoted considerable time and energy in recent years to refurbishing its buildings and growing the congregation, the parish now is able to turn its attention outward, to helping those in greater need. Amazing Grace, indeed!

This decision comes on the heels of my recent spiritual pilgrimage to Tanzania as part of the Carpenter's Kids program, a joint endeavor of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Founded by Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of Central Tanganyika and Bishop Cathy Roskam of the Diocese of New York (also an honorary City Islander!), the Carpenter's Kids project is designed to give the most vulnerable children in Tanzania hope for the future.

The program is largely made up of—but not limited to—children who have lost one or both of their parents as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. Without parental support, these children typically would not have an opportunity to attend school. After an extensive screening process, each child selected as a Carpenter's Kid receives a uniform, a pair of shoes and adequate supplies required for primary school attendance; these children are also fed breakfast on school days. In addition, Carpenter's Kids and their caretakers receive mosquito netting good for

five years—a potential life-saver in that malaria-ridden part of the world. Selection for the program is based solely on need, without regard to religious affiliation.

Amazingly, the cost to provide all of these services is only \$50 per child, per year. Although the leadership in both Dioceses hopes that one day there will be no need for the Carpenter's Kids program at all, for the time being their goal is to support 50 children in each of the 200 parishes in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.

Many parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of New York have already established linkages with Tanzania, each committing to support 50 children a year for at least five years. Grace Church is delighted to be entering the program this fall and looks forward to establishing relationships with their new partners via e-mail.

All City Islanders—and friends—are warmly invited to join in Grace Church's efforts on behalf of these vulnerable children. To that end, the community is invited to the Grace Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28, when some of my fellow pilgrims and I will offer a special slide presentation on the Carpenter's Kids program in general and on their life-changing trip in particular. At that time, printed materials and Carpenter's Kids pledge cards will be available for anyone interested in sponsoring one or more child(ren) for the next five years.

For more information about Grace's outreach in Tanzania, please contact Dr. Chandra Menon or Ms. Patrice Parker at the Parish Office (718-885-1080), or visit [www.carpenterskids.net](http://www.carpenterskids.net).



## 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

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat., and Sun., Sept. 13 and 14, **Arts and Crafts Fair** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sat., Sept. 20, **Annual Beach Clean-Up**, sponsored by the American Littoral Society, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at the City Island Bridge.

Sat., Sept. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.

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

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 10, 11 and 12, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street.

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

#### Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club of City Island will be on Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. We welcome new visitors to come and hear what we've been up to and projects we are working on; you can also learn how you can contribute to the beautification of our own City Island or your own backyard. We anticipate a new year of activities, speakers and projects to keep members interested and interesting. Call President Barbara Hoffman at 718-885-0868 if you would like information about the club.

In our next column for *The Current*, we will update you on several of our public area projects currently under way, and we will include pictures as well.

If you have contributed to our Beautification Fund, we thank you tremendously, and if you haven't yet done so, please consider a small sum to help our work. You may mail it to Garden Club of City Island Beautification Committee, c/o Barbara Harrison Kaye, 46 Pilot Street, Bronx, New York 10464.

Phyllis Goodman

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is here for you! You are warmly invited to join us for any of our regular weekly worship services, which are as follows: Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10 a.m.; evening prayer is offered every Monday at 7 p.m.; and morning prayer is offered every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Here is an overview of what is happening at Grace Church during September and early October:

Sunday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.: "Homecoming Sunday." Join us as we resume our schedule of 10 a.m. worship and children's church school. Please stay for our annual Homecoming Cookout in the courtyard, with live jazz. Bring your friends!

Thursday, Sept. 11, 9 to 11 a.m.: Church will be open for prayer in commemoration of 9/11.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m.: Special "Carpenter's Kids" Slide Presentation: "Pilgrimage to Tanzania." Come hear from Mother Patty Alexander and friends as they

share their life-changing journey to some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Sunday, Oct. 5, 12 noon: The Fifth Annual Blessing of the Animals. In keeping with tradition, all pets (furry, winged, scaled and finned) are invited to come to the Grace courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we do ask that attendees be leashed, caged or otherwise appropriately restrained!

Rev. Patricia Alexander

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages, located at 480 City Island Avenue between Beach and Bowne Streets, 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 and holiday attendance is free.

Our holiday season begins on Monday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. We will gather to join in prayer that this coming year bring goodness, healing, and peace to all. Rabbi Shohama will lead the service with Cantor Elaine assisting her. As always, our beautiful High Holiday services are free and open to the public, but come early to get good seats!

#### High Holy Day Services Schedule

Rosh Hashana evenings: Monday, Sept. 29, and Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m.

Rosh Hashana mornings: Tuesday, Sept. 30, and Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 9:30 a.m.

Tashlich will be conducted at 12 noon on Tuesday. (Great for kids!)

Molly Karp, our rabbinic intern, leads our Children and Family Service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Cantor Elaine assists Molly at the adult evening service at 8 p.m. and again on Wednesday morning, at 9:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur eve, Wednesday, Oct. 8, will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. with Kol Nidre.

Yom Kippur day, Thursday, Oct. 9: Morning service begins at 9:30 a.m. The rabbi's sermon starts around 10 a.m. and Yizkor near 11 a.m. Closing service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and should end with a break fast.

A Shabbat/Sukkot celebration will be led by our rabbinic intern, Molly Karp, on Friday evening, Oct. 17, and on Saturday, Oct. 18. Do try to join us for these festive services. And again, a happy new year to all.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available.

For more information, visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity would like to welcome everyone back from summer vacation. We hope that all had a safe and enjoyable summer. Sunday services will continue at 10 a.m. each Sunday, and Sunday school will resume on Sept. 7. We hope to see everyone there!

Beginning Sept. 3, Reverend Sue will begin a Bible study on the Book of Psalms. This will take place on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m.

Also, our lay leader, George Cavaliere will have a Bible study beginning on Oct. 19 and extending until Nov. 23. This will concentrate on the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians. It will be held after our regular services, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

Budget Shop will reopen on Sept 16. If anyone cares to volunteer, please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

Anne Sill

## A TREETOP BIBLE BLAST!



Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

With the theme of "Rainforest Adventure," City Island's 2008 Vacation Bible School was held during the week of June 30 to July 3, attended by 25 children of all denominations. Led by Mother Patricia Alexander of Grace Episcopal Church and Pastor Susan Chadwick of Trinity Methodist Church, the children enjoyed crafts, Bible stories and games. Singing was also part of the fun, with help from Steve Marcus (shown above), Ann McGuire, Chandler Campbell and Vicky Velez. On the last day, the children enjoyed a ride on a pony graciously supplied by Pelham Stables. What a great way to start the summer of '08!

#### City Island Theater Group

You're invited to "The Dining Room!"

Rehearsals are currently under way for City Island Theater Group's fall production: A.R. Gurney's classic play "The Dining Room." The CITG audience is no stranger to Mr. Gurney's works; he is also the author of "Love Letters" and "Sylvia," which have been successfully produced (to much acclaim) by CITG.

Under the direction of Islander Eileen Marcus, "The Dining Room" is Gurney's portrait of a vanishing breed, the American WASP. All of the action takes place in (naturally) a dining room and is seen as a flow of vignettes rather than blackouts. The audience is given a glimpse of what these people's lives are truly like beyond the pages of "Town and Country." This is a true actor's piece with ages ranging from 6 to 70.

Don't miss this great show! Performance dates are Oct. 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m.

and Oct. 19 and 26 at 3 p.m. The theater is located at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. You can make your reservations for "The Dining Room" by calling 718-885-3066 or by visiting our Web site, [www.cityislandtheatergroup.com](http://www.cityislandtheatergroup.com). CITG is also looking for help behind the scenes! If you are interested in joining the fun, call us at 718-885-3066.

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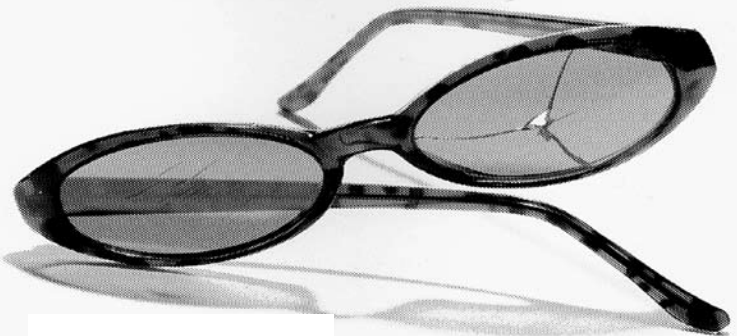


Photo by Michael Azzano

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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 Registration Fair:** Saturday, Sept. 6, at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes for kids, teens and adults. Free demos and classes, registration, mini-haunted house, back-to-school haircuts, bake sale and more!

**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.

**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, merengue, cha-cha and bachata. A partner is not necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call 917-838-6501.

**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:** City Island's Marc Kaplan is teaching yoga—a beginners-to-intermediate class that will include Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). He hopes to include tai-chi as well, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Depending on the class size the cost will be \$10 or if a small class \$15. Please contact Susan for inquiries at: [riossj@aol.com](mailto:riossj@aol.com) or call 718-885-9145.

**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-McElroy



Photo by BARBARA HARRISON KAYE

Barbara Hoffman (left), the new president of the Garden Club of City Island, with Susan Strazzera, former president and now treasurer.

**Legion News**

The month of September is a harbinger of cooler days and nights. It also heralds a resurgence of Post activity. The summer months were relatively quiet. The last regular meeting was cancelled, since only a few stalwarts appeared on a hot, humid evening.

The big event of the summer was the annual clambake. The Sons of the Legion organized the event, which was held on Saturday, Aug. 9. Jim Livingston and Peter Booth labored to make the event a success. World of Food, caterer of repute, provided a gourmet feast. The men not only provided a variety of seafood but London broil as well, with lots of vegetables and salad. For those who paced themselves, a variety of desserts were available with Maxwell House coffee. There was an open bar for those who enjoy imbibing. Bartenders Brendan and Heather Murphy were kept busy by thirsty patrons and those with hollow legs. There were two 50/50 winners. Commander Carman picked the first winner, and it was the commander himself. I apologize as I don't know who the second winner was.

Renovations on the Post are proceeding with gusto. An architect's sketch can be seen affixed to the wall outside the rest room.

To the best of my knowledge, the New York State Convention was well attended, as was the National Convention. No doubt we will be given scintillating reports at future meetings.

Sick call: William Chilson is recuperating at St. Patrick's Home in Riverdale. Should you know of anyone sick or incapacitated, let us know forthwith.

I have been asked about the Post Dispatch. I've talked with Mike Treat, who says he is working with his fellow staff writer Comrade Katz to expedite the next issue. I haven't heard from Comrade Shipp either. Blame the summer doldrums.

There will be no meeting on Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day. There will be meetings on Monday, Sept. 8 and Monday, Sept. 15.

I will be away from Aug. 22 to 25 at a reunion of my WWII squadron. I will try to get a few interesting stories for the next issue of *The Current*. Our pilots always have great tales embellished by time. My friend Bill Evans flies lower each year.

For you WWII buffs, I visited Caen in 2004, the 60th anniversary of D-Day. The city, a key to breaking out of Normandy, was entrusted to Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery aka Monti. D-Day was June 6, 1944, and Caen was scheduled to be taken within 24 hours. Monti was not known for his speed, and it took him more than a month to reach the city. British casualties were high, exceeding the total number of casualties the British General staff estimated that it would take to reach Berlin. General George Patton attacked in Brittany and captured Cherbourg, St. Lo and points east on the way to Paris before Monti stormed into Caen.

Reminder: the annual Legion Pumpkin Sale will be held on Friday to Sunday, Oct. 10 to 12.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

**Exercise Programs at Grace Parish Hall**

PSS City Island Healthy Senior Exercise Program is pleased to announce that the New York City Arthritis Foundation will extend the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP) for eight weeks beginning Friday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m. The complimentary classes provide a gentle exercise routine that focuses on range of motion, endurance and strength for people with arthritis. In addition to the free AFEP classes, the exercise program, with a suggested contribution of \$2, offers Sittercise with Patty, on Tuesdays at 10 and Cardio Fitness with Mary on Thursdays at 10. A new line-dance class with Ellie Minor will take place on one Saturday in September to be announced. All sessions are held at Grace Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

The City Island van can provide transportation to and from programs, including Orchard Beach walks on Mondays and Wednesdays, for a contribution of 50 cents each way. Call Patty at 914-882-9578 for more information.

Patty Grondahl

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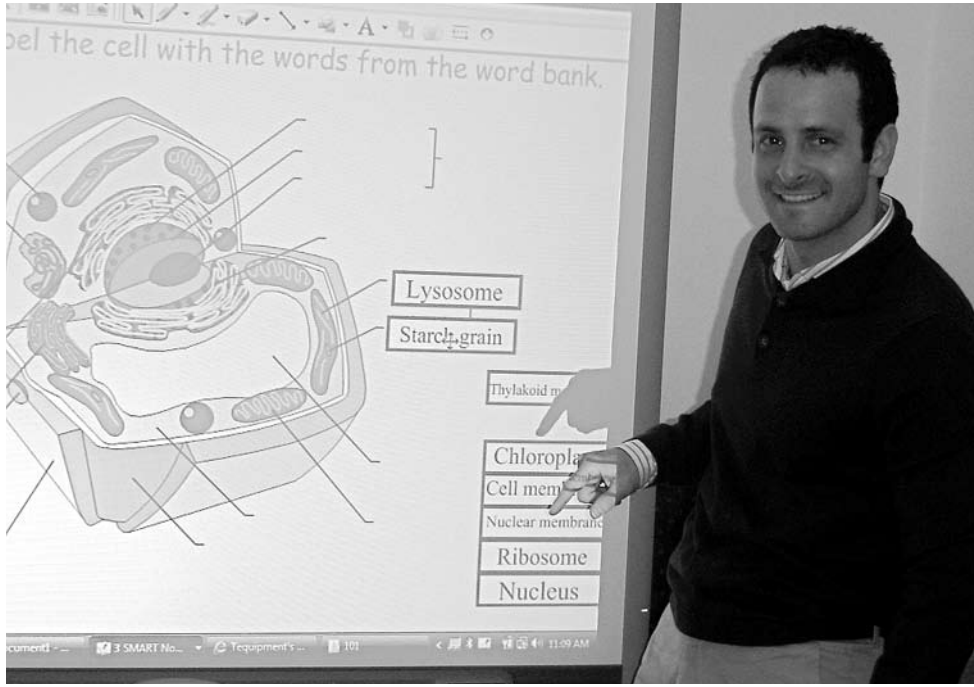
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As the new school year begins at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, seventh grade teacher Evan Belkin hones his SmartBoard skills on one of the technological teaching tools the school has acquired.

## Masonic Lobster Fest



Photos by PAUL NANI

A hungry group of clam diggers and mussel suckers feasted on lobsters and steaks at the annual Masonic fund-raiser for Pelham Lodge 712 on July 27, 2008. The feast was served up at Grace Episcopal Church by the hard-working chefs shown above (l. to r.): Donald Mattson, Chuck Butterworth, James Devlin, Tony Cardillo, Scott Meyer and Luis Rojas.



### Take Out

Filmed in 2004 for the uncanny and miraculous budget of \$3,000 (yes that's not a typo—three thousand dollars) is the gripping film **Take Out**, which was released in June 2008. It is the story of Ming Ding (Charles Jang), an illegal Chinese immigrant who works as a deliveryman for a Chinese take-out place. He has come to the United States, leaving his wife and son behind, in order to make enough money to send for them. When he falls behind in his payments to the smugglers who brought him to this country, he is given one day to put together the money.

The camera follows Ming Ding as he bicycles in the pouring rain through Manhattan's upper West Side. His co-worker Young (Jeng-Hua Yu) helps him by "magnanimously" allowing Ming to take all of the deliveries that day. Harsh words occur between Ming and the cook, Wei (Justin Wan), but Wei has internal workings that are surprising. The restaurant is run by Big Sister (Wang-Thye Lee), who has to deal with all sorts of races in America's melting pot.

Wang-Thye Lee was the only non-professional playing a major role in the film. She had 10 years experience working in take-out, and the directors hired her immediately. She was also a fact checker for the movie, and she insured that the dialogue among the workers was realistic. The movie was filmed in Mandarin, with English subtitles.

The star, Charles Jang, was raised in Great Neck, New York. He studied Mandarin in Taiwan for a year when he was 20. It was on his call-back audition that he admitted he was a first-generation Korean-American, not Chinese, but the directors

cast him in the role anyway. This is his film acting debut.

The talented writer-director-producers Sean Baker and Shih-Ching Tsou graciously granted me an interview at a showing of the film at the Clearview Cinema in Roslyn, Long Island, in July. They filmed "Take Out" in 35 days in 2003 and submitted it to many film festivals thereafter. Eventually they found a distributor, CAVU Pictures, when they were in Nashville, and thus the release of the film began this year. It won the Grand Jury Prize at the Los Angeles Film Festival.

Sean Baker and Shi-Ching Tsou lived above a Chinese restaurant, which inspired them to write the script. They wanted to raise the consciousness of Americans to the plight of undocumented workers. "Take Out" was filmed during operating hours at a real restaurant on 101st Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. Mr. Baker served as cameraman, and they did the shoot without a crew.

To find "customers" for the movie, they placed an ad on Craig's List. They filmed 50 people in their homes accepting delivery, as well as real customers who came into the restaurant. The non-professional actors all signed releases so that the footage could be used.

The racial tension depicted in the film is a harsh reality. A worker at that restaurant had been mugged twice but could not report it because he was an illegal alien. Six murders of deliverymen have occurred in the last 10 years but these were not reported to the police. "Take Out" puts a distinctly human face on the lives of people who are largely hidden from and ignored by the mainstream.

Mr. Baker's next film, **Prince of Broadway**, continues his study of the plight of immigrants in New York. This time the story is set in the New York City Fashion District, where he looks at the lives of an illegal from Ghana and an Armenian-Lebanese immigrant. Let's hope that this talented writer-director can get this project out to the public soon. If you can't find either film in theaters, be sure to be on the look-out for these titles on DVD.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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# CITY ISLAND: THE MOVIE

Continued from page 1

sian playwright Anton Chekhov called his plays comedies. Like Chekhov, Raymond perceives his film as a “human comedy.”

Andy Garcia, was drawn to the story by its focus on family and the moral structure and value system that is one of the movie’s themes. Andy was born in Havana, Cuba, and moved to Miami when he was five years old, and he notes that Cuban and Italian cultures are very similar. Families tend to be large, boisterous and protective of each other, held together by love.

Laura Nilon Tressel was the film crew’s liaison with the City Island community. She grew up on Pilot Street, where her mother, Joan Nilon, still lives. At the age of 19, Laura moved to Manhattan, and 10 years later went to Orlando, where she worked for Disney on sound stages. For the last two years, she has been working in Los Angeles. When she saw an ad in Entertainment Weekly announcing an “Andy Garcia Development Project on City Island,” she jumped at the chance to work on the film. It has been a fabulous experience for her, marred only by the fact that she misses her two daughters, ages 9 and 10, who are in Los Angeles with her husband.

### The Story

“City Island” tells the story of Vince Rizzo (Andy Garcia), a corrections officer who has always yearned to be an actor. When he sees the name Tony Nardella (Steven Strait) on the new convicts list, he realizes that he actually fathered the young man 20 years earlier but abandoned him.

Vince is now married to Joyce (Julianna Margulies), and they have two children, Vinnie Jr. (Ezra Miller) and Vivian (Dominik Garcia-Lorido, Andy Garcia’s real-life daughter). Vince brings Tony home but doesn’t tell them who Tony really is.

It turns out that the Rizzo family is full of secrets. Joyce fears that Vince is having an affair, although in fact he is, at long last, pursuing his desire to become an actor and studying with an acting guru (Alan Arkin). The family thinks that Vivian is a college student, but she has been thrown out of school and has become a stripper in a New Jersey nightclub. And Vinnie Jr. is hiding a secret sexual fetish, which is driving him crazy. Bringing Tony into the family triggers a release.

Vince has grown close to a fellow acting student named Molly (Emily Mortimer), who has her own secrets. Through Vince’s relationships with Tony and Molly, he realizes that he must face the lies he has told about his past. Only then can he become open to understanding love and intimacy.

No date has been set for the release of the movie, which will be submitted to major film festivals in the hopes of finding a suitable distributor.

### Selected Filmography of Key Players

Raymond De Felitta – wrote and directed *Bronx Cheers* (1990), *Café Society* (1995), *Two Family House* (2000), and *‘Tis Autumn: The Search of Jackie Paris*



Julianna Margulies



Carrie Baker Reynolds

(2006). He also directed *The Thing About My Folks* (2005).

Andy Garcia – *The Mean Season* (1985), *The Untouchables* (1987), *Stand and Deliver* (1988), *Black Rain* (1989), *Internal Affairs* (1990), *The Godfather, Part III* (1990), *Dead Again* (1991), *Hero* (1992), *Jennifer Eight* (1992), *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994), *Steal Big, Steal Little* (1995), *The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca* (1996), *Desperate Measures* (1998), *The Man from the Elysian Fields* (2001), *Modigliani* (2004), *The Lost City* (2005), and *Ocean’s Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen* (2001, 2004, 2007).

Julianna Margulies – *ER* (TV 1994-2000), *Homicide* (1994), *Paradise Road* (1997), *A Price Above Rubies* (1998), *What’s Cookin’* (2000), *The Mists of Avalon* (TV 2001), *The Man from the Elysian Fields* (2001), *Ghost Ship* (2002), *Hitler: The Rise of Evil* (TV 2003), *Scrubs* (TV 2004), *The Lost Room* (TV 2006), *Snakes on a Plane* (2006), *The Sopranos* (TV 2006-7), *Canterbury’s Law* (TV 2008).

Alan Arkin – *Wait Until Dark* (1967), *Catch-22* (1970), *Little Murders* (also directed, 1971), *The Seven-Percent Solution* (1976), *The In-Laws* (1979), *Chu Chu and*



Photo by ANTHONY BABBONE

Actor Andy Garcia shared a laugh at the Morris Yacht Club with Mary Waring Edgar, Rosemary Bosco, Terry Stanton, and Maureen Hraska.



Sound tech Jan at work.



The crew sets the scene on Horton Street.

*the Philly Flash* (1981), *Bad Medicine* (1985), *Escape from Sobibor* (TV 1987), *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), *Havana* (1990), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1992), *Indian Summer* (1993), *Steal Big, Steal Little* (1995), *Grosse Pointe Blank* (1997), *Slums of Beverly Hills*

(1998), *Thirteen Conversations About One Thing* (2001), *The Pentagon Papers* (TV 2003), *Firewall* (2006), *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006 – Oscar), *Rendition* (2007), *Get Smart* (2008).

Emily Mortimer – *Notting Hill* (1999), *The Kid* (2000), *Lovely & Amazing* (2001), *Bright Young Things* (2003), *Young Adam* (2003), *Match Point* (2005), *The Pink Panther* (2006), *Chaos Theory* (2007), *Lars and the Real Girl* (2007), *Transsiberian* (2008), *Redbelt* (2008).

Steven Strait – *Sky High* (2005), *Undiscovered* (2005), *The Covenant* (2006), *10,000 BC* (2008), *Stop-Loss* (2008).

Dominik Garcia-Lorido – *Steal Big Steal Little* (1995), *Last Goodbye* (2004), *The Lost City* (2005), *Chinaman’s Chance* (2008), *Reflections* (2008). She was also named *People Magazine’s* 2005 one of 50 Most Beautiful People; 2003 Miss Golden Globe.

Ezra Miller – *Afterschool* (2008), *Busted Walk* (2008), *Californication* (TV 2008).

Carrie Baker Reynolds makes her film debut in *City Island*.

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# WHAT'S GOING ON AT POTTER'S FIELD?

By RUSSELL SCHALLER



Hart Island ferry dock.

It was just by chance that I met Islander Ellie Cribben at the Post Office last April. Ellie asked if I would be attending a Mass for the Deceased on Hart Island, which she said was an annual event. I called St. Mary's Rectory and was told that a Mass was held there every Ascension Thursday, which was on May 1 this year, but that because of the logistics of getting to and from Hart Island, it is not publicized.

My curiosity was aroused, so I called Larry Curren, my nephew at Fordham Prep, who knew about the Mass and confirmed that the pilgrimage is an annual event in which the school is involved.

Hart Island is without a doubt the most interesting island in New York City's chain of outer islands. Less than 1.5 miles long and about 131 acres, it is the final resting place of nearly one million indigents, the unclaimed, unwanted and forgotten. Over the years, there have been other potter's fields in the city, but all are now closed and the bodies removed. Many of you may know that Bryant Park, located behind the New York Public Library in Manhattan, was at one time a potter's field.

## Hart Island History

Hart Island was first used as a cemetery during the Civil War (1861-65), and both Union and Confederate soldiers were buried there. The island was also a training facility for Union troops and a prison for Confederate soldiers. A small fenced area and monument marks the location of the Union cemetery.

New York City purchased Hart Island from the Hunter family for \$75,000 in 1868, and it continued to be used as both a potter's field and a prison. In 1869, a 24-year-old woman named Louisa Van Slyke was the first civilian buried there. Work houses were constructed on the island and inmates were introduced to various trades. Development continued through the 1930s, the last building being the chapel with stained-glass windows and a slate roof. The warden's house and homes of personnel connected with daily operations of the facility extended from the ferry dock to the southern end of the island. There was a farm on the island, where prisoners with green thumbs grew cabbages as big as basketballs and tomatoes the size of soft balls. The vegetables were consumed by both officers and prisoners at their mess.

My father began his career with the Department of Correction on Sept. 11, 1922, on Hart Island with the title of Prison Keeper and the princely salary of \$1,500 per year. My family moved to City Island in 1930, when I was seven years old. When I was old enough to travel by myself, I would sometimes visit Hart Island to play with Ray McDonnell, the warden's son. Ray, like his sister Mary, made the daily trip to City Island to attend school. I often dined in the officer's mess, as my father was then in charge of the kitchen, and I enjoyed a repast as good as the better bistros on City Island.

My father, an iron worker by trade, was in charge of the bed shop, where the rudiments of iron working were taught. The last time I visited the island, shoes from the abandoned shoe shop were scattered about.

My wanderings as a child often took me to the potter's field at the north end of the island, where the open trenches were lined with pine coffins in neat rows. The officer in charge of burials was Dan Crowley, a close friend of my father's. Burials now also take place in an area south of the ferry slip. Each mass grave is identified by a small white marker.

In 1941 the remains of both the Confederate and Union soldiers were removed to Brooklyn. During World War II, the island was used as a disciplinary camp for naval marine and Coast Guard troops, who occupied the prison dormitories, and as a prison for German soldiers arrested off the coast of Long Island. In 1967 Phoenix House, a drug rehabilitation facility, temporarily occupied some of the buildings, and from 1955 to 1961, there were Nike Ajax missile silos on the island, built by the U.S. Army, which was based at nearby Fort Slocum.

In 1966, the Department of Corrections left Hart Island, but the burials continued, and the work is now done by prisoners from Riker's Island. The deceased were once transported via boat from Manhattan, although they are now brought by truck to the ferry slip on Fordham Street and then by a small ferry to Hart Island. The coffins are then placed in rows, 150 to a trench. Young children are buried in a similar way, but 1,000 to a grave. Accurate records are maintained, and bodies can be exhumed up to 10 years after burial. It is not unusual to see a hearse waiting for the ferry to trans-



Photos courtesy CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
This aerial photograph of Hart Island shows how many buildings have existed on the island. The engraving (bottom left), dated 1877, shows a convalescent hospital that was probably built during the Civil War to rehabilitate soldiers from both sides of the conflict.

with the burials at potter's field. Vicki Pavia lost a baby during the 1950s and was pressured by her family into agreeing to a public burial in order to save money. In 1994 she began searching for her child but had no idea how to find her. She confided in a friend who directed her to the Municipal Archives, where she learned that the infant had been buried on Hart Island.

Unfortunately she was unable to identify the grave location since the graves are recycled after 25 years, but she asked for and was granted permission to visit Hart Island. She arrived with her only son, who had been born blind. She brought with her 40 roses, one for each birthday her daughter had missed.

These stories and many more are compiled in the text of a beautiful book called "Hart Island," written by Melinda Hunt and illustrated with photographs by Joel Sternfeld (Scala Publishers). There is a copy at the City Island Nautical Museum, which will soon reopen after the porch construction is finished, but the book is also available from Amazon.com and other booksellers.

Next year on Ascension Day, I plan to visit Hart Island and attend the special Mass and perhaps there are others who would like to attend. This year's Mass was conducted outdoors by St. Mary's parochial vicar, the Rev. Augustus Onwubiko.

Further information on Hart Island can be had by contacting Mr. Thomas McCarthy of the New York City Department of Correction at 718-417-2315.

port some hapless individual to a private cemetery for proper interment.

A recent case was that of an Army veteran, Antoinette Archie, aged 53. Antoinette died at Montefiore Medical Center, and sadly, no one noticed or cared. No family responded to claim her body, so she was buried in potter's field. Prior to her death, she resided at a veterans' facility in the Bronx. Mr. Thomas Mullifield, a director of veterans services, was appalled and he worked the John Dormi and Sons Funeral Home to have her body exhumed. She was then reinterred in Calverton National Cemetery with honors befitting a veteran with 10 years of service.

There are many sad stories associated

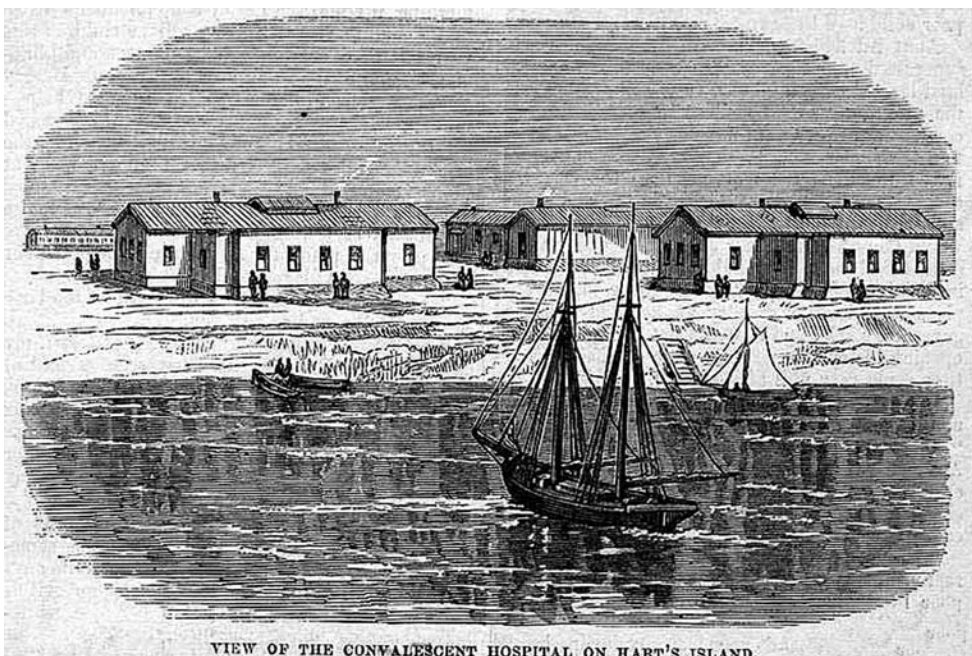
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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200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

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0112	8.19	0736	-0.26	1330	8.28	1959	-0.34	Mon 01
02 Tue	0153	7.91	0813	0.02	1408	8.12	2041	-0.07	Tue 02
03 Wed	0233	7.55	0846	0.39	1444	7.87	2121	0.31	Wed 03
04 Thu	0313	7.18	0909	0.79	1520	7.58	2201	0.75	Thu 04
05 Fri	0356	6.82	0933	1.18	1558	7.29	2244	1.19	Fri 05
06 Sat	0447	6.52	1010	1.55	1645	7.04	2341	1.55	Sat 06
07 Sun	0554	6.35	1058	1.88	1753	6.86			Sun 07
08 Mon	0050	1.76	0704	6.35	1159	2.12	1918	6.85	Mon 08
09 Tue	0153	1.78	0805	6.52	1332	2.16	2021	6.99	Tue 09
10 Wed	0247	1.63	0858	6.80	1446	1.93	2112	7.22	Wed 10
11 Thu	0334	1.36	0943	7.11	1536	1.56	2154	7.46	Thu 11
12 Fri	0414	1.04	1020	7.43	1618	1.10	2227	7.68	Fri 12
13 Sat	0447	0.70	1047	7.74	1655	0.62	2254	7.89	Sat 13
14 Sun	0516	0.36	1110	8.07	1731	0.16	2324	8.06	Sun 14
15 Mon	0545	0.06	1139	8.40	1808	-0.21	2359	8.16	Mon 15
16 Tue	0618	-0.15	1215	8.66	1847	-0.45			Tue 16
17 Wed	0039	8.15	0655	-0.23	1254	8.80	1929	-0.50	Wed 17
18 Thu	0122	8.01	0736	-0.15	1338	8.79	2015	-0.35	Thu 18
19 Fri	0209	7.73	0821	0.12	1425	8.59	2106	-0.01	Fri 19
20 Sat	0300	7.36	0911	0.52	1517	8.24	2208	0.44	Sat 20
21 Sun	0359	6.95	1008	1.01	1617	7.79	2338	0.83	Sun 21
22 Mon	0514	6.62	1125	1.43	1734	7.40			Mon 22
23 Tue	0112	0.91	0707	6.64	1326	1.46	1933	7.33	Tue 23
24 Wed	0223	0.73	0824	7.01	1443	1.07	2050	7.58	Wed 24
25 Thu	0323	0.42	0923	7.47	1545	0.55	2149	7.87	Thu 25
26 Fri	0417	0.12	1015	7.90	1639	0.05	2241	8.08	Fri 26
27 Sat	0505	-0.10	1102	8.22	1728	-0.33	2328	8.15	Sat 27
28 Sun	0549	-0.19	1145	8.38	1813	-0.52			Sun 28
29 Mon	0011	8.08	0630	-0.13	1225	8.39	1856	-0.52	Mon 29
30 Tue	0052	7.89	0707	0.06	1302	8.27	1935	-0.33	Tue 30
<b>OCTOBER 2008</b>									
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



The do-si-do was in full swing at Trinity United Methodist Church on June 14, 2008, during the church's annual square dance. Photo by RICK DeWITT



**USO'S**

The moose- and deer-crossing signs had us hoping for the best on our drive through the state of Maine last month. We were off the beaten track, too, on our way to some white-water rafting with a friend. Surely we would see something wild to remember. We were in the wilderness, after all. But it was not to be. The rafting was a thrill, but the wildlife left a whole lot to be desired. The best our guide could do was point out an empty osprey nest in a tree alongside the Kennebec River. We came away from that trip thinking—once again—how lucky we are to call City Island home.

Although there haven't been any deer-crossings from Rodman's Neck to City Island this summer—none that we are aware of, anyway—we have heard that deer-crossing signs for our area are really in the works. And, as for osprey, as we were writing this article last month the unmistakable call of the fish hawk was sounding from not so high overhead. If you did not know it already, there is an active osprey nest over the train tracks in a utility pole nearby the abandoned Bartow-Pell depot.

Before our trip to Maine, we were alerted to the possibility of whales in Eastchester Bay. Of course, we were eager to see for ourselves if it was true, which was not going to be difficult, we were told, since the USO's (that is, the Unidentified Swimming Objects) had been making regular appearances in the water between Fordham and Tier Streets just after dark. Upon inspection, we fairly quickly ruled out whales. The absence of fins in the water gave us the confidence to do that. There was something, though, or some-things, to be more exact. The largest of the lot appeared to be in the neighborhood of eight feet long. Judging from the relative size of the swirls of the others, we'd say the rest were closer to four feet.

Now, if we had to guess, we'd say that what we saw were seals. It was dark, after all, and visibility was poor. If we had to swear to it, though, we'd say only that they were USO's. Anyone with information to share on this subject—or others like it—can drop us an e-line at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com). Or just a regular old line at Sights and Sounds care of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

Last month, we mentioned that there was a Baltimore oriole in our yard. We did so because orioles are a somewhat unique occurrence where we live. Kinglets, on the other hand, are regular visitors this time of year. These small, olive green birds with the ruby-red spot on the back of the head are so docile that they often don't fly away in the presence of danger. Another visitor to our yard this summer was the Eastern kingbird. While the kinglet is a regular, this kingbird was a first. If you're at all interested in seeing birds for the first time, as we are, then the upcoming fall migration is the time for you. Take a walk through the woods. Take a pair of binoculars, a bird book and some bug spray, depending on the weather. Or better yet, join the City Island birders' club. It's free, fun, and informative. Check them out at [www.cityislandbirds.com](http://www.cityislandbirds.com).

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# SOCIAL SECURITY

## Ready to Retire?

It's never too early to start thinking about your retirement. When you do, one of your first questions may be: "When's the best time to start receiving retirement benefits?"

There's no one "best age" for everyone and, ultimately, it is your choice. You should make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on your individual and family circumstances.

With that in mind, Social Security has published a new fact sheet to help you make the decision that's best for you. When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits is available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html).

Things to consider are your current cash needs, health, family longevity, whether you plan to work after you retire, future financial needs and obligations and the amount of your benefit and other income, such as pensions and deductions from retirement funds. Do you have investments to draw from when you need extra money? Will it last as long as you expect to live?

Keep in mind that people are living longer than they used to. About one out of every four 65-year-olds today will live past age 90, and one out of 10 will live past age 95. If you decide to retire early, at 62 or any time before your full retirement age, you'll get your benefits sooner—but you'll get a reduced benefit for the rest of your life. Your monthly benefit will last as long as you do. So the reduction in monthly payment for taking early retirement can add up to a big difference over the life of your benefits.

Your decision can affect your spouse and family, too. If you die before your spouse and dependent children, they may be eligible for survivors benefits. But if you took early retirement, their payments would be based on your reduced benefit amount.

When you reach your full retirement age, you can work and earn as much as you want and still receive your full Social Security benefit payment. If you are younger than full retirement age and if your earnings exceed certain dollar amounts, some of your benefit payments during the year will be withheld.

On the other hand, if you put off retirement benefits until after your full retirement age, your amount will increase. In fact, your benefit amount will continue to go up until you reach age 70 or start receiving benefits,

whichever comes first.

And when thinking about Social Security, don't forget Medicare. You should sign up for Medicare three months before reaching age 65, no matter when your full retirement age is—even if you decide to delay retirement benefits. Otherwise, your Medicare medical insurance, as well as prescription drug coverage, could be delayed, and you could be charged higher premiums.

Learn more and make an educated decision about when to retire. Visit the online fact sheet, "When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits" at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html).

## Social Security Travels with You

Independence Day may be long gone, but it's never too late to free yourself from the need to visit your Social Security office. Some of those vacations will involve globetrotting around the world. If you receive Social Security benefits and are planning to travel abroad this summer, there are some things you should know to make your trip—and the delivery of your Social Security payments—go smoothly.

First, if you haven't already done so, you should sign up for direct deposit. This is the easiest and most secure way to receive your benefit payments, whether you're at home or halfway around the world. With direct deposit, you never have to worry about your check being lost or stolen. And direct deposit makes funds instantly available to you even when you are not at home to receive and cash your checks.

You should also be familiar with how your Medicare coverage works outside the United States. Medicare, in most cases, does not pay for hospital or medical services outside the United States, except for some emergency services in Mexico and Canada. That is the case even if you get sick or hurt while traveling.

The length of your journey may also make a difference. Keep in mind that if you plan to stay outside the country more than 30 days, other rules may apply. For example, in some countries, you cannot continue to receive benefits if you reside there for more than a month. You can find out about these rules and more by visiting our online publications at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs). Look for the publication "Your Payments While You Are Outside the United States." Or you can call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

So whether you're visiting relatives in Europe or simply traveling across the country, visit us at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) before you lift off.

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# STUDY CONFIRMS THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

By BRUCE NIEVES

In recent weeks, a female Olympic swimmer has been making headlines, and she doesn't even hold the fastest time in her events. What is it that makes her so amazing? She's swimming with women half her age.

Dara Torres is 41 years old and just completed her fifth Olympic Games winning 3 silver medals. She also has a two-year-old daughter. While other women her age are whining about pregnancy pounds and being over the hill, Dara looks like the 20-year-olds she competes with.

What makes her different from other 41 year old moms? "I love to exercise," Dara says. "I love how it makes me feel. I love how it makes me look." Here's the fountain of youth part:

Because of exercise, Dara's body is actually younger on a molecular level than her out-of-shape counterparts, according to a recent study led by Tim D. Spector, a professor of genetic epidemiology at King's College in London as reported by the Washington Post.

The results were astounding. They found that exercise appears to slow the shriveling of the protective tips on bundles of genes inside cells (called telomeres), which means a slowing of the aging process.

"These data suggest that the act of exer-

cising may actually protect the body against the aging process," said Tim Spector.

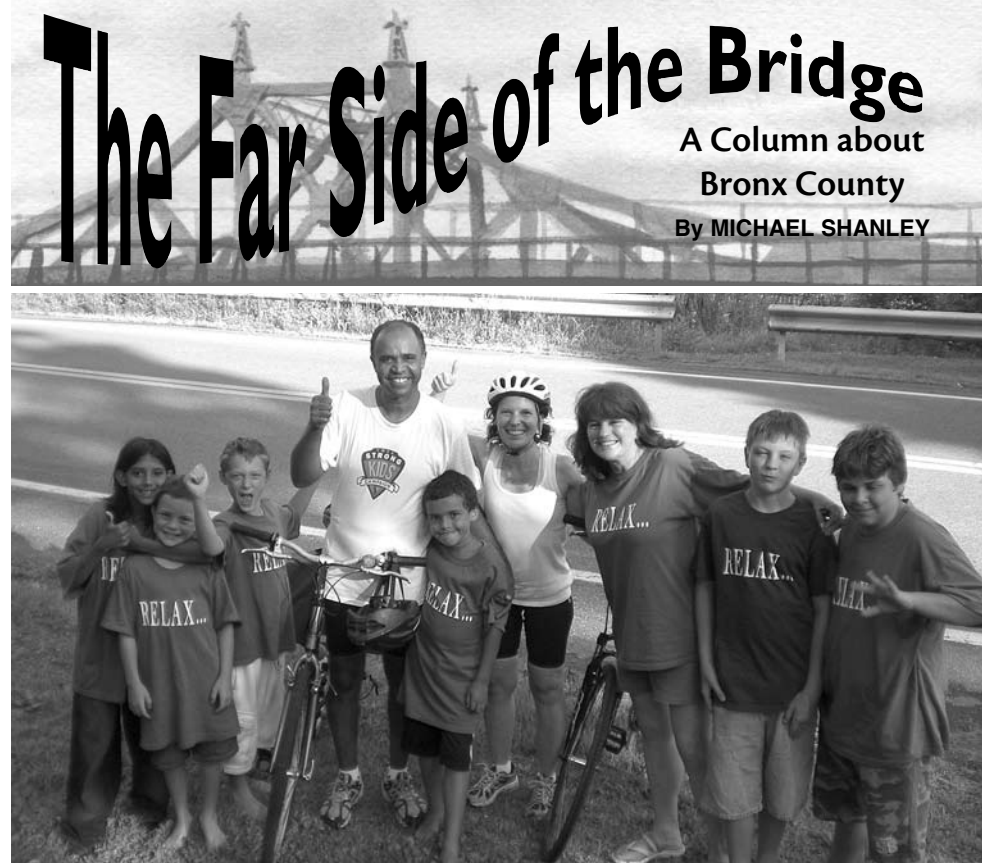
Here's the study in a nutshell: Telomeres cap the ends of chromosomes and every time a cell divides, the telomeres get shorter. Once a telomere gets too short, that cell can no longer divide. Aging occurs as more and more cells reach the end of their telomeres and die. This results in weakened muscles, skin wrinkles, loss of eyesight and hearing, organ failure and slowed mental functioning.

The study analyzed the telomeres from the white blood cells of twins over a 10-year period. Telomere length was used as a marker for the rate of biological aging. It was found that the length of telomeres was directly related to that twin's activity level. "There was a gradient," Mr. Spector said. "As the amount of exercise increased, the telomere length increased."

People who did 100 minutes of weekly exercise had telomeres that looked like those from someone about five or six years younger than those who did 16 minutes of exercise each week. People who did three hours of vigorous exercise each week had telomeres that looked like those from someone about nine years younger. What does this mean to you? The fountain of youth is literally at your fingertips!

Add to that previously proven benefits of exercise (such as a reduced risk of heart disease, cancer and other diseases), and it's no wonder that exercise lovers look and feel as great as they do.

Do you want to start an exercise program or get back on one? Whether it's been months, years or even a lifetime since your last workout, remember that it's never too late to start looking and feeling your best. You may not share Dara's passion for swimming, but you can share her secret for staying young and looking your best.



A Column about Bronx County  
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

Photo by MICHAEL SHANLEY

In July Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, and his wife, Linda Baldwin, bicycled 155 miles to the Berkshire Mountains. Seen here at the finish line 155 miles from the Bronx are (l. to r.): City Islanders Patrick Lagos, Emmett Shanley, Michael Labriola, the Borough President, AJ Carrion, Linda Baldwin, Pauline Shanley, Tiernan Shanley and Dylan Cruz.

## Go Lean, Go Green —Go Biking!

Building on their campaign to promote a greener and leaner borough, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. and his wife, Linda Baldwin, put words into action. In a remarkable test of endurance aimed at encouraging others to seek transportation alternatives and to incorporate exercise into their daily lives, the first couple of the Bronx cycled from Van Cortlandt Park in the west Bronx to the Berkshire Mountains. In total, they cycled 122 miles in just two days. As Linda Baldwin explained: "In this time of record-high gas prices and a heightened awareness of our fragile environment, it is important for individuals to make every effort to reduce fossil fuel consumption whenever possible."

Despite stifling temperatures in the mid-90s, the couple began their journey early on Saturday morning, July 19, from the bicycle trail in Van Cortlandt Park. That first day Baldwin and Carrión biked 67 miles from the west Bronx to Hopewell Junction, New York. Much of the trail on day one was along the Putnam Rail Bicycle Trail, as they cycled through the Bronx, Westchester and Putnam Counties. "The scenery was magnificent and because the trail runs along the old Putnam rail line right of way, it wasn't too challenging," Ms. Baldwin said.

On day two, they continued their journey from Hopewell Junction to Queechy

Lake, New York, adding another 55 miles to their journey. "Day two was far more challenging," said the Borough President, "as we encountered many steep hills and much of the journey was on local roads and highways."

The couple received a jubilant City Island welcome at the finish line in Queechy Lake, Canaan, New York. Awaiting their arrival were their son, AJ Carrión; Michael, Pauline, Tiernan and Emmett Shanley; Dylan Cruz; Patrick Lagos; and Michael Labriola. The City Island welcoming committee held a celebration barbecue to honor Linda and Adolfo, and the group enjoyed a few days of swimming, boating and fishing, not to mention some well-deserved rest and relaxation for the two cyclists.

Borough President Carrión reminds us that the Bronx is an ideal location for cycling, whether you are a cycling enthusiast or just a beginner. "The Bronx has over 40 miles of bicycle paths, and two of the paths start on the north side of the City Island bridge. We also host the Tour de Bronx, which is the largest, free cycling event in New York State. I hope we will have an even larger contingent of City Islanders participating this year, joining more than 6,000 cyclists from all over New York," Mr. Carrión said.

The 14th annual Tour de Bronx will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008. For more information or to register for the event, visit [www.tourdebronx.org](http://www.tourdebronx.org).

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Photo courtesy of the IOVIENO FAMILY  
**Mary Iovieno at her 90th birthday party in May 2006.**

## Marianne Iovieno

Island resident Marianna (Mary) Iovieno, 92, passed away peacefully on Aug. 1 at her home in Pilot Cove Manor. She had lived on City Island for the past 12 years.

Mary Butta Iovieno was born in New York City on May 10, 1916. In 1951 she married Generoso Iovieno, who predeceased her in 1996.

Mary is lovingly remembered by her three children, Maria Swieciki and John Iovieno, both of City Island, and Toni Iovieno of New Rochelle. She delighted in and will be missed by her three grandchildren, Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina Swieciki. Interment was in St. Raymond's Cemetery.

## Gary Gunzl

Gary Gunzl of City Island passed away

on July 1, 2008, at the age of 18.

He was born on Aug. 31, 1989, on City Island, and attended Public School 175 and Lehman High School. He loved boats and worked on many of the fishing boats here on the Island.

He is survived by his mother, Diana Gunzl, his grandmother, Violet Smith, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A memorial service, presided over by the Reverend Sue Chadwick, was held at Trinity United Methodist Church.

## Robert Hardy

Former resident Robert Hardy passed away in Rochester, New York, on Aug. 9, 2008, at the age of 61.

Robert was the son of Cosmo Hardy and Madeleine McLaughlin Hardy, who were active in the City Island community for more than 40 years before moving to Rochester. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and lived at 626 King Avenue.

His mother taught at St. Mary, Star of the Sea and his father took care of the basketball squad and sports at the church, along with other community activities.

Robert is survived by his brothers, Peter in Clearwater, Florida; William of Rochester, New York; and Timothy of Michigan. Their longtime relatives Islander Jacqueline Kyle Kall, her son, Christopher, and nieces and nephews, Lauren, Grattan and Danielle Kyle, mourn the loss of this fine relative and friend.



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Sammy's for winning the 2008 championship title.

The 2008 Little League season was a smashing success. Our newly renovated Ambrosini field was ready for the baseball instruction and voracious competition of hundreds of Little Leaguers.

Highlights of the season were the play-offs and the championship series in the major league division. It all came down to Sammy's, coached by Larry and Paul Saulnier and Steve Vaughan, against Legion, coached by Anthony Gonzales, Jack Grogan, Tommy Orzo, and George Zappier.

The championship is a three-game series. Game one was a pitcher's duel between Danny Pirraglia and Robert Pirraglia. Sammy's won that game 3 to 1. In game two, Legion's bats came alive, bringing the team to a 12 to 1 victory. In a nail-biting final game, Sammy's took an early lead. Robert Pirraglia hit a two-run homer in the third inning. Then, in the top of the sixth, Nick Bellocchio hit a mammoth two-run blast to seal a 10 to 7 victory. Congratulations to



The season ended with a celebration of the wonderfully renovated new field hosted by Adrian Benepe, NYC Parks Commissioner. All of the players from t-ball, t-pitch, minors and majors, as well as the girls softball teams received trophies on this festive day. In addition, the little League All Stars played their game.

A huge thank-you to our ever faith-



ful sponsors: American Legion, City Island Medical Group, Crab Shanty, Dug Out, IGA, Jack's Bait and Tackle, JP's, Lido, Mike's Pipeyard, New Yorker Contractor's, Sammy's Fishbox, Seafood City, Sea Shore and R. F. Ruggiero and Sons Funeral Services.

A further special thank-you to the board members, managers, coaches and parent volunteers without whom the City Little League would not thrive. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an e-mail to [sallyconnolly@aol.com](mailto:sallyconnolly@aol.com).

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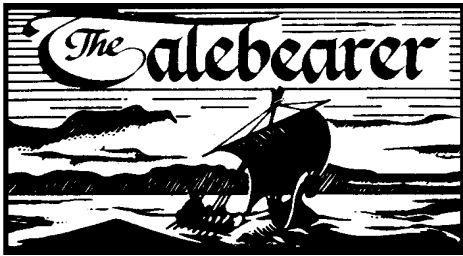
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Kelly Kuch, former City Islander, and Adam Silver of West Nyack, New York, were married July 19 at Elbow Beach in Bermuda. Proud parents are Ron and Pam Kuch of City Island and Ron and Flora Silver of West Nyack. The happy couple honeymooned in Pompano Beach in Bermuda and is residing in Nyack. The wedding, which was enjoyed by 34 members of their family and close friends, was a fairy tale come true. The ceremony was held on the beach by the ocean and the cocktail hour and reception on Ocean Terrace in Elbow Beach. A wonderful time was had by all with the beautiful weather and the spectacular scenery overlooking the ocean. It was a perfect day for the most perfect couple. Now for the grandchildren!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Bay Street's Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson, who all celebrate on Sept. 12.

Birthday greetings across the miles to Stephen Swieciki at St. Bonaventure University; he will turn 22 on Sept. 2.

Happy anniversary on Sept. 5 to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday on Sept. 5 to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire with love from the Swieciki family.

City Island welcomed its newest clam-digger, Ranen Asher Glick, on July 25. Mom Jamie, dad Joshua and big brother Jaiden Glick rejoiced, as did Grandpa Elliot and Grandma Monica (on whose birthday Ranen was born). Aunt Hannah Glick is also delighted, as are aunts Arielle and Jennifer and cousins Skyler and Audrey and great-uncle Bill Yehle and great-aunt Marion Rosenfeld. And all of us wish Jaiden Glick a very happy third birthday on Sept. 16.

As Hannah Glick enters double digit years—turning 10 on Aug. 24, mom Monica and dad Elliot send love and hugs along with Aunt Marion Rosenfeld and Uncle Bill Yehle.

Happy 15th birthday wishes on Sept. 8 to Marissa Ferris, with love from Mom, Dad and your family. You are as beautiful as ever and the best daughter anyone can ask for. Enjoy your big day and we wish you many, many many, more! And from across the oceans in Japan, brother Richie Ferris wishes his sister Marissa a very happy 15th birthday. "It was nice being home and spending time with you; I will definitely be there for your Sweet 16 next year. I love you and miss you."

Several City Islanders at the Billy Joel concert on July 18 were thrilled to hear him dedicate his song, "The Downeaster 'Alexa'" to City Island. They were also wowed to hear



Ranen Asher Glick

his final guest artist, Paul McCartney. What a show!

Happy September birthday wishes to Mike Rauh.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Ann and Chuck Butterworth who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11. We love you, Mom and Dad! Matt, Chris and David.

Happy birthday on Sept. 14 to Pilot Cove's Ulla Brennen.

Sept. 14 also marks the 23rd wedding anniversary of Marguerite and Peter Juner. Congrats!

Birthday greetings on Sept. 28 go out to Tina Ruggiero with love from your family and friends.

Family and friends celebrated the marriage of Meredith Paige Regan and Anthony Stephen Ribaldo on June 21 at Whitby Castle in Rye, New York. Meredith is the daughter of Michael and Marilyn Regan of Yorktown Heights. The bride's grandmothers are Mrs. Shirley Weinman of Margate, Florida, and Mrs. Josephine Regan of Howard Beach, New York. Anthony is the son of Anthony and Stephanie Ribaldo of Centre Street. Love, health and happiness all the days of your life! Love, Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to Kim and Willie Strnad who are celebrating not only their 16th wedding anniversary but shared birthdays as well on Sept. 24. With love from the Doyle and Butterworth families.

Congratulations to Nick and Janet Yuen Paldino, who were recently married on Long Island at the Woodbury Country Club. Family and friends enjoyed the outdoor wedding and cocktail hour followed by indoor dinner and dancing. Nick is the son of Mary McIntyre of City Island and the late Al Paldino. Janet is the daughter of Ho Yiu Yuen and Lai Sim Au-Yeung. Family members traveled from China, Michigan and Florida to attend the wedding. Nick and Janet are making their home in Forest Hills and will embark on a honeymoon to Japan, Australia and Fiji in October.

Happy 30th anniversary to Paula and Walter Huffell on Sept. 15. They are celebrating 30 years on City Island as well!

City Island neighbors wish all the best to Ann Nauman, who moved to Coral Springs, Florida to be near her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Ann has been a great friend and neighbor for many years, and she will be missed. Love always from Cathy, Maize, Grace and Lorraine.

Maria Swieciki



Islander Kelly Kuch married Adam Silver of West Nyack on July 19, 2008, at Elbow Beach in Bermuda.



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE  
Nick and Janet Yuen Paldino.



Meredith Paige Regan and Anthony Stephen Ribaldo were married on June 21, 2008 at Whitby Castle in Rye, NY.

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