

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Grace Church Goes Hollywood

By EYVONNE BAKER

Grace Church was chosen as the location for a number of scenes for a new independent film to be called "The Pleasure of Your Company" on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2005. Written and directed by Michael Ian Black of NBC's situation comedy "Ed," the film stars Jason Biggs, known for his role as Jim Levenstein in the "American Pie" films.

The corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue became a hub of activity as large vans pulled up and massive equipment was rolled out and set up inside the church and on the church grounds. It was truly Hollywood magic watching a section of Grace Hall being transformed into a hospital room and seeing the church decorated for a wedding scene.

Mother Patty Alexander, senior warden Joe Nixon and vestry member Carole Sullivan were given permission to watch the rehearsals as well as the actual filming. Carole remarked: "Watching the process

gives you new respect for the painstaking work that goes into the lighting, camera angles and numerous takes in order to get the shot that actually makes it into the theaters." She also expressed appreciation to Mr. Black and the rest of the crew for making the church's first foray into the world of film an experience that won't soon be forgotten.

"The Pleasure of Your Company" is a comedy in which Anderson (played by Jason Biggs) is convinced that he will never fall in love again. On a dare he proposes to an unhappy waitress and the two eventually find the love they have both been looking for. The film also stars Edward Herrmann, Joe Pantoliano, Joanna Gleason, Mark Consuelos (the husband of Kelly Ripa of "Regis and Kelly") and Rob Corddry and should be in theaters later this year.

The church's Web site, www.gracecity-island.org, includes additional photographs of the day's shoot.



Photos by EYVONNE BAKER

On Dec. 8, 2005, Grace Episcopal Church was used as the backdrop for several scenes from the upcoming film, "The Pleasure of Your Company." The independent film stars Jason Biggs, Edward Herrmann and Mark Consuelos, among others, and is directed by Michael Ian Black. Shown above with the director and some of the cast are members of the parish (top photo, l. to r.): Carole Sullivan, Mark Consuelos, Joe Nixon, Jason Biggs (also shown having his makeup refreshed), Rev. Patricia Alexander, and Michael Ian Black. A wedding scene was shot in front of the altar of the City Island church, and the parish hall was transformed into a hospital room for another scene. The film is due in theaters later this year.



TURN ON THE LIGHTS!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The streetlights from the Hutchinson River Parkway near the City Island exit all the way to Bartow Circle and beyond have not been working for several months. Driving conditions are tricky enough in Pelham Bay Park during the winter as it is, but without lights at night, the situation is positively spooky, not to say dangerous.

When asked for background information, the city agencies and Con Edison referred *The Current* to each other and to statements they gave to the *New York Times* in December. Apparently the situation is complicated by the fact that there are too many different parties involved and not nearly enough motivation to fix the problem.

Kay Sarlin, speaking for the Depart-

ment of Transportation (DOT), told *The Times* that the transformer responsible for bringing electric power to the lights is old and needs to be replaced, which is a job for Con Edison. Because the streetlights are too far away from another power source to get temporary service, the lights cannot work until the transformer is replaced. A spokesman for Con Edison told *The Times* in December that Con Ed and DOT were working to correct the problem.

They are still working on it. Just before *The Current* went to press, a representative of DOT called to say that he guaranteed the lights would be on within 90 days, if not before. Just about the time daylight savings kicks in.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Con Edison may be slow in helping repair the lights that are out from the Hutchinson River Parkway all the way to Bartow Circle, but they were quick to show up to repair the pole at the corner of King Avenue and Ditmars Street on the morning of Jan. 8, 2006 after a car struck it.

BRIEFLY...

WINTER BIRD WATCHING: On Saturday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. join Pelham Bay Park wildlife manager David Kunstler as he leads a duck watch along the shores of Hunter Island in search of wintering water birds. Meet at the northeast corner of the Orchard Beach parking lot and bring binoculars if you have them. On Sunday, Feb. 12, the Urban Park Rangers will lead a daytime owl walk at Hunter Island. At least eight species of owls have been documented in Pelham Bay Park, where they play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance. Meet at the Orchard Beach Nature Center at 10 a.m. There is no charge for these tours. For more information, call 718-430-1890.

"BUS STOP" ON STAGE: The City Island Theater Group presents a limited run of William Inge's comedy "Bus Stop." Performances are: Thursday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. Don't miss it. Call CITG at 718-885-3066 to reserve your seats!

AUDITIONS: The City Island Theater Group will hold auditions for its production of Clare Boothe Luce's classic comedy "The Women" on Feb. 23 and 24 at 7:45 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. Auditions will be held at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. This show requires a large cast, and women of all ages are encouraged to attend. "The Women" will be presented in April.

BRONX MASONS WINTER BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 14, between 4 and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and social security number are required at the time of donation. For more information, call Scott Meyer at 718-885-0374.

ST. MARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND: Save the date! St. Mary Star of the Sea School will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a long weekend of events from June 1 to 4, 2006. Plans include a golf outing on June 2, a boat trip around Manhattan on June 3 and a gala dinner dance on June 4. There will also be a mass and family communion breakfast. For further information, please call Eileen Hess (718-885-2509), Kelly Saulnier (718-885-1313), Bill Mueller (718-885-2252), Helen McMahon (718-885-1197) or the school at 718-885-1527.

C.I. REPUBLICAN CLUB: The newly formed City Island Republican Club will hold its first general meeting on Feb. 1, 2006, at 8 p.m. at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post, located at 550 City Island Avenue. The club will operate in conjunction with the Bronx Republican organization and the 82nd Assembly district Republican Club. It is their hope to give City Island residents of all parties a different voice to their leaders by offering a new perspective. Their main focus will be on the 2006 race for the State Senate in the 34th district and the creation of a coalition between City Island Republicans and those in other communities.

SQUARE DANCE: Come to the City Island Community Center for a square dance on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome (if you are old enough to be able to follow the caller's instructions). Suggested donation: \$6. Refreshments will be served.

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CYCLIST KILLED IN PARK

On Monday, Jan. 9, at 3:27 p.m., Ivan Morales, 61, of Lafayette Avenue in the Bronx, was stuck by a car as he was riding a bicycle in Pelham Bay Park. He was taken by ambulance to Jacobi Medical Center, where he subsequently died.

The motorist was not summonsed or arrested, but the police investigation continues.

A City Island resident told *The Current*

that he nearly hit a middle-aged man riding his bicycle along City Island Avenue earlier that same day. When the driver turned on his signal and slowed his car down to turn off the avenue on to a side street, the man disregarded the signal and rode through the intersection. If the driver had not stopped before making the turn, he would certainly have struck the bicycle rider.

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LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD TO BE RENOVATED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Later this year, the Ambrosini Little League field next to Public School 175 will undergo a much-needed, long-awaited renovation, the Department of Parks & Recreation recently announced to Community Board 10.

Plans for the renovation, which were presented at the City Island Civic Association meeting on Jan. 31, will cost \$2 million, funds made available from the \$240 million that the city allocated to the Bronx Parks Department for using a portion of Van Cortlandt Park to build a federally mandated water-filtration plant.

The plans (see below) call for the six-acre ball field to receive reconditioned baseball diamonds with new irrigation pipes. The large field will also get a new hooded backstop and dugouts, a chain-link fence around the perimeter, batting cages and a bull pen, and the tee-ball field will get new dugouts. The playground at the front of the property will get new playground structures decorated with a nautical theme, and it will be surrounded by newly planted trees for privacy. An exercise station will also be added.

The new entrance to the field will be made more secure and attractive with nautical imagery. The park will also receive new bleachers, picnic tables, seats along the waterfront, new asphalt walkways and fresh

sod and clay.

Bob Whelan, president of the City Island Little League, told *The Current* that many of these changes were suggested during meetings with representatives of the Parks Department, arranged by then Assemblyman Stephen B. Kaufman, working with the mayor's office on the distribution of filtration plant funds in his district. "No work has been done here in more than 20 years. The parents of the players have done most of the work, even maintenance. Chris McGuire built our office building and lots of other residents pitched in to help".

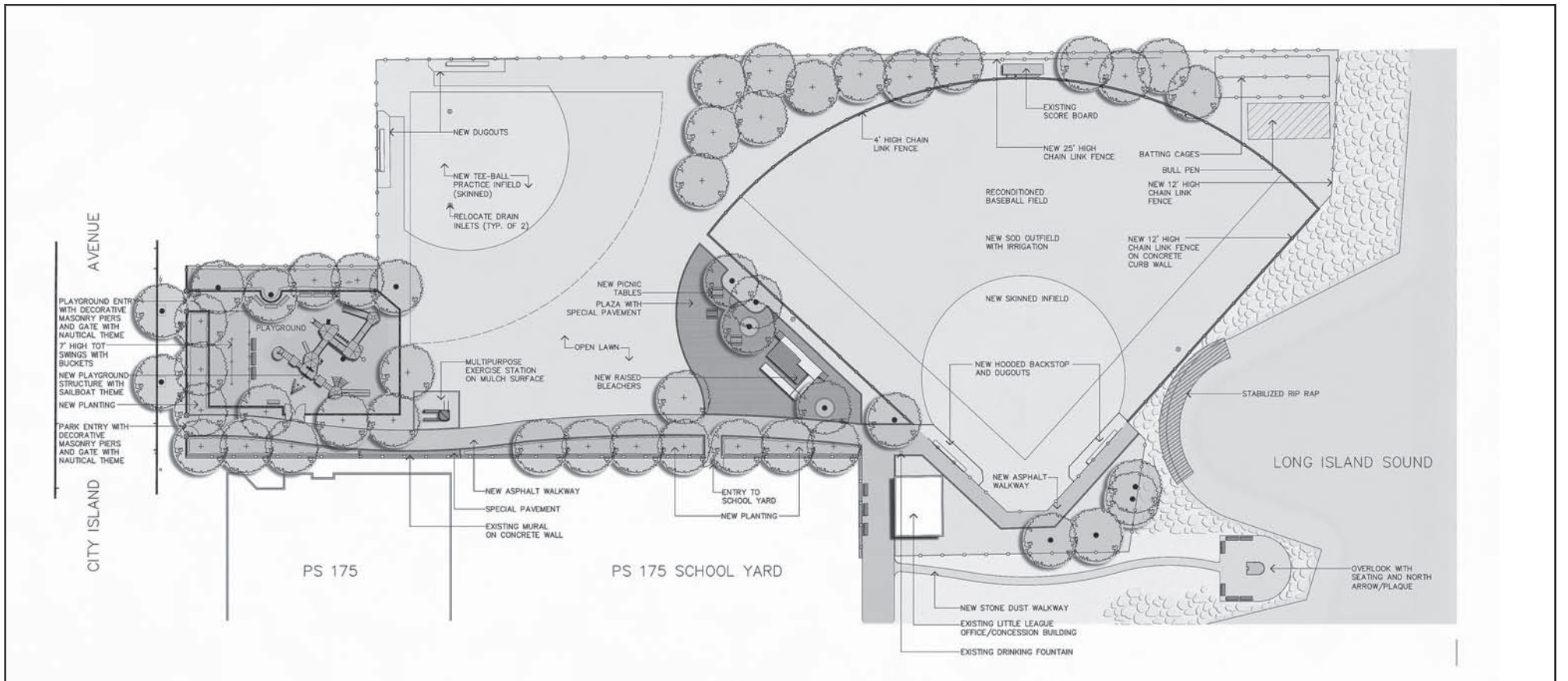
"Unfortunately, some of our local youth have caused some vandalism over the years. Just last year our office was covered with graffiti and a window was broken (see photo). And for drainage, we are still using the old pipes from the Nevins Shipyard, which was once located on this site. City Island deserves a new field, and I hope that this will be something that we can all be proud of."

Mr. Whelan said that he hopes the Parks Department will not begin construction until after the Little League season ends, but Commissioner Adrian Benepe assured him that work will not take place until July or later. Work on the drainage pipes, however, which was budgeted to begin before the current renovation, is already under way and should be completed by opening day.




Photo by BOB WHELAN

Vandals left a mess at the Little League club house last summer. It is hoped that the refurbishing of the field will give City Islanders something to be proud of, not ashamed.






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CITY ISLAND IN THE NEWS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although *The Current* doesn't publish during the holidays, City Island managed to get a lot of attention from off-Island media.

Those of you who have seen "King Kong" may have to go back for another look. During the scene in a 1930s New York theater, where the great gorilla is about to be presented to the audience, moviegoers with sharp eyes will be able to spot an ad for Thwaite's Restaurant on City Island printed on the back cover of a Playbill magazine.

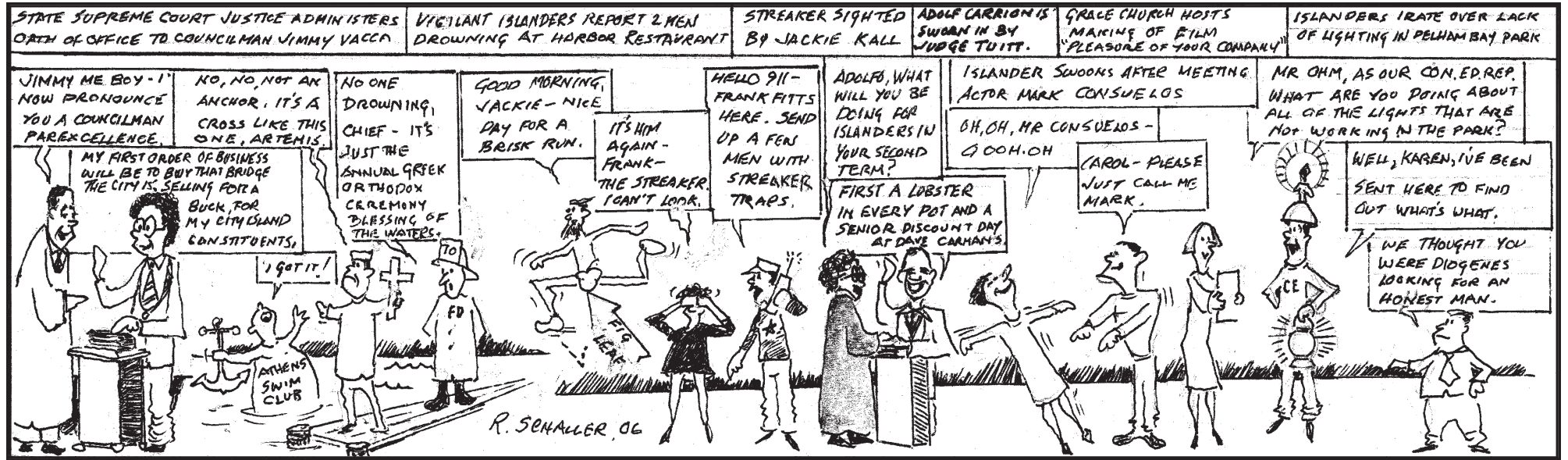
City Island was given a rather more prominent role in the Channel Thirteen special "A Walk Through the Bronx," which aired during the station's fund-raising effort late last year. Clam digger Tom Nye described for the film's narrators, David Hartman and Barry Lewis, the history (and the present) of City Island; Tom is also credited on the station's Web site,

where one may buy a copy of the film if you pledge a donation: <http://www.thirteen.org/bronx/about.html>.

On Dec. 18, 2005, City Islander Carol McCabe was interviewed by the *New York Times* for the City section on the subject of the streetlights in Pelham Bay Park that don't work (see story); and on Jan. 22, 2006, Boatyard resident Tom Porter described in the City section how happy he was to have given up suburban life in Larchmont for life on City Island.

Another intriguing notice appeared in the *Times* on several Sundays in a row in the Real Estate section: an ad for "waterfront, 22 2 fams + 140 boatslips, \$9.5M." Sounds like Royal Marina? Stay tuned.





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

Giving Girl Scouts

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that on Nov. 28, 2005, the Girl Scouts of City Island held a Day of Giving Drive at the Trinity Methodist Church. This was a full-service drive that served a variety of charities. We collected more than 37 bags of clothing for the needy, 15 boxes of books, six large boxes of canned goods, more than 30 evening gowns for girls in need of prom dresses and 2 large bags of clothing for women who are struggling to get jobs.

We also collected 3 large boxes of toys to be given to victims of Hurricane Katrina and over \$50 for cancer research for children. We also made cards for the elderly for the holidays. This turned out to be an incredible day and we would like to say thank-you to all who volunteered their time and their belongings to such worthy causes. The Girl Scouts put a lot of effort into this day and we are very proud of what they accomplished.

We hope this will be a tradition that will grow in the future and become a regular part of City Island's holiday season. Thank you again to everyone.

Deana Weyhrauch, Doreen Zapata, Grace Nagy, Rose Kolb and Brenda Prohaska
Girl Scout Leaders

Katrina Aftermath

To the Editor:

I know many of you have already sent contributions to Katrina victims and many of you still want to. They will need our continued help for a very long time.

Whenever there's a tragic event, there are always people who never give up, who represent the best in all of us. The employees at Kingsley House in downtown New Orleans are just such folks. They're working beyond all boundaries.

Kingsley House is one of only a few family and children's service agencies able to reopen after Katrina. Despite major losses - over two million dollars in building and property damage alone, and still inadequate help from state and federal governments - Kingsley House is working miracles.

They have opened an emergency resettlement and recovery program, and reopened their Adult Health Center, Headstart and Early Headstart programs, Senior Center, Child Abuse and Family Preservation programs, and Parent Education program.

However, it will be along time before they are fully back on their feet. No one knows this better than those working there, and one of them is my son.

Anyone who can contribute, whether now or in the future, please send a little or a lot to Kingsley House, Attn: Keith H. Liederman, Executive Director, 1600 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Contributions will go toward direct services and will be appreciated anytime during the year. You can also send gift contributions for birthdays, anniversaries, in memoriam, etc. The agency will send appropriate announcements to you and the recipients.

If you need any further information, contact Kingsley House directly or contact me at 30 Pilot Street, City Island. Thank you and may your new year be blessed.

Toby Z. Liederman

Long-Lost Friends

To the Editor:

Thank you for the picture of the Grevesmuhl family (Dec. 2005 issue of *The Current*). It brings back fond memories of friends and school days at P. S. 17. We both graduated from P.S. 17 and lived on Fordham Street.

We enjoy reading *The Current*. You never know when you'll be surprised to see long lost friends and their whereabouts.

Barbara (Rolfe) Waters, Idaho
Carmella (DeRosa) Williams, Nebraska

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Photo by ROSE KOLB

City Island Brownie Troop 1310 caught the holiday spirit last season. They contributed toys to the Toys for Tots program on Dec. 17 at the Elmsford Dinner Theater. Shown are members of the troop sharing some fun with Frosty at the theater (l. to r.): Maddy Piscatelli, Lily Kolb, Kathleen Kramer, Amanda Berguij and her sister; Amanda Devlin, Nora Murphy and her sister, Maeve.



Photo courtesy of Office of the Councilman

Jimmy Vacca, joined by his family, hundreds of constituents (including many City Islanders) and several elected officials, celebrated his inauguration as a member of the New York City Council on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2006.

Islander Vote: 2005

By BILL STUTTIG

Although inaugurations have already taken place (see photos this issue), the Bronx Board of Elections recently reported the results for City Island in the November 2005 election.

The following table indicates the tallies for Election Districts 60, 61, 62 and 63, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat, Republican, Conservative and

other party lines.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
New York City Mayor		
Michael Bloomberg	979	77%
Fernando Ferrer	265	21
Thomas Ognbiene	24	2
Anthony Gronowicz	11	1
Citywide Winner: Michael Bloomberg		
Bronx Borough President		
Adolfo Carrión Jr.	839	74%
Kevin Brawley	289	26
Borough Winner: Adolfo Carrión Jr.		
New York City Council 13th District		
James Vacca	728	60%
Phillip Foglia	486	40
Council Winner: James Vacca		

HOLIDAY MEMORIES 2005



Photos by BOB BERENT and RICK DeWITT

Memories of the 2005 holiday season lingered even though unusually warm temperatures in January made it feel more like spring than winter. The Hanukkah menorah was lit in Hawkins Park on a wet Dec. 25, and parties celebrated the festival of lights. The Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree was covered briefly in snow in early December, and Island businesses decorated their storefronts with sparkling lights that kept City Island Avenue aglow well into 2006.

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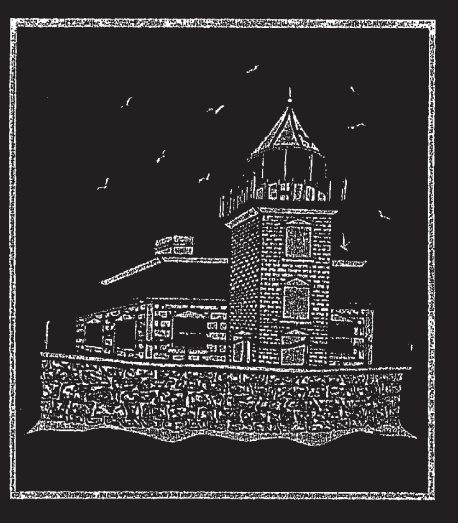
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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to *The Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.



Artist **Phil Basilone** is a familiar face on City Island. He is a self-taught artist with over 30 years of experience in his unique method of paper cutting. Phil's works include familiar New York scenes, some found right on City Island. His other creations include Native American art and customized replicas of people's homes. Phil's most famous work (see below) is a postage stamp that he designed to honor Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, USMC. John received the Congressional Medal of Honor for "extraordinary heroism on Guadalcanal," and he was also awarded the Navy Cross posthumously with the Purple Heart for action on Iwo Jima. To view Phil's works, go to www.PaperCut-Creations.com. For a reasonable price, Phil will create a customized replica of your home or anything else you request. He can be reached by phone at 718-877-5230.



Welcome to **Filomena's Pizza and Pasta**, which opened for business on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, at 286 City Island Avenue. The shop is open seven days a week and delivers. The telephone number is 718-885-9032.



Filomena's Pizza and Pasta.

Going on a trip? Need a passport photograph? Ron Terner of the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, is now offering a new service. Get your passport photos taken right here on the Island. Ron has many years of experience. Call him at 718-885-1403.

The work of Island artist **Mark Whit-**

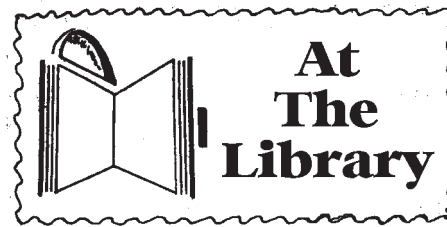
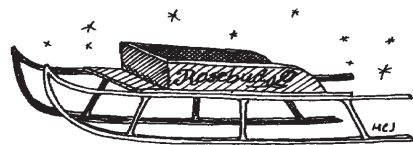
combe has been on exhibition during the month of January at the prestigious Donnell Library, 20 West 53rd Street, across from the Museum of Modern Art. The exhibit remains open until Feb. 3; the library's hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, 10 to 6 p.m. on Fridays.

The **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will showcase photographs by Ron Terner from Feb. 3 through March 26. The subjects will be weddings, events and portraits. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Call 718-885-1403 for information.

In addition to the events on the weekend before Valentine's Day, there's lots of music and art to love at the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) in this month of amore! There's the regular first-Thursday comedy open mike on Feb. 2, starting at 8 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 3, 15-year-old singer-songwriter Anthony da Costa makes his debut at the café / gallery at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 4, singer-songwriter Sam Leopold performs, also starting at 8 p.m. And on Sunday, Feb. 5, celebrate the Chinese New Year—the Year of the Dog—as Yirong Chen performs on the zheng, an ancient Chinese musical instrument, beginning at 3 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 17, young City Islanders Evan Berent, John Valesio and Stephen Lott, who form the band JES, debut at the coffeehouse at 8 p.m. That Saturday, Feb. 18, City Islander Dr. Chris Wertenbaker and his group, Port O' Monkeys, play Spanish, Middle Eastern and original music from 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, brings the City Island Jazz Quartet to the stage at 3:30 p.m. In the last week of February, there are two open mike nights: poetry on Thursday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.; singer-songwriter, Friday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m., get set to groove with the jazz man himself, guitarist Lou Volpe. And finish off the month on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 3 p.m. with Dan Freedman and his guitars. For more of the Starving Artist schedule, through April 2006, visit www.starvingartistonline.com.

There will be a French wine-tasting workshop at **Le Refuge Inn**, 586 City Island Avenue, on Friday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person; \$120 a couple. Call 718-289-5170 to register.

Many residents will be happy to learn that Ann Livingston has again opened a beauty business on City Island, **Hair We Go**, located at 464 City Island Avenue. To make an appointment, call 718-885-1610.



The City Island Library is about to acquire a special closed circuit television. Essentially, it is a two-stage magnifying device. One may place a document, letter, map, coin, etc. on the magnifying stage and have the image rendered on the monitor at up to 60 times the original size. Once we have the device in place, it will be available to all those who wish to use it.

From the Children's Room
Parents Guide to Early Literacy for children getting ready to read. Thursdays at 10 a.m. Feb. 9: ages 2 to 3. Feb. 16: ages 4 to 5. Pre-registration is required.

Arts and Crafts: Valentine's arts and crafts. Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.

Millennium Babies will meet for stories, songs and finger rhymes on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 1 p.m.

Picture Book Program: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 8.

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



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
670 Minneford Ave.	8/8/05	\$380,000	1 Family
111 Buckley Street	9/9/05	\$535,000	1 Family
461B Minneford Ave.	9/15/05	\$199,000	1 Family
140-144 Bowne St.	9/29/05	\$449,000	4 Family
51 Bay Street	10/3/05	\$635,000	2 Family
483-485 Minneford Ave.	10/19/05	\$575,000	2 Family
75 Schofield Street	10/24/05	\$400,000	1 Family
37 Centre Street	11/10/05	\$625,000	2 Family
123 Horton Street	11/10/05	\$522,050	1 Family
91 Centre Street	11/14/05	\$600,000	1 Family
15 Landing Way	11/16/05	\$617,000	Condo



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A 'To Do' List for a LOVE-ly City Island Valentine Celebration!

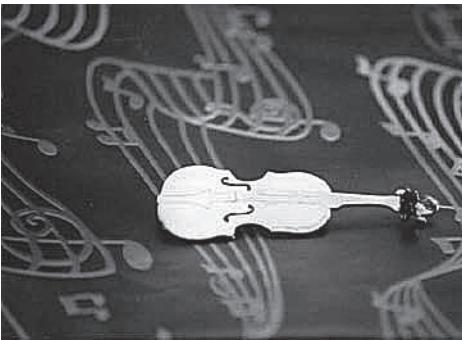
By MONICA GLICK

For every day there's a "to do" list. For this Valentine's Day, here are 10 things to accomplish that are sure to keep "love in the air" as you celebrate on your "island for all seasons."

"Get a good start." Picture your Valentine's Day—or any morning during "love week"—starting with a stack of pancakes covered in fruit and maybe some whipped cream. Or perhaps your idea of tempting is a steaming bowl of oatmeal topped with fruit and honey. Either dish is sure to be found at the **Island Cafe** (205 City Island Avenue; 885-0716) or the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue; 885-0362). If quicker fare fills the bill—giving you more time for the day's heart affairs—then stop in at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue; 885-1263).

Maybe a morning workout is more your day's start. City Island Avenue has the answer there as well at **A.J. Weight Loss Center** (538 City Island Avenue; 885-3445).

"Sing a silly love song." You'll find all the music you need, and lots of collectibles too, at **Mooncurser Collectibles & Records** (229 City Island Avenue; 885-0302). Although this treasury of recorded tunes is open only on Saturdays and Sundays, a stop there the weekend before Valentine's Day will keep the mood going for any week of celebrating love.



Take the music home from Starving Artist with Elliott Glick's instrument pins, like this beautiful handmade violin.

Lovers of music and art will find their fill this Valentine's Day at the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue; 885-3779). The café / gallery will open that Tuesday and feature a special Valentine's menu. There is plenty of love to savor in this coffeehouse's signature "chocolate volcano" dessert. The weekend before Valentine's Day features love songs by singer-songwriters CitiZen One (Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.) and Kenny Cunningham (Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.), and on Sunday, Feb. 12, there will be two hours of love-themed Renaissance music with Musica Flammarum, starting at 3 p.m. There is, of course, always on display the handmade as well as romance- and music-inspired jewelry creations of Elliott Glick. A full music / art schedule is featured on the Starving Artist web site: www.starvingartistonline.com.

And if Latin jazz is on your lover's mind, try a visit to **Tito Puente's Restaurant** (64 City Island Avenue; 885-3200), and enjoy the beat while sampling its mouth-watering specialty dishes. A fine Cuban cigar may be the perfect ending to a night spent at this City Island eatery, so stop by **Hispaniola Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue; 885-2806) to find one you'll enjoy.

"Take time out for a treat." What better day than to take time out to "smell the roses"? And while you've stopped for sniff, sit down and sip a latte at **Dunkin' Donuts** at the start of the Island. Or travel down the avenue a bit to **Sugar & Spice** (536 City Island Avenue; 885-9229) and snack on hazelnut meringue kisses, chocolate heart-

shaped brownies, or a chocolate-covered strawberry—or maybe one of each!

If the "treat" you seek involves a pampering for your favorite person—you!—stop by **Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue; 885-2330), **Art of Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue; 885-3831) or our Island's newest pampering palace, **Hair We Go!** (464 City Island Avenue; 885-1610). A foot massage or fine manicure might be just what calms your nerves and warms your heart this Valentine's Day, and City Island has double the choices nowadays: **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue; 885-2950) or the new **Nails on the Bay** (329 City Island Avenue; 885-1970).

"Have an adventure." Maybe your heart yearns for a high seas adventure, and City Island's **Riptide III** (701 Minnieford Avenue; 885-0236) is there for the sailing, with fishing cruises departing daily. Before you board, stop at **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue; 885-2153) or **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue; 885-2042) for any supplies you may need. The Island's new **West Marine Express** (532 City Island Avenue; 885-1469) can fill all your needs if your voyage is on your own vessel.

And if chores around your house prove to be the quest of your choosing, maybe after much prodding from your lover, then look no further than **City Island Hardware & Yacht Supply** (260 City Island Avenue; 885-1447) or **J.J. Burck, Inc.** (526 City Island Avenue; 885-1559) for everything to get the job done.

Once you've finished your travels or tasks, settle in where someone else has done the catching and feast on lobster tails for two at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue; 885-0700). Eating here is definitely an encounter with delicious food and a preparation worthy of applause. Try a chocolate martini while you're there—now that's a love-feast!

Plenty of gems from the high seas are served at other City Island eateries, including **The Lobster House** (691 Bridge Street; 885-1459), **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue, 885-1810), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue; 885-0920), **Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue; 885-1952), or **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue; 885-1373). And what a view the Harbor's windows offer: the water, the boats and the New York City skyline.

"Find the fabulous." The wonderful for your Valentine may be spelled "whale" as in **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue; 885-3657). A romantic menu for dinner and dessert coupled with a romantic feature film (for "dinner-and-a-movie" Tuesday) are sure to keep hearts aflutter. Start celebrating your love early here, at the magical Sunday brunch on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Or maybe the fantastic is French for you, in which case **Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast** (586 City Island Avenue; 885-2478) is your place to be. This jewel of City Island marks more than a year at its new location, and Pierre Saint-Denis invites lovers and others to feast on a multi-course dinner for two on Valentine's Day or during the weekend that precedes it. There is also a wine tasting on Friday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at City Island's own authentic French inn; call for more details. Cheers!

"Schedule fun and games." They'll be plenty of fun at the **SixMileCross at the City Island Saloon** (288 City Island Avenue; 885-1664), especially during their "Lonely Hearts Club Soiree." Both owner and chef promise a very low-key gathering where reservations are not necessary.

While you're there, check out this new eatery's featured music and sports events.

And if games top your "to do" list, then **The Breakers** (247 City Island Avenue; 885-0500) is where you'll want to be on that love-filled Tuesday or another day of the week. There is a pool table and a shuffleboard game to play and plenty of televisions to watch the action, no matter the field.

"Kick back – and just relax." Maybe you don't want to brave the outdoors or the crowds and would prefer to cuddle with your honey at home. Well, City Island has lots to help you accomplish this goal. You might try telephoning **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue; 885-9656) or the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-88 City Island Avenue; 885-3775) after you've visited **JTs Island Event** (294 City Island Avenue; 885-9507) to rent the perfect romantic video, **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue; 885-0200) to select just the right pairing wine or champagne, and **Island Produce** (292 City Island Avenue) for the grapes you'll want to feed your sweetie, one at a time. And, if you choose to make the feast yourself, then stop by **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue; 885-2121) or the **IGA City Island Market** (385 City Island Avenue; 885-3400). There are usually flowers at Connie's—a nice Valentine touch—and a vast selection of breads and homemade mozzarella to feast on from the IGA.

A must for a take-out feast are the great pizza and fine Italian selections from **Filomena Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Ave; 885-9032). You might also visit this new City Island pizzeria and enjoy the food there. Owner-chef Tony Paoliello and his wife, Filomena, will serve up the delicious dishes with lots of love and smiles.

And if you decide to schedule a "snack-fest" for the big love day, look no further than the awesome selection at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue; 885-3053).

"Take a trip." Did you know that there's time travel available on City Island? A visit to any of our out-of-this-world—or decade, at least—antique stores will prove that. Whether you wander into **Main Street Antiques** (278 City Island Avenue; 885-2172), **Quality Antique Furniture** (270 City Island Avenue; 885-2215), **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue; 885-1598), **Midtown Antiques** (310 City Island Avenue; 885-2820) or **Early Ruth** (319 City Island Avenue; 885-0228), you're sure to find just the right treasure for that special someone in your life. And Midtown Antiques is offering 25 percent off on all jewelry and 60 percent off all furniture, except new reproductions, as a Valentine special.

Stay in the past and view photographs capturing City Island's rich history on display at the **City Island Historical Society & Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street; 885-0008); that museum is open the Sunday before Valentine's Day—and every Sunday—from 1 to 5 p.m.



Exotiq's Passion candles.

If your travel is more about the world than the watch, then **Exotiq International Arts** (280 City Island Avenue; 885-3090) is the place for you. Check out the jewelry on display—pieces by Paul Klein, as well as by Flow Nielsen—and the aromatherapy products and "passion" candle and product line.

And the timeless beauty of the windows of **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue; 885-2024), which artist

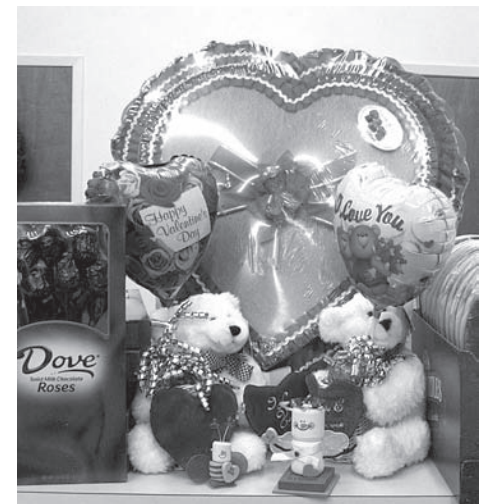
Mary Colby calls "home," is a must on any itinerary.

To imagine you're in the warm water of the sun-filled Caribbean, a plane is not needed, just walk, or drive, to **Caribbean Island Restaurant & Bar** (435 City Island Avenue) and sample cuisine inspired by those Caribbean islands. Or maybe a warm and cozy ski lodge is more your fantasy. Then a trip to the lounge at **The Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue; 885-0300) for a cocktail in front of a warm, welcoming fireplace while seated on soft leather couches is just the ticket. While you're there, sit in the restaurant as well and try one of their "feasts for two."

Maybe your trip is more front-Island, with a stop at **Subway Sandwiches & Salads** (632 City Island Avenue; 885-3844); mid-Island, with a visit to **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue; 885-3600), or to **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue; 885-1424) at the far end of City Island.

Capture any moment in time or travel in photographs and let photographer-artist Ron Turner of **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue; 885-1403) do the honors; he's even offering 40 percent off such portraits through Feb. 14.

"Fulfill a fantasy." There's a world of fantastic gifts to be found at so many City Island locations. Try the doll delights on display at **My Dolls & Things** (271 City Island Avenue; 885-3777). Owners Monsey and Yvette will be delighted to take you on a tour of all their new and collectible dolls. At **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue; 885-1330), choose from nautical and stained-glass items for your sweetheart. And at **City Island Cards** (282 City Island Avenue; 885-9088), pick from giant candy-filled hearts, chocolate roses, racks of cards—and Olivia's "bee-mine" creations!



Candy and Valentine's Day gifts from City Island Cards.

Maybe your dream date for Valentine's Day is you and your darling sitting across a candlelit table sipping some sweet concoction. Well, then, the **Snug** (302 City Island Avenue; 885-9559) is your spot. While



Cocktails at the Snug.

Continued on page 16

Cormac McEnery, Esq.

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Robert Lachman: Man at the Top

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

Islanders are a diverse group. We have among us lawyers, doctors, teachers, craftsmen, artists and business people. And don't forget those who are part of City Island's maritime industry. Few, however, have had a more interesting career than Robert (Bob) Lachman, senior engineer for the Port Authority and World Trade Center.

I have known Bob for many years but have never had occasion to discuss with him his chosen pursuit. For some inane reason, I thought that he was a carpenter by trade. One day, when I stopped at Jackie Kall's office to get the most recent poop on what was happening on the Island, our chitchat evolved to the sketches of Islanders that I do for *The Current*. Jackie suggested that Bob's career would be good fodder for my pen. I called Bob and he agreed to an interview.

Bob, like most of us, is not among the anointed, a clam digger by birth. He was born in Rockaway, Queens in 1931. Before 1945, his family relocated to the Baychester area of the Bronx, which was a German enclave at the time. Bob's father passed away in 1941, and in 1945, his mother married Osmer (Bill) Levy. The family bought a house at 180 Ditmars Street from the Tomasino family in 1946. (Mr. Tomasino was the manager of the Raymond Theater, now the IGA market.)

Like many City Island boys, Bob found part-time employment helping John Barron who rented rowboats at old Casino Beach at the east end of Ditmars Street. The operation would later move to Fordham Place, where Barron's Boatyard is now located. Bob attended and graduated from P.S. 89 and in 1944 went on to that citadel of learning, Columbus High School, graduating in 1948.

Bob had three siblings: Bill, who is the carpenter of the family; a sister, Marie; and a half brother, Charles Levy. Bill and his wife, Lorraine, reside on Pell Place, where they raised their family.

City Island always produced good athletic teams. A team associated with the era following World War II was the Yellow Jackets Football Club. Teams like these were dubbed sandlot football teams. A manager would be appointed to book teams of similar age and size. The opposition would often arrive at the field at Rodman's Neck with a ringer or two in reserve. (A ringer was an older, heavier individual who would disappear into the adjacent bushes and emerge in full uniform to bolster the roster of the opposition if necessary.)

Bob and Bill were blessed with athletic prowess and were selected for the team as quarterback and running back, respectively. Both also played on the P.A.L. baseball team, which boasted a fleet-footed outfielder and first baseman, Stu Hawkins, scion of the Hawkins family and still a resident of City Island.

The father of two of Bob's friends was Joseph McGill, a big, burly structural iron worker. It was through Joseph that Bob would become a bona fide member of Local 40 Iron Workers Union. His first job was on City Island in the iron shop of United Boat Service. The building trade was then flourishing in New York, and Bob subsequently found steady employment with such large construction companies as American Bridge, Bethlehem Steel and Tishman.

Bob met and married Jean Klein in 1951. They purchased a large house at 163 Reville Street, where he and Jean raised their five children: Robert, Michael, Jeanne, William and Thomas. Tragedy struck the family when Michael was killed in 1980, when his vehicle was struck by a speeding tow truck.

Bob went to school evenings to earn a degree in civil engineering from New York

University. This odyssey took him eight years. After his graduation, he applied for a position as engineer with the Port Authority, and in 1959 he began working for them. His first big project: building a second deck on the George Washington Bridge.

The second deck was hung from the bridge beneath the existing roadway. It was prefabricated and carried by large barges to a point under the bridge where a large trolley suspended by cables could hoist the deck sections up for attachment. The project took two years. A photograph in the Sunday edition of the Daily News on May 22, 1960, shows the work in progress with a fearless Bob Lachman relaxing on a coffee break as he stood on the edge of a steel beam high above the Hudson River.

The bridge work behind him, Bob moved downtown to the tip of Manhattan to work on the World Trade Center. During his tenure, he was promoted to senior engineer of the World Trade Center. Construction of the WTC spanned 25 years, and Bob accumulated much memorabilia as construction progressed.

One photograph (see this page) shows Bob and his crew atop the antenna, at least 1,700 feet above the ground. In the distance and above the clouds, one can see the tip of the Empire State Building. Although rain would sometimes be falling on the streets below them, Bob and his crew often worked in sunshine, well above the clouds.

Among other photographs Bob provided is one of him standing atop the antenna base for the 50-foot extension and another of him taking a brisk walk on a steel beam. No job is complete until the paper work is done, and another picture shows Bob in his spacious office surrounded by prints and reports.

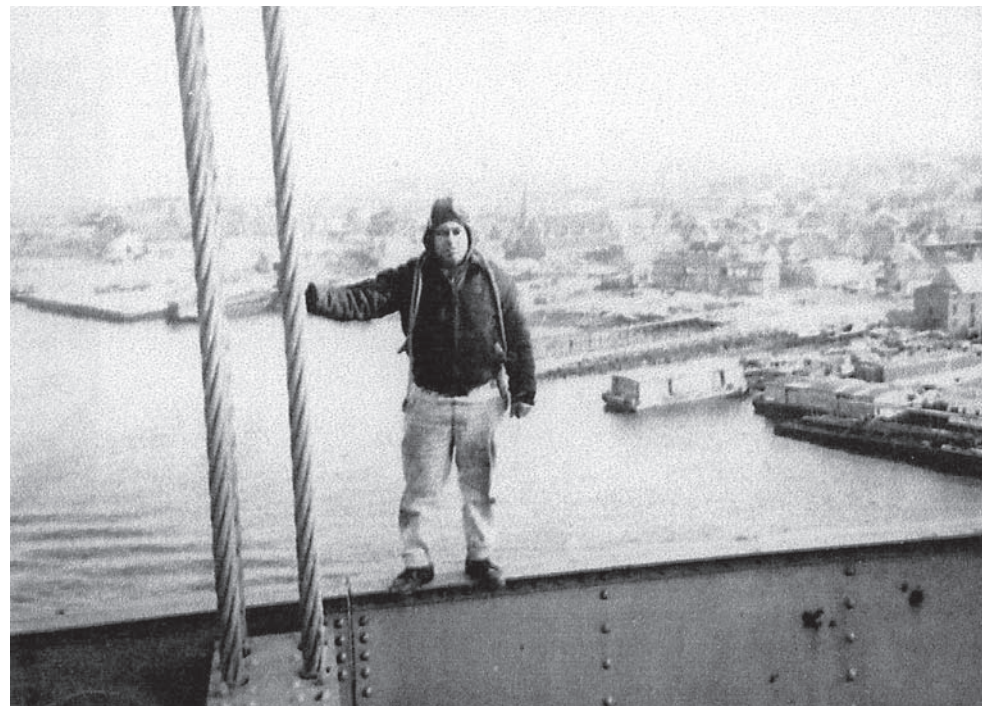
The World Trade Center was dedicated in 1973. Owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, it had 10 million square feet of office space. The two landmark towers were 1,350 feet tall, and each had 21,800 windows and 104 elevators. The total center consisted of seven buildings, the last one completed in 1988. As Bob sadly recalls, it took more than 10 years to build and less than 90 minutes to destroy on Sept. 11, 2001.

Many of us recall the first attempt to destroy the Trade Center, in 1993 when a truck loaded with explosives was detonated in the garage one level below the street, causing extensive damage, loss of life and injury. To assess the damage and make recommendations for restoration, Bob, then working for Karl Koch Construction Company, was called back as a consultant. The two months he spent making structural repairs were rewarded when the Port Authority presented him with a bronze memento in appreciation.

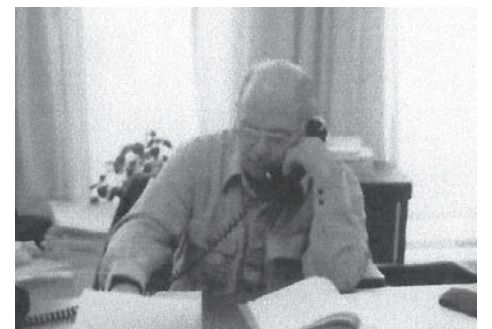
Although Bob had retired before the 2001 attack on the World Trade towers, he returned to the site afterwards to offer his services and expertise. Among his archives are letters of thanks and appreciation. Frank Fellini, an assistant chief of the New York City Fire Department who worked with Bob in the pit, observed that he often had trouble breathing and was prone to coughing. Several fire department emergency workers have recently succumbed to lung problems following their exposure in the pit.

Bob has been a member of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club for 40 years. Although he never served as commodore, he was revered as a dedicated member of the board of directors for 18 years. Among the positions he held were mooring and ways, auditor, and chairman of the board. Bob is still very active in projects to improve the club.

His work as a structural iron worker



Photos courtesy of ROBERT LACHMAN
Islander Robert Lachman was a senior engineer for the Port Authority of New York for 30 years. He worked on several famous projects, including the lower deck of the George Washington Bridge (middle photo, taken from the May 22, 1960, issue of *The Sunday News*) and the World Trade Center (top photo and second photo below at his desk). He returned to the site as a consultant to assist in the recovery after the attack on Sept. 11, 2001 (left photo).



did not preclude his involvement in community activities. His family occupied a considerable amount of his time, and Bob engaged himself in community activity as his family grew, including Little League coaching, Boy Scouts committee and other pursuits associated with the Island's youth. After his retirement in 1989, Bob found his talents and expertise in the engineering

field in demand. Among these projects were the new control tower and east parking garage at Kennedy Airport, which was started in 1989 and completed in 1993.

Bob is not far from the big 75, but he does not show his age. Should you see him on the avenue or at the Morris, say hello. He would appreciate that.

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

FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 14, **Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

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

Thurs., Feb. 16, **Community Board 10 meets**, 8 p.m., Hebrew Hospital Home, 801 Co-op City Blvd., Bronx.

Sat., Feb. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

Tues., Feb. 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

City Island Seniors

Our first meeting of 2006 will be on Tuesday, March 7, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall. It was decided at our last meeting that February weather is not conducive for seniors to venture outside, so there will be no meeting on Feb. 7.

Alice Stuttig informed us that the renowned magician Bobo Yorburg will be on hand to entertain us with his repertoire of magic tricks. For those interested in seeing some of your undesirable neighbors disappear, just see Bob before the meeting.

Coffee, tea and cake will be served after the meeting. We could use some kitchen assistance and help beforehand to set up chairs and tables. Volunteers are asked to call Charlie Rosa at 718-829-0245 before the meeting.

We also plan to pay homage to Andy Sbare, who recently passed away. Andy was a long-time resident of City Island and very active in the AARP and Seniors. He will be missed by all.

Bring a friend if you can as we always welcome new members to the fold. See you March 7.

Russell Schaller

Chapter 318 AARP

AARP Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church at 113 Bay Street on City Island Avenue. Refreshments and cake are served following the meeting. We have blood pressure readings taken on the first Wednesday of each month by Beryl Bentham. We also have a notary public available before and after all meetings to notarize any documents free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacono at the meetings.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Carl Steiner and family for the loss of his wife, Vera. She was a wonderful person and a member of our chapter.

Our next trip is to Pennsylvania in March for St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Days. We are also going on a three-day, two-night trip to the Washington D.C. and Baltimore area in April.

Please attend our meetings for prices and information about these events. See Flo Bonicoro or Marie Tirelli.

Marie Tirelli

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is pleased to raise the curtain on its 2006 season. As always, we hope to continue the tradition of presenting quality, thought-provoking theater to the residents of City Island. Our season will begin with William Inge's classic play "Bus Stop." Described as "an uproarious comedy that never strays from the truth," this play is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Directed by Michael Flanagan, the cast features Justine Costanza, David Cook,

Ed Inle, Bill Kozy, Jean McCabe, Susan Rauh and Keith Trauceniek. This production will be performed for three days only! The performances will be on Thursday, Feb. 16, and Friday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. "Bus Stop" will have two performances on Saturday Feb. 18, a matinee performance at 3 p.m. and an 8 p.m. evening performance. Don't miss this limited run; call CITG at 718-885-3066 to reserve your seats!

CITG will hold auditions for its production of Clare Boothe Luce's classic comedy "The Women" on Feb. 23 and 24 at 7:45 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 1:00 p.m. Auditions will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, 104 City Island Avenue. This show requires a large cast, and women of all ages are encouraged to try out. "The Women" will be presented in April.

CITG is always looking for volunteers to help out behind the scenes. If anyone is interested in working lights, sound or stage management, please call us. No experience is necessary. Be on the lookout for our Piano Bar night at the end of February. The City Island Theater Group wishes everyone a Happy New Year and hopes to see you all at the theater. We have a seat waiting just for you!

Susan Rauh



Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets) is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multi-ethnic Jewish congregation with Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, Feb. 3, and March 3.

A special family event for children will be conducted on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 9:30 a.m. It will be led by our rabbinic interns, Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper. Then, at 10:30 a.m., they will conduct our Spirituality Service and Torah Study workshop for adults.

SHOHAM classes led by Rabbi Wiener offer Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind and will be conducted on Monday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. The classes are a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the priests of biblical Israel (free for members; \$15 per class for non-members).

Celebrate the New Year of Trees. Come to our Tu B'Shevat seder on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m. Dress is casual, but reservations for the seder are necessary. Please call for your food contribution; fruits, nuts and wine/juice are featured at this event. Vegetarian dishes are also welcome. Call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 with your RSVPs as soon as possible.

Learn-to-read Hebrew classes will be conducted on Wednesdays (from 7:30 to 9 p.m.). Materials and classes are free to everyone, thanks to the National Jewish Outreach Program. Mort Ellis will lead the classes in February.

Yoga/ Tai-Chi classes continue every Thursday at 6:15 p.m. during February (except on Feb.23). Led by Marc Kaplan, these exercises will leave you more flexible, more energetic and refreshed. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available.

Visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 took the time to write to all of our City Island soldiers in the armed forces overseas a Christmas card full of thanks for our freedom.



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 cheerfully kept up the holiday spirits on Dec. 9 at Pilot Cove, where the scouts performed their annual Christmas caroling for the senior citizens of City Island. The scouts sang their usual heartfelt songs, and one of the Webelos scouts, Ian Campbell, played a "Jingle Bells" solo on the guitar to a very appreciative audience. Happy belated holidays to all from Pack 211.

City Island Nautical Museum

Thanks to the generous hearts of museum members and Island residents, the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum will be able to stay open through the winter.

We are very grateful indeed that our plea for help, not simply with the operating budget but also with the installation of the Community and School Rooms, was heard by so many of you. Thank you!

In the meantime, we have finished working on the office, which is now handsomely painted and full of framed photographs of boats built on City Island. All of you who have warm memories of the days when City Island boat building was in its heyday are invited to come and take a look.

We are open on Sunday afternoons between 1 and 5 p.m. Come by for a chat.

Tom Nye

Trinity United Methodist Church

We at Trinity hope that everyone had a safe, happy and blessed holiday season. Worship service and Sunday school are every Sunday at 10 a.m. All are invited to join us.

During Lent 2006, a Lenten Bible Study will meet in Trinity's Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, Feb. 19, for six consecutive Sundays through March 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All interested are welcome to participate.

This study is a resumption of an ongoing study of the gospel according to John and will be covering chapters 8-14 during the six meetings. The theme of the study is understanding Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who gives eternal life to those who receive and believe in him and his authority.

Each session will begin with a brief video dealing with the DaVinci Code deception during coffee and light refreshments. George Cavaliere, Trinity's lay leader, will moderate

and instruct through readings of the text with discussion and questions based on a verse by verse study. The bible text will be provided at each session.

Everyone in the community is welcome to these Lenten bible studies whether or not you have attended before. No prior registration is required.

On Feb. 26, we will hold a Mardi Gras luncheon. At 11:30 a.m. there will be a fun and craft time for people of all ages, and at 12:30 we will have a pasta lunch. There is no registration or fee, only a free will offering. We hope to see everyone there, as we expect to have a lot of fun.

We will have a Lenten devotional available the end of February for all who are interested in some inspiration during Lent. In addition, our Lenten service will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 8 p.m.

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

Anne Sill



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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.

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, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

Special Events and Fundraisers

Square Dance: Sunday, Feb. 5, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. \$6.00. Come swing your partners! All ages welcome. (Children who can follow the caller's instructions are welcome.)

Drue Breen Literary Fund Essay Contest: Keep your eye out for contest information coming in March.

Community Garage Sale: Get a jump on the yard sale frenzy. Coming in April.

Wingfest 2006: Coming this spring.

Weekly Schedule

CHILDREN'S 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. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450.

Jazz/Tap for Grades 2 through 6: Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

Girl Scouts: Fourth Grade. For information, call Grace Nagy at 718-757-1338.

Daisies: Kindergarten. For information call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Small Potatoes-Creative Cooking for Kids: Thursdays. Give Gina a call for more information at 845-531-5011.

Valentine Art Workshop: Feb. 7. Ages 2 through 4 at 1 p.m. Ages 5 through 10 at 3:30 p.m.

ADULT'S PROGRAM

Belly Dancing With Nadia: Fridays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call Nadia at 718-885-9660 for more information.

Belly Dancing With Myriam: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays. Call Myriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

Aerobics Classes: Sundays, from 9 to 10 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m.; and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Babysitting available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Cooking Class: Basic Thai: Cashews, Curry & Cream. Experienced N.Y.C. chef will provide you with the skills you need. Friday, Feb. 17, from 8 to 10 p.m., or Saturday, Feb. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. \$30.00. Call Mike at 646-296-3102. Reserve your space by Feb. 11.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Millennium Babies Playgroup: A free playgroup open to all with babies and/or pre-school children. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040 for more information.

Vilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and the adults who love them! Fridays, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays from 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223 or visit the Web site www.vilmasmusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Next Generation YOGA for Kids: Master Kids Yoga. Teacher and founder of Next Generation Yoga Jodi B Komitor comes to City Island! Family yoga for all ages. \$20 for a family of two. \$30 for a family of three. \$40 for a family of four. Pre-registration required. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message with your name and number.

"Juggling" for Fun, Health, Relaxation & Focus: Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Class is \$10 per session with a 10 percent discount for each additional family member. Class is open to anyone 12 years and older. There will be a one-time equipment fee of \$15. Call Shayna at 347-275-4980.

Knitting Club: Beginner knitting classes for all ages! Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

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

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

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Legion News

Alas, another year faded into history as we ushered in 2006 with a gala New Year's Eve party at the Post. Unfortunately, I fell victim to a cold and could not join my friends, who had a most enjoyable evening. There was some confusion, since the fare as advertised in the Post newsletter was for finger food. This menu, however, evolved into a Chinese dinner featuring Peking duck. For those with appetites that know no bounds, there were no limitations on the amount of rice you could consume.

Tom McMahon has planned a festive Super Bowl party on Sunday, Feb. 5, including an open bar from 5:30 p.m. to one hour following the game. The famished will partake of a turkey and roast beef dinner prepared by a select roster of Post chefs. The price, unbelievable as it may seem, is only \$40.

The midwinter conference will take place in Albany on from Jan. 27 to Jan. 29. We look forward to a scintillating report at the regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 6.

At our executive board meeting on Jan. 9, plans were discussed relative to structural improvements at the Post and refurbishing the unisex toilet on the main floor to make it more appealing to the discriminating user.

Looking ahead, Monday, April 3, will be membership night. We pay homage to those who have had continuous membership for a number of years.

Flags are available and can be procured at the bar for \$18. The new poles will be aluminum. You will find past Commander Hecker most accommodating.

Our Post Christmas party held on Monday, Dec. 19, attracted a large crowd. It was the first meeting in many moons that had a quorum. One member asked, "Where did all these people come from?" Richard O'Keefe, past State Commander, welcomed a plethora of VIP commanders past and present to grace us with their presence. They came not only with their spouses but with their appetites as well. The first wave to hit the chow line left little for those who followed. Some Post members were observed sadly nibbling on K-rations the rest of the evening.

Christmas gifts were dispatched to our people in the service. We hope we didn't miss anyone this year.

I received a letter from Lucille Masterson, a former Islander now living in Colonia, New Jersey. Lucille's four daughters were raised on the Island. She now has 10 grandchildren, three of whom are in the military. Captain David Nash is an Army captain, his brother Christopher is a Second Lieutenant in the Army and Lance Corporal Neal Auricchio is in the Marine Corps. David served 18 months in Iraq and received a number of citations, among them the Bronze Star. Christopher, now in Virginia, will be departing for Egypt in February. Neal, now in California, will be

deployed to Iraq in March. Lucille's late husband, John, was an active member of the Post until his demise. A former Marine, he served in both WWII and the Korean War and was a recipient of the Purple Heart, as well as other decorations.

Regular meetings for the month of February are Monday, Feb. 6, and Monday, Feb. 20. An executive board meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 13.

The following tidbit was gleaned from the military archives: "They've got us surrounded again, those poor bastards." Colonel Creighton Abrams, U.S. Army, at the Battle of the Bulge, Dec. 1944.

Russell Schaller

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion, the Eucharist, every Sunday at 10 a.m., and you are warmly welcomed to join us. Professional child care is now available every Sunday in the parish hall beginning at 9:45 a.m. for young children who are not quite ready to sit with their parents throughout a whole service. For older children, church school is offered twice monthly, beginning at 10 a.m. Please call church school director Harlan Sexton at 718-885-9749 for dates and more information.

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

Sunday, Feb. 12, 12 noon, Parish Hall: Grace launches a series of monthly "Health Talks," free and opened to the public. This month we welcome a patient navigator from Jacobi Hospital, who will speak about breast health awareness and who will schedule interested women for mammograms at Jacobi. We encourage women and men alike to attend this important workshop.

Monday, Feb. 13, 5 p.m.: special children's service, in honor of St. Valentine. All City Island children and their families are welcomed to this brief "kid-friendly" worship service, followed by dinner and Valentine's Day crafts in the Parish Hall. For more information, please call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040. Hope to see you there!

Friday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m.: Grace is pleased to host a CPR training class, led by members of the FDNY. While this hour-long session does not lead to CPR certification, it will provide participants with essential, potentially life-saving, skills. To register for this free class, please call the parish office by Friday, Feb. 17, or register online at www.gracecityisland.org.

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 12 noon and 7 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with the Imposition of Ashes.

For more information about Grace Church, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@gracecityisland.org, or visit our beautiful new Web site: www.gracecityisland.org. See you in church!

Mother Patty Alexander

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What's a Widow to Do?

When a woman's husband dies, she is faced with decisions about how she will continue her life. Hollywood has a plethora of films on this subject. Perhaps the best known is the musical classic **The King and I** (1956), remade in 1999 as a non-musical drama, **Anna and the King**. The movies star Deborah Kerr/Jodie Foster as Anna, a widow who moves to Bangkok to serve as schoolteacher to the many children of the king of Siam (Yul Brynner/Chow Yun-Fat).

A Majority of One (1962) is the story of Mrs. Jacoby (Rosalind Russell), a Jewish widow from Brooklyn who accompanies her daughter (Madlyn Rhue) and diplomat husband (Ray Danton) to Tokyo. There she meets Mr. Asano, a Japanese gentleman (Alec Guinness) who lost his son in World War II, and thus begins an interesting story of peaceful reconciliation.

During the depression, in **Places in the Heart** (1984), Edna Spalding (Sally Field) has to keep her Texas farm going when her sheriff husband (Ray Baker) gets killed. She is assisted by a blind boarder (John Malkovich) and a black farmer (Danny Glover) in this touching film.

Witness (1985) is a thriller/love story in which Rachel (Kelly McGillis), a widowed Amish woman, falls in love with police detective John Book (Harrison Ford) after her son, Samuel (Lukas Haas), witnesses a murder. The relationship is a matter of great concern to both her father-in-law (Jan Rubes) and her prospective suitor (Alexander Gudunov).

Another thriller stars Theresa Russell as Catherine, a woman who marries rich men who inexplicably keep dying. Debra Winger is Alex, a federal investigator who notices the random deaths of millionaires and goes out in search of the **Black Widow** (1987) who is doing away with her husbands.

A film chockfull of outstanding performances is the romantic comedy **Moonstruck** (1988). Cher won an Oscar as Loretta, a young widowed accountant who is engaged to Johnny (Danny Aiello), a man she doesn't love. She winds up falling for Johnny's brother, Ronny (Nicholas Cage), but is outraged when she discovers that her father (Vincent Gardenia) is cheating on her mother (Olympia Dukakis), who is busy resisting the advances of a college professor (John Mahoney). The script by John Patrick Shanley is exceptional.

In **Stanley and Iris** (1990), Iris (Jane Fonda) is a recently widowed cake icer who works on an assembly line. When a thief steals her purse, Stanley (Robert DeNiro), a cook and an inventor, tries to retrieve it for her. As they get to know each other, she discovers he is illiterate and tries to help him overcome this humiliating

problem.

Jessica Tandy, at the age of 80, stars as a widowed southern lady in **Driving Miss Daisy** (1990). After she has an accident with her 1948 Packard, her son (Dan Aykroyd) hires Hoke (Morgan Freeman), a black chauffeur who sorely challenges her sense of independence. This is an extraordinary story of the friendship between two proud, stubborn people.

The Cemetery Club (1992) is the story of three best friends, Esther (Ellen Burstyn), Doris (Olympia Dukakis) and Lucille (Diane Ladd), all of whom are recently widowed. They regularly visit the cemetery where their husbands are buried, and during one such visit, they meet Ben (Danny Aiello), who becomes interested in Esther, and the ensuing romance sorely tests the women's friendship.

In Up at the Villa (2000), a group of British expatriates are living in Florence on the eve of WWII. Mary (Kristin Scott Thomas), a pretty widow in her 30s, has to rely on the kindness of friends since her late husband gambled away all their money. She is advised by Principessa San Ferdinando (Anne Bancroft) and courted by the 60ish, wealthy Sir Edgar Swift (James Fox) and a rich impetuous American Rowley Flint (Sean Penn).

Saving Grace (2000) stars Brenda Blethyn in the title role as a proper widow whose husband also has left her penniless. She hatches a scheme with her gardener (Craig Ferguson) to grow marijuana in her greenhouse with hilarious results.

Cate Blanchett is haunting as Annie, a recently widowed mother of three, who lives in a small southern town. She makes money as a psychic, using **The Gift** (2001), and is harassed by Donnie (Keanu Reeves), who abuses his wife, Valerie (Hillary Swank), one of Annie's clients. When a local woman (Katie Holmes) disappears, her grieving fiancé (Greg Kinnear) seeks Annie's help to find her in this spooky thriller.

One of my favorite films of 2005 is a British period comedy inspired by true events, **Mrs. Henderson Presents**, which stars Dame Judi Dench in the title role as a no-nonsense, bored widow who renovates the famous London Windmill Theater. She hires an argumentative stage manager named Vivian Van Damm (Bob Hoskins), a Dutch Jew who intrigues, amuses and angers her. Wanting to be innovative, Mrs. Henderson suggests that the women appear in the nude in order to help their song-and-dance revue rise above the level of mediocrity. This, along with a poignant sub-plot, make for an enjoyable time.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



Arts and Culture Program

The arts and culture workshops offered by Bronx Community College are designed for those who want to explore arts and culture yet have busy schedules. The classes are all taught by artists with local, regional and national reputations.

Featured for the month of February are:

- A series of meditation classes called "Opening the heart and going with it," which will be taught by Jennifer Ahia, a City Island resident. The classes will run on Sundays from 11 to 12:15 from Feb. 19 through March 26. Bring a bolster or a pillow and a journal. The cost is \$125 for all sessions.

- A two-session Hanji paper craft workshop will be held on Saturday, March 4, and Saturday, March 11 from 1 to 3. The cost is \$50.

- A four-part series of art classes called "It's not just black or white; using value in drawing or painting" will be held on Tues-

day, Feb. 21, Saturday, Feb. 25, Tuesday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 4. The cost for the series is \$200. Call the BCC number for times and location.

Some of the classes will be held at City Island's Community Center or at other venues on the Island, and some on the historic Bronx Community College campus at University Avenue and West 181st Street. Call 718-289-5170 for information and registration, which can be done over the telephone with Visa, Discover or MasterCard; or you may mail a check to Bronx Community College, Continuing and Professional Studies, Philosophy Hall Room 14, Bronx NY 10453.

The coordinator for these workshops is City Island resident Lily Fertik, who looks forward to answering your questions, and, of course, seeing you in class.

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Public School 175

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. The Lincoln Center Institute put on a performance of "Aspects of Ailey II," which was the culmination of a semester-long study of Alvin Ailey's works, in which all students from kindergarten through eighth grade participated. January began a rigorous study of William Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night." The students will study the unique language of Shakespeare, his comedies and the Elizabethan period.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

The first session of the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation after-school program ended for second and third-graders. A Tae Kwon Do demonstration and an art exhibition were put on for parents, so they could enjoy the martial arts and visual arts skills that their children learned. At the Tae Kwon Do exhibition, every student who participated "broke a board" with their bare hands, which was quite impressive to see!

As part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum, students visited Gracie Mansion. This tied into their study of historic buildings and landmarks in New York City and afforded them the opportunity to visit the residence of New York City's former mayors. Grade 5 went to Theatre Works in Manhattan to see a performance of "The Lion, the Witch and the Ward-

robe."

Finally, on Dec. 23, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with the annual Holiday Sing. Children in Grades K-8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of the rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended the year on a high note!

January was just as exciting. The second session of the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation after-school program started for Grades 4 and 5. Students have enthusiastically begun their study of Tae Kwon Do and, in the art portion of the class, students are creating books that will be submitted to the Ezra Jack Keats National Book-Making Competition. After the books are completed, they will be doing projects with clay and watercolor paint. The winter session of the C.H.A.M.P.S. Middle School Sports and Fitness League After School Program for sixth-and seventh-graders also began. Students are again focusing on soccer.

Grades 7 and 8 went to the City Center to see a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "The Mikado." The students enjoyed this extravagant British musical about a Japanese tale of love and life spiced with good humor. It was a culturally enriching experience and was very entertaining.

Last spring, several students auditioned for and were accepted to Ballet Tech, a Manhattan-based dance school that affords New York City public elementary-school children the opportunity to study ballet dancing tuition free. Children who were accepted began the program in January and will continue through June.

The School-Wide Enrichment Model began in January for Grades 2, 3, 6 and 7. Students have completed interest surveys and are being matched with staff who have passions in the same areas. Once this process is concluded, the students will embark on an eight-week intensive study of their area of interest, which will end with a service or a special performance for the school community.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that the school offers to enable children to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits!



Photo by KAREN NANI

After many months, the scaffolding that surrounded P.S. 175 was removed in January, 2006, marking completion of repairs to the roof and flashing. Students, faculty, administration and Islanders were all glad to see the front of the school once again.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

As a joyous Christmas season drew to an end, St. Mary, Star of the Sea School began busily forging ahead into the new year. The fourth and eighth grades deserve congratulations for tackling their New York State ELA exams. The students are very relieved to be done, as are their teachers! Everyone anxiously anticipates scores as fine as those the school achieved last year. Kudos to the teachers as well!

A new eight-week program was launched in January at St. Mary's. My Future First is sponsored by the archdiocese in conjunction with the New York City Board of Health to teach children in Grades 5 through 8 about the process of human maturation and the challenges they face at this time in their development. My Future First also offers a 12-week after-school program that uses drama techniques, including role-playing and play-acting, to reinforce the idea that our bodies are temples and that we have it within our power to treat them with respect. Our students are very excited about participating.

During the week of Jan. 23, the students from Grades 3 through 8 took their mid-term exams. These exams were comprehensive, testing material that has been covered since September. The students worked very hard during this time, and their teachers are very pleased with the results. The second semester began on Jan. 30, and all classes are busy working on their lessons.

"Character, Compassion, and Values" was the theme of the 2006 Catholic Schools Week. SMSS hosted several successful open houses throughout the week of Jan. 29. The annual international luncheon was held on Thursday of that week, and each class entertained with an ethnic song and dance. It was a wonderful event. The leftover food was sent to the Tolentine-Zeiser Center on Fordham Road. On Friday, Feb. 3, Mass was celebrated to close the festivities. The school always looks forward to Catholic Schools Week!

Pre-registration for Grades Pre-K through 7 for the 2006-2007 school year will take place on Feb. 21-24 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Parents or guardians are asked to bring a birth certificate, immunization records, baptismal certificate and the most recent report card, if applicable. There is a \$50 pre-registration fee. Records will be reviewed, and parents will be notified within the week regarding acceptance.

Thanks to the new kindergarten classroom, the Pre-K and kindergarten classes will finally be separated by September. A new classroom for Pre-K is in the works. New furniture, a new rug, computers and many other exciting fixtures will be in place for a fruitful learning experience. Pre-K will continue as a full-time program, but the schedule is flexible if parents prefer to pick up their children after a half-day.

The after-care program is in full swing and is a great success. Children have a structured afternoon with a snack, recreation, homework time and enrichment each day from 3 to 6 p.m. The program is staffed by the school's faculty members, who help with homework and offer extra instruction, as well as enrichment programs, such as music, art and drama. Space is available for the second semester. Please call the school for any further information regarding this program.

The Home School Association is planning a few spring events, including a Wild West show, a Valentine's party and several movie nights. Many of the parents have become very involved with school activities and have offered tremendous support.

The alumni association is working on a 75th year anniversary weekend, which will take place June 2-4. More information will follow! For more information regarding any event, call Mrs. Jane Dennehy at 718-885-1527.

Photography by Ron Turner

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Easter 1987, Age 5 Easter 1988, Age 6 Easter 1989, Age 7

Lorien Lea Denham.

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Current Review

Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Susan A. Clancy
Harvard University Press, 2005; \$22.95

Susan Clancy isn't a City Islander but she might as well be. Her father, Kevin Clancy, younger brother of *The Current's* Boat Show correspondent Bill Clancy and a much-published author himself, lived on Minneford Avenue until he was in his late 20s, and Susan herself grew up in Yonkers and spent much of her free time playing with her cousins on City Island.

That alone would be a good reason for us to review this book, but the real reason is that it is witty, touching and extremely interesting. Susan is a postdoctoral psychologist at Harvard University, where she first became interested in exploring the subject of repressed memory, specifically with adults who recall (or who say they recall) childhood memories of being sexually abused. When it became clear that it was impossible to determine the truth of such memories, and that such interviews were often extremely painful, she turned to the subject that she describes so memorably in this charming book.

The book is not about aliens but about people who believe that they were abducted by aliens. The author is quick to point out that these people are not crazy; they are nice, normal people, but they really do believe that a group of extraterrestrials came from outer space and performed strange experiments on them. The experiences they described to Susan in hours of interviews were horrifying, but they were also life-transforming, and—she finally determined—were completely made up.

In this extremely readable short book, Susan Clancy explains how memory works and how our memories of past experiences are cobbled together from things we may actually remember or that we wish we

could remember, but also from books we have read, movies we have seen, stories we have heard.


She explains that the first alien abduction took place in a movie called "Invaders from Mars," which appeared in 1953. This was followed by other movies and then in 1964, a couple in New Hampshire described being abducted by aliens (only a few days after seeing a television program on the subject). Gradually reports of alien abduction became more common (but only in North America), as well as a number of very popular books on the subject, and though the details often vary, the basic stories are all very similar. Similar to the movies and the books, that is.

Because there is no scientific evidence that alien abductions have ever occurred and because evidence does exist that repressed memory is often inaccurate, it should have been easy for Susan to explain to her abductees that what they are remembering never really occurred. But she found that they were unwilling to let go of their belief in the aliens, leading her to conclude that what really motivates these normal, well-meaning people is a need to believe, a need to have faith in something outside themselves.


"What struck me the whole time," she writes, "was how normal these people were. Yes, they held some strange beliefs without any strong evidence to support those notions. But don't many of us do the same thing? They weren't much weirder than the people I see at family reunions. My relatives believe that Ireland is the seat of modern culture, that Guinness is its own food group, and that swimming off City Island in Long Island Sound is good for your health. . . . Weird beliefs become a lot less weird when you try to understand why people hold them in the first place."

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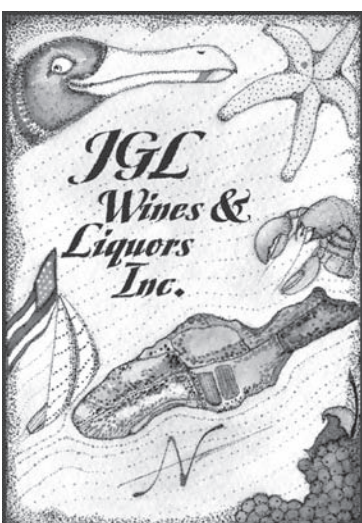
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Boots: The New City Islander

By YOLANDA CIRULLI



Photo by YOLANDA CIRULLI

Veterinarian Dr. Rickard Jakimer of the Manor Veterinary Clinic in Pelham attends to Boots, a stray cat that was taken in by Minneford Avenue resident Anne DiIorio. Dr. Jakimer has been helping Islanders care for abandoned cats for many years.

Here is a stray cat story with a happy ending. As several residents have reported, there are an abundance of stray cats on the Island. Many people have tried to do the right thing and care for these homeless, feral felines.

Anne DiIorio of Minneford Avenue is one such person. She responded to a crying cat that appeared outside her house for several days in a row. She lured it into her home, where the cat promptly curled up on her lap. "It seems the cat wants this to be her home," she told *The Current*, so she named her Boots because of her little white paws. The cat has become her faithful companion.

Anne took Boots to veterinarian Dr. Richard Jakimer, of Manor Veterinary Clinic in Pelham. He has been in practice for 30 years, during which time he has cared for many City Island animals. He gave Boots a clean bill of health, to the delight of her

new owner. "I am very grateful to Dr. Jakimer, who has a compassionate heart for all animals and understands the plight of abandoned stray cats."

Dr. Jakimer is realistic about stray animals. "We need to do the right thing for them and to spay and neuter them," he said. "I will continue to fulfill the needs of the people on City Island who need help with their animals," he said adding that he will even provide transportation if needed. "Unless this is done, the suffering and procreation will continue."

Other residents and Island businesses have also cared for strays. Stelter's Boatyard and the Island Boat Club took responsibility to neuter and spay the cats that make these boatyards their home. Resident Ruth Markowe has neutered, fed and found new homes for cats that have come to her doorstep.

Pinewood Derby Winners

Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

City Island Cub Scout Pack 211 held their annual Pinewood Derby competition in January. It was a huge success enjoyed by the large boisterous crowd that came to root the scouts on. All the scouts were winners in one way or another, according to Cubmaster Angelo Bellocchio. In addition to the trophy winners, awards were given for categories such as creativity, originality, craftsmanship, sportsmanship, and ingenuity.



Leaders Roberta Gvonaj and Liz Lyons flank the first place Tiger Cub winner, Angelo Zagreda.



Leaders Liz Lyons and Roberta Gvonaj congratulate the Wolf winners: Jake Degro-seilliers, first place; Kresnick Lajqi, second place; and Thomas Wright, third place.



Leader Pat Branley proudly presents the Bear Cub winners: John Branley, first place; Michael O'Connor, second place; and Anthony Traviglia, third place.



Webelos 1 winners show off their trophies with leader Pete Green: Daniel Green, first place; Salvatore Cornejo, second place and Ian Campbell, third place.



Leaders Mervette Lajqi and Regina Kreig stand behind the excited Webelos 2 Pinewood Derby winners: Haxqi Lajqi, first place; Ryan Fitzpatrick, second place; and Kyle Kreig, third place.

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Photos by RICK DeWITT

A joyous Christmas party was held on Dec. 12, 2005, at the Morris Yacht Club for children from Montefiore Hospital who are cancer survivors. The party was organized by Islander Kathy Seaman, who thanked the Morris for providing a wonderful celebration for these children.



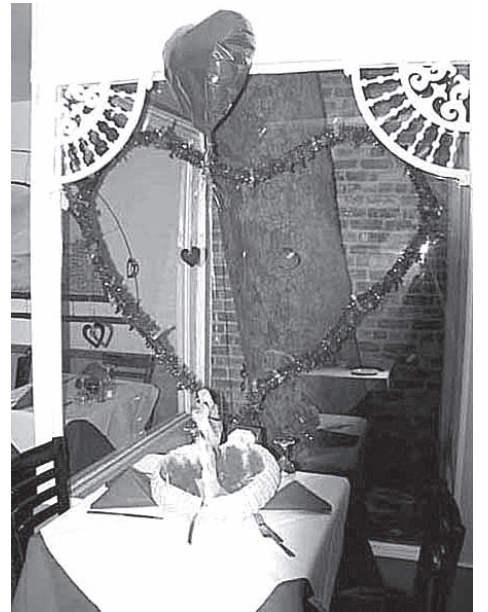
Valentine Celebration

Continued from page 7

you're there, try the special Valentine menu in this pub / grille or come back the day after Valentine's Day for their regular Wednesday "Italian night" celebration, complete with antipasto, a carafe of wine, Italian dishes, red-and-white checkered tablecloths and, of course, the crooning of Frank Sinatra.

Perhaps your loving longings will be satisfied with a specialty dish prepared by the chef at **Arties Steak and Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue; 885-9885). You won't be able to help falling in love with the special dishes there, including the zuppe de pesce for two.

"**Find amore!**" Imagine that you're in Italy, and you might just be sitting instead in **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue; 885-1220) sampling the fine northern Italian and seafood menu. Or maybe the dishes at **Fran's Trattoria** (105 City Island Avenue, 885-2406) or at **Lido's** (101 City Island Avenue; 885-2177) next door are more what the "love doctor" ordered. And there's always the northern Mediterranean menu at **The Tree House** (273 City Island Avenue;



Valentine's dinner at Tree House Restaurant.

885-0806), enjoyed around the restaurant's signature "indoor" tree.

Whatever you do this Valentine's Day, or the weekend before or after, know this: on City Island, "love" is on everyone's "to do" list to enjoy, savor, celebrate, share and treasure!

Russell Schaller

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 HH = hours; MM = minutes.

Tide chart by Tom Smith

FEBRUARY 2006

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0104	8.1	0735	-1.0	1322	8.1	2001	-1.1	Wed 01
02 Thu	0154	8.1	0831	-0.9	1417	7.6	2050	-0.8	Thu 02
03 Fri	0248	7.9	0932	-0.6	1519	7.1	2145	-0.3	Fri 03
04 Sat	0349	7.6	1039	-0.3	1629	6.6	2249	0.2	Sat 04
05 Sun	0459	7.3	1149	0.0	1744	6.3	2359	0.5	Sun 05
06 Mon	0612	7.1	1256	0.1	1854	6.2			Mon 06
07 Tue	0107	0.7	0719	7.1	1359	0.1	1956	6.2	Tue 07
08 Wed	0210	0.8	0819	7.2	1455	0.1	2052	6.5	Wed 08
09 Thu	0306	0.7	0913	7.4	1546	0.0	2143	6.7	Thu 09
10 Fri	0356	0.6	1002	7.5	1632	0.0	2228	6.9	Fri 10
11 Sat	0441	0.5	1046	7.5	1713	0.0	2309	7.1	Sat 11
12 Sun	0520	0.4	1125	7.5	1749	0.1	2346	7.2	Sun 12
13 Mon	0554	0.4	1158	7.4	1818	0.2			Mon 13
14 Tue	0015	7.2	0619	0.4	1221	7.3	1835	0.3	Tue 14
15 Wed	0032	7.2	0634	0.3	1234	7.1	1843	0.3	Wed 15
16 Thu	0045	7.2	0656	0.3	1257	7.0	1906	0.2	Thu 16
17 Fri	0111	7.3	0729	0.3	1329	6.9	1940	0.3	Fri 17
18 Sat	0146	7.4	0808	0.3	1408	6.7	2019	0.4	Sat 18
19 Sun	0226	7.4	0852	0.5	1453	6.5	2104	0.6	Sun 19
20 Mon	0312	7.3	0942	0.7	1544	6.3	2154	0.9	Mon 20
21 Tue	0404	7.2	1040	0.9	1642	6.1	2250	1.1	Tue 21
22 Wed	0503	7.2	1149	0.9	1750	6.1	2356	1.2	Wed 22
23 Thu	0610	7.2	1322	0.7	1908	6.3			Thu 23
24 Fri	0113	1.0	0724	7.4	1444	0.3	2028	6.7	Fri 24
25 Sat	0239	0.6	0838	7.7	1542	-0.3	2130	7.3	Sat 25
26 Sun	0349	-0.1	0942	8.1	1633	-0.8	2221	7.8	Sun 26
27 Mon	0446	-0.6	1038	8.4	1720	-1.1	2309	8.3	Mon 27
28 Tue	0539	-1.1	1129	8.4	1806	-1.3	2355	8.5	Tue 28

MARCH 2006

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0629	-1.3	1218	8.3	1850	-1.3			Wed 01
02 Thu	0041	8.5	0720	-1.3	1308	8.0	1935	-1.0	Thu 02
03 Fri	0129	8.4	0813	-1.1	1400	7.6	2021	-0.6	Fri 03
04 Sat	0220	8.1	0910	-0.6	1457	7.1	2113	0.0	Sat 04



Tree Census, 2005-2006

The city of New York is in the midst of a massive undertaking. Once again it has enlisted the help of hundreds of volunteers throughout the five boroughs for the purposes of conducting a citywide tree census. The last census, completed in 1996, counted and catalogued 498,470 "street trees," a number that does not include park trees or those along parkways. Add those to the mix, and we would venture to guess that there are upwards of one million trees in New York City.

And who is responsible for them all? The Parks Department, of course. It is a responsibility that they don't take lightly, either. Although pruning and even tree removal are permitted, one may not do these things without filing the proper permits, not even in emergency situations; in fact, working on the city's trees without permits is illegal, punishable "by a fine not to exceed \$15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to a year." The permits are free, but they may take up to two weeks to obtain in order to give officials the opportunity to ensure that the proposed work is "desirable and safe."

Technically, a permit is required even to string lights on a city tree. Who would deny the desirability of such a thing? Certainly not anyone at the Parks Department—unless a blatant disregard for safe procedures were made manifest. What the

Parks Department really wants is to protect the city's trees from the whims of homeowners. In many cases, the homeowner has only the best of intentions, but all too often this is not the case. Whole trees have been known to disappear right here on City Island, and not so mysteriously either. Cutting a circle around a trunk that penetrates the bark may not look as drastic as cutting the tree down, but it is equally fatal.

If you are witness to a situation concerning one of the city's trees (your trees, when you stop and really think about it), call 311. Tell them what you know and they'll direct you from there.

One of the requirements for new buildings on City Island is that trees be planted along the sidewalk at 25-foot intervals, because the Department of City Planning believes that the presence of trees enhances the community. If you want to have a tree planted along the street in front of your house, the Parks Department will do the job for you; call Susan Strazzera at 718-885-2350 to apply for the tree.

Hidden among the trees of Pelham Bay Park are the deer. One spotter said he saw a four-pointed buck, and someone else saw a buck on the track alongside the City Island Road. Although these beautiful animals can't help but bring a smile to most faces, some are concerned for the plant life of the park. There is evidence that the native plant population has been declining rapidly over the years; and as the habitats change so too does the animal population.

On the other hand, a beaver has been a regular visitor to the Bronx River inside the Botanical Garden for quite a while now. Beaver, of course, are what kept the earliest Dutch settlers in our area hundreds of years ago. I guess this all goes to show that the more things change the more they stay the same.

As always, you can let us know what you think at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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Obituaries

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

Andy Sbare

Andy Sbare, a longtime resident of Earley Street, died on Dec. 19, 2005, at the age of 94.

Born in the Bronx as Armand Sbariscia, Andy came to City Island in 1929, when he was 18 years old, to rent a bungalow on Rochelle Street. By 1931 he was living here year round, at first in a boarding house on Rochelle and eventually in a house he designed and built for himself on Earley Street in 1953.

Andy married Islander Edith Kelly in 1945, who passed away in 1988.

His first job was installing heating devices for a firm in White Plains, but he and his brother, Anthony, soon opened Sbare Automatic Heating Inc., serving many customers in Westchester County. Just before World War II, Andy began work with the Robert Jacobs Shipyard on City Island, working as an assistant foreman and installing electrical systems on PT boats.

After the war he and his best friend, Harold Kroepke, opened a heating-and-plumbing store on City Island Avenue, next to the building that now houses Lazy Susan's. He also taught math and science, as well as training would-be electricians, at Samuel Gompers High School from 1951 to 1957. During the 1960s he gave up his shop on City Island and went to work for Savel Electric Corp. in White Plains, retiring in 1975.

Andy was a very active member of the City Island community. He was a charter member of the AARP 318 group and in 1994 became leader of the Island Seniors. He was also a member of the American Legion and an honorary member of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club.

A memorial service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2005.

Ronald Hellwinkel

Longtime City Islander Ron Hellwinkel

passed away on Dec. 9, 2005, at the age of 72.

Ron loved City Island and took full advantage of all it had to offer. He learned how to dive and sail on the Island, and when he wasn't fishing, diving or sailing, he was eating in one of the Island's fine restaurants.

As a New York City police officer, Ron may have been responsible for making Artie's such a famous hang-out for officers after a day at the shooting range. After retiring from the Police Department, he moved to New Port Richey, Florida, where he enjoyed playing bocce ball, fishing, boating or buying Lincolns. (At his wake in Florida, the sales manager of the local Lincoln dealership said that Ron had purchased 73 new Lincolns in a period of 15 years).

Ron is survived by his mother, Mabel; his brother, Martin, and Martin's wife, Marianne; Ron's wife, Dawn; his children Donna, Kim and Lorelei; his sons-in-law Thomas Costello and Stephan Karatka; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Ron was a great human being and will be sorely missed by anyone and everyone who knew him.

Herman (Hy) Cantor

Longtime City Island resident Herman (Hy) Cantor passed away on Nov. 30 after a short illness.

Born in Manhattan on Dec. 2, 1926, Hy moved to City Island when he married Bay Street's Connie Davis. During their 54-year marriage, they raised two children, Michael and Susan, and became the proud grandparents of Rachel, David, Leah and Joshua.

Hy will be lovingly remembered not only by his family but also by the many neighbors and friends whose lives he touched.

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

As you prepare for the upcoming tax season, you may find this brief rundown of 2006 tax changes useful.

- The adoption tax credit increases to \$10,960.
- The estate tax top rate drops to 46 percent and the estate tax exemption amount increases to \$2 million. The annual gift tax exclusion increases to \$12,000.
- The Section 179 maximum deduction increases to \$108,000, and the phase-out threshold increases to \$430,000.
- The 401(k) maximum salary deferral increases to \$15,000 (the 50 and older catch-up limit increases to \$5,000).
- The simple maximum salary deferral remains at \$10,000 but the 50 and older

catch-up increases to \$2,500.

- The IRA maximum contribution remains at \$4,000, but the 50 and older catch-up increases to \$1,000.
- The standard mileage rate for business driving changes to 44 cents a mile. The rate for medical and moving mileage changes to 18 cents a mile. The rate for charitable driving stays at 14 cents a mile.
- The Social Security taxable wage limit increases to \$94,200. Retirees under age 65 can earn up to \$12,480 without losing benefits.
- Health savings accounts (HSAs) allow taxpayers under age 65 with high-deductible health insurance to set aside pretax dollars that can be withdrawn tax-free for medical expenses. For 2005, the individual set-aside amount increases to \$2,700; the family amount increases to \$5,450. Those 55 or older can put an extra \$700 in an HSA.
- The kiddie tax threshold increases to \$1,700.
- The nanny tax threshold increases to \$1,500.
- Tax brackets, personal exemptions, and income limitations for various tax benefits increase because of IRS inflation adjustments.



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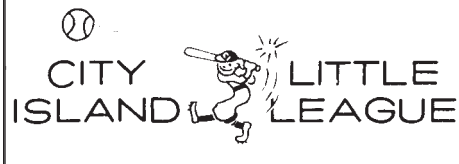
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We hope everyone enjoyed healthy and happy holidays. Although the weather is still pretty cold, it is time to start thinking about baseball. Yes, that's right, **baseball**.

We would first like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors. Each year local businesses donate money to sponsor our program, and their continuous support is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank all of our volunteers, particularly our board members, managers and coaches. Without them, there would be no City Island Little League. Last season was a great success and we are looking forward to 2006.

We are proud to announce that our Web

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site is up and running. The address is <http://teamz.active.com/cityisland/>. Take an opportunity to view the site. We will display updates and schedules on the site. You may also sign the guest book and post any comments or questions.

We now offer online registration through the Web site; just press "Link" if you are interested in registering. Every year we are inundated by last-minute registrants. Although we try not to turn anyone away, late registrants can often disrupt plans for the upcoming season. Please be considerate and register online by Feb. 15, 2006. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Children ages 5 to 6 are eligible for our instructional division or they can play in our tee-ball and tee-pitch division; the fee is \$60. Children 7 to 15 play in our minor, major, junior and senior divisions; the fee is \$150 for 7 to 12-year-olds and \$200 for 13 to 15-year-olds. A late fee of \$25.00 will be applied if you register after Feb. 15.

If anyone would like to volunteer or become a sponsor, we can be reached through the Web site or by e-mail. If you have any questions regarding registration, call Bob Whelan at 718-885-9296 or Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313.

We look forward to another great season of baseball here on City Island and hope to see you all at Ambrosini Field.

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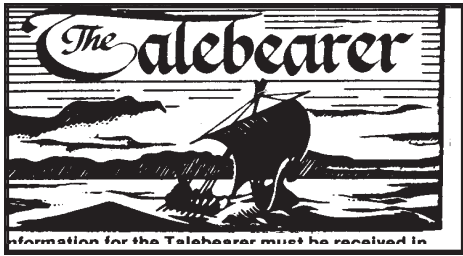
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Happy birthday on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio.

Best wishes to Nick Vaughan, who will celebrate his 18th birthday on Feb. 5.

Aloha and happy birthday on Feb. 6 to Mickey Moran in Hawaii from Bob, Mott and John.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Patrice and Rafael Ortega of "To Go Express" on the occasion of their 12th wedding anniversary on Jan. 29.

Belated happy 14th birthday on Jan. 2

to Alex Cebek, with love from your family.

And belated birthday greetings on Dec. 24 to little Benicio Hernandez with love from your family.

Best wishes to Lauren Comerico and Guy Miller, who became engaged on Jan. 9.

Congratulations to the *Island Current*, which begins its 35th year of publication. The annual party was held at the City Island Yacht Club on Jan. 7, and 30 members of the staff (past and present) attended. Editor Karen Nani recognized some longtime staff and contributors, including Stephanie Ribaud, Judy Rauh and Russell Schaller.

Belated happy birthday greetings on Jan. 9 to Hawkins Street's Bob Carmody, with love from your family.

Please note: *The Talebearer* welcomes news items from its readers and the community. There is never a fee so please send in your news to share!

Until next month, have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BROTHER ROBERT HARRIS

Iona Preparatory High School's annual "Mom Prom" was held on Nov. 3, 2005, at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle. Pictured above are Class of 2006 students from City Island and their mothers (l. to r.): Eddie and Kathy Ciarletta, Stephen and Colleen Pecoraro, Frankie and Cathy Cebek, Zack and Gayle Taffet, Nicholas and Helen Vaughan, and Stephen and Sandra Erosa. It was a very special evening for the seniors and their mothers.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Happy Anniversary *Island Current*! 2006 marks the beginning of the 35th year of publication of City Island's newspaper. The annual staff party was held on Jan. 7 at the City Island Yacht Club. Some of those on hand to celebrate were (l. to r.): Mary Lou Lachman, Judy Rauh, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Cheryl and Frank Koller, Karen Nani and Russell Schaller.

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