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One Dollar

Temple Beth-El Burglarized

By KAREN NANI



Photos by BOB BERENT

Temple Beth-El was burglarized and vandalized during January 2012. Shown above right are the congregants dancing with the Torah in happier times. The silver crowns shown atop the Torah were stolen during the burglary.

On Friday evening, Jan. 13, 2012, Bob Berent entered Temple Beth-El at 480 City Island Avenue to prepare for Shabbat service and discovered that two windows and three doors in the building had been broken and the premises vandalized. Instead of beginning the music-filled service that evening, congregants and clergy found themselves dealing with a police investigation.

According to Lieutenant Paul Trapani of the 45th Precinct, one or more unknown perpetrators forced entry into the temple at some point between Jan. 6 and 13 by smashing the basement windows. They then broke through the doors to the office and sanctuary. The most distressing aspect of the crime for the congregants was that the burglars broke into the Ark and stole a number of ritual objects, including four sterling-silver Torah crowns, two pointers and three Kiddush (wine) cups, all valued at \$10,000 and at least 50 years old.

"We lost the silver crowns on our Holocaust-era Torahs and our silver Kiddush cups," Rabbi Shohama told the City Island community in a letter sent to all the churches on Jan. 16. In addition to the structural damage, the vandals left the sanctuary a mess and damaged the sound system.

The police investigation is ongoing. Lt. Trapani told *The Current*, "Detectives dusted for fingerprints and the 45th Precinct's Conditions Unit has questioned some suspects with prior burglary arrests." He added that, at this time, "the crime is not deemed to be a hate crime," as there were no anti-Semitic writings or hate messages left at the scene. "However, if the perpetrators are found and arrested, they will receive a higher charge of burglary because it is a religious institution."

There have been a number of recent burglaries of places of worship of different denominations elsewhere in the 45th Precinct, in addition to Temple Beth-El. "The pattern of recent church or place of worship burglaries are possibly related and still under investigation in the 45th precinct. All locations had some type of forced entry or attempt," Community Affairs Officer Beato reported to *The Current*. These include the Greek American Institute at 3573 Bruckner Boulevard,

where a door was forced open and \$250 in cash was stolen (no religious items taken), and Our Lady of Assumption Church at 1634 Mahan Avenue, where perpetrators attempted to gain entry through an inner door.

Temple Beth-El's congregation is sad and angry but also recognizes that there have been more violent incidents recently around the area. "We weren't firebombed like the Temple Beth-El in Rutherford, New Jersey; nobody was hurt and our Torahs were unharmed," the Board of Trustees said in their letter to the community. They expect all of their scheduled services and events to continue without interruption (see *Temple Org News* in this issue).

Members of the Temple are trying hard not to dwell on their anger over the vandalism and are determined to move forward. Rabbi Shohama tried to put it in perspective: "We are a small but spirited congregation, attracting members from a wide area who seek our vibrant, innovative and joyful approach to Judaism. For all we do to keep our doors open to all, this crime violates us in ways that are shocking and deeply hurtful. Crime against any house of worship is a blow to all who care about holy community."

Temple Beth-El has been a part of the City Island community for over 75 years. They started with a small group of 17 men in 1934, when they met for prayers in a private home on Hawkins Street (then Orchard Street). As the group began to grow, they rented space on City Island Avenue. In 1942 the first Jewish school classes were held at Trinity Methodist Church, which opened their doors to them. Later that year, the expanding City Island Jewish community began fund-raising for the construction of a permanent home.

In 1947 the group purchased a small parcel of land, and the organization became known officially as Temple Beth-El. Then, in 1956, the dream became a reality and construction began on the building at 480 City Island Avenue. Temple Beth-El was officially dedicated in 1957 as a home for Jewish worship and education, and it has been the congregation's home ever since.

Response and support for the temple has been strong from the City Island community and beyond. The national blog-



ger Velveteen Rabbi (velveteenrabbi.blogs.com) posted the incident and raised almost \$1,000 so far toward the temple's new Restoration Fund.

Scott Meyer, senior warden at Grace Episcopal Church, told *The Current* that the Grace community was in shock when they heard of the burglary. "We hope that whoever did this realizes the enormity of the crime and returns the items to the temple. In the meantime, we give them our heartfelt support at this terrible time."

The parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, prayed for all members of Temple Beth-El at all the masses on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21 and 22. A special intention was inserted in the Prayer of the Faithful. Fr. Michael offered to be supportive of the temple in whatever is needed.

The coming weeks will be busy at

Temple Beth-El as the police investigation continues and donations come in and restoration work begins. Members of the Board of Trustees, including Reb David Markus and Reb Eva Sax-Bolder, echoed the feelings of Rabbi Shohama: "Let us re-dedicate our commitment to Our Shul by the Sea, to the cause of holy and joyful community, to building bridges to all who feel isolated or unsafe."

Because of the recent rash of break-ins and thefts at Bronx churches and synagogues, Senator Jeff Klein has introduced new legislation to stiffen penalties on thieves who target religious institutions. He announced this legislation at a meeting of local religious and community leaders on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Parish of Zoодоhос Peghe Greek Othodox Church, the location of one of the burglaries.

NAUTICAL MUSEUM BUILDING LANDMARKED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

P. S. 175, currently the home of the City Island Nautical Museum, as it appeared circa 1903.

The City Island Nautical Museum received a double dose of good news at the turn of the New Year, when it received an absolute charter from the New York State Board of Regents and when the building in which it is housed was designated a New York City Landmark.

Absolute Charter

After many years of having a provisional charter status with the New York State Board of Education, the museum, which is operated by the City Island His-

torical Society, was granted a permanent charter by the Board of Regents on January 11, 2012. New York State is unique in the United States because it considers its cultural agencies to be an integral part of its educational system and incorporates them under Education Law instead of under Corporation Law.

Although every other state views cultural agencies as nonprofit businesses, New York treats them as educational organi-

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1966 will celebrate its Birthday Bash (for alumni turning 60), on April 28, 2012, at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. For further information, call Anna at 201-476-1514 or e-mail AREilly52@aol.com.

THE 2012 CITY ISLAND REUNION: On Aug. 18, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., there will be another huge City Island reunion at Ambrosini Field. Come reunite and celebrate with friends and family, some you haven't seen in decades and some you saw here on Aug. 21, 2010, at the last fantastic reunion! Listen to live music by local bands, past and present! Admission is \$15 per person to cover expenses (tents, bandstand, Portapotties, permits, clean-up and miscellaneous). Kids 12 and under get in free. All proceeds will be donated to the City Island Boys and Girls Scouts, so even if you're not sure you can attend, please donate anyway. For more information, please call 760-805-5547, e-mail us at cityislandreunion@yahoo.com or visit the Facebook group: *The 2012 City Island Reunion*. Hope to see you there!

AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE will be offered by the City Island Sail & Power Squadron at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning March 6 at 7 p.m. Topics include fundamentals of safe boating, navigation rules and piloting techniques. The course material cost is \$75; instruction is free. For information, please contact Jim Duffy at 718-863-3855 (please do not call after 9 p.m.).

GRACE CHURCH SHROVE TUES. PANCAKE SUPPER: The supper will be held in the Grace Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street on Feb. 21, with two seatings, the first at 5 p.m., the second at 7 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person; the feast includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, and hot cross buns. All are welcome.

BLOOD DRIVE sponsored by the Bronx Masons will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, between the hours of 3:30 and 7:45 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. 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.

CITY ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION for the 2012 season will be held on the following dates. Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; and Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The registration will be held at American Legion, Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue. The fees are T-Ball, \$65 per child, Minors and Majors \$140 per child, and Juniors \$200 per child. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate when you register. If you would like to be a volunteer, please bring a photo copy of your driver's license. Anyone who signs up after Feb. 25 will be charged a \$25 late fee.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December and January. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 5 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 - PETIT LARCENY
- 4 - POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
- 2 - BURGLARY
- 1 - RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - FOUND PROPERTY
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
- 1 - PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Dec. 1, 2011, to Jan. 17, 2012.

12/1 - At 15 Ditmars Street, a complaint of criminal mischief was reported when the window of an Islander-owned parked vehicle was smashed.

12/8 - The automobile of an off-Islander was broken into at 11:30 a.m. on Bridge Street and City Island Avenue. Items were removed, including a handicapped placard, in an act of petit larceny.

12/9 - At 9 p.m., an Island resident noticed kids jumping on the hoods of parked vehicles on Carroll Street and William Avenue. The resident yelled for them to stop and followed them when they ran. One of the youths turned and hit the resident. Police are investigating the assault.

12/10 - Two reports of criminal mischief on Minneford Avenue were reported when the side mirrors of two parked vehicles were broken off during the overnight hours.

12/10 - At 11 p.m., a resident of Kilroe Street noticed an unknown person inside a neighbor's car, which had been left unlocked. The perpetrator removed coins and cards from the car in an act of petit larceny.

12/12 - The pilot of a plane landing at LaGuardia reported that an unknown person shined a laser beam into the cockpit of a Shuttle America jet in an act of reckless endangerment. The plane landed safely, and police were notified that the source of the beam was determined to be Centre Street on City Island.

12/26 - Items, including toys and clothing, were removed from the trunk of an unlocked car between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in an act of petit larceny.

12/29 - Police from the 45th Precinct made two drug-related arrests on Centre Street at 8:30 p.m. An Island male and an off-Island male were found trespassing on private property. When apprehended by

police, the suspects had drug contraband in their possession and were arrested.

12/29 - At 10:30 p.m. on City Island Avenue and Carroll Street, an Island male was arrested and charged with criminal possession of marijuana.

12/29 - An incident of criminal mischief was reported when the window of the Sugar and Spice bakery on City Island Avenue was broken during the overnight hours.

1/2 - A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle traveling off City Island at Schofield Street and City Island Avenue. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene when police arrived and was not intoxicated. The pedestrian, reportedly Islander Dominic Cassetta who is deaf, was taken to Jacobi hospital where he remained in critical condition as *The Current* went to press.

1/6 - A resident's car was broken into during the overnight hours. The rear window was smashed in an act of criminal mischief.

1/8 - Police arrested an Island male at 12:10 a.m. on Pell Place and charged him with obstructing governmental administration and criminal possession of a controlled substance. The driver, who was operating a vehicle in a reckless manner, was stopped, and a subsequent search revealed a controlled substance.

1/13 - At 280 City Island Avenue, a burglary was reported at Temple Beth-El. The basement window was smashed, an office vandalized and religious articles removed (see article this issue).

1/14 - At 11 p.m. on Tier Street, an Island female was arrested by police from the 45th Precinct Conditions Unit and charged with criminal possession of marijuana.

1/15 - At 187 City Island Avenue, a report of found property was made to police. A contractor cleaning a vacated apartment in the building found a handgun believed to be from the previous tenants who had been evicted.

1/17 - Police responded to a complaint that an off-Island male was trespassing in an unlocked apartment on Bridge Street where he was not invited. He was arrested and charged with burglary and intent to commit a crime.

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Photo courtesy of JAMES VACCA

On Dec. 28, 2011, Council Member James Vacca joined the staff and members of the City Island Senior Center to dedicate a brand-new van, made possible by \$42,000 in City Council capital funds allocated by Mr. Vacca. The new van will be used to enhance a variety of programs for local residents offered by the senior center, in addition to creating new opportunities for additional programming. As Mr. Vacca said, "The elderly and the disabled should have the same access to services and recreation as anyone else. This new van for the seniors of City Island is just the latest vehicle I have funded at local senior centers in order to get them where they want to go that much easier."

NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Continued from page 1

zations, and charters are granted as an instrument of incorporation to museums and historical societies that satisfy Regents standards of organizational and educational quality. These standards are consistent with professionally accepted principles and practices as adopted by the American Association of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History. As the Board of Regents acknowledges, "To achieve them usually takes a period of development. For that reason chartering is a two-step process, from provisional to absolute. If an organization has a record of financial stability, programmatic accomplishment and a well-founded reputation for excellence, it is usually successful in meeting the requirements of registration."

Landmark Designation

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of the building at 190 Fordham Street, the Landmarks Preservation Commission agreed in December 2011 that Public School 102 (later Public School 17, The City Island School) has "a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City."

The school was constructed in 1897-98 and served as the community's only school until 1931. The architect of the Georgian Revival style brick-clad building was C.B.J. Snyder, Superintendent of School Buildings for New York City from 1891 until 1923. This is one of Snyder's few surviving school designs in this style, which is suitable for the relatively large lot size, in contrast to the constricted building lots in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Public School 102 was renumbered Public School 17 in 1903 and was designated as The City Island School in 1916; it was expanded in 1929-30 to meet the needs of a growing population and was replaced in 1975 by P.S. 175. The original school building was then used by various community groups, including the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center, both of which are still housed there.

In 1984 the structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The city sold the property in 1988 for \$500,000 to the 190 Fordham Street Realty Corp.,

with a covenant stipulating that 50 percent of the older portion of the building be used for "not-for-profit, City Island related, museum and community center uses." Part of the 1890s school building and the entire 1929-30 addition were turned into 16 apartments, and in 2000 received official status as the Nautical Winds Condominium. In 2007 the front portion of the original school, including the entrance and portico, was damaged by fire; the portico and entrance were re-created in 2008 by architect Kaisen Woo, in part with a grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum and the Community Center still occupy part of the original building. As Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney put it: "This handsome school played an important role in the development of City Island at the beginning of the 20th century and remains a significant reminder of its earliest days as part of the City of New York."

As the Landmarks Commission noted at its hearing, "despite the painting of the red brick cladding, loss of the historic entrance and portico by fire in 2007 (since re-created), the removal of the original cupola, and the addition of side dormers, Public School 102 remains a rare example of Snyder's use of the Georgian Revival style, is one of the few small community schools by Snyder that is extant, and is an important reminder of the period of this community's consolidation into the City of New York."

For these reasons, the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate the building as a landmark. The designation consists of the original 1897-98 portion of the school building, as well as the adjacent western and eastern yards and the northern front yard, which contains the entrance to the museum.

Those who would like further information about the history of the building and the landmarking process may visit the following websites: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/2487.pdf> http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/11-14_five_landmarks.pdf.

It is hoped that the Nautical Winds Condominium will be able to restore some of the original features of the building. The Nautical Museum is already gearing up for a fund-raising campaign to rebuild the front steps, which have deteriorated over the years, and the Landmarks Commission has already expressed preliminary support for such a project.

LIBRARY BAR UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Last July police from the 45th Precinct and attorneys from the city's Legal Bureau closed the Library Bar and Grill at 316 City Island Avenue. The owner, Gerard Pirraglia, was served with a nuisance abatement for violations that included serving alcohol to minors, according to the police precinct. The establishment, which is operated by Gerard Pirraglia, had been under investigation since 2010, according to Captain Russell Green, commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. It became a high priority after the horrible car accident on Nov. 13, in which Island teenager Emily Sexton was severely injured by Peter Wolfman, 41, whose pick-up truck pinned her against a wall after he left the bar. He was subsequently sentenced to 1.3 to 4 years in prison for vehicular assault.

The city's legal department subsequently sued the bar for \$2,000 in fines, on the grounds that the sales were made in a "business as usual manner," and called the Library Bar a "public nuisance." The bar's liquor license was revoked by the State Liquor Authority in September. Community Board 10 then received a notice that an

application for a new license had been filed by the owner of the bar and held a meeting at which the owner was invited to address various issues regarding the business. He failed to attend the meeting, however, and the Community Board, according to district manager Kenneth Kearns, strongly recommended that the license not be renewed.

State Senator Jeff Klein's office joined Community Board officials and Emily Sexton's family in requesting that the SLA deny the latest application. As of press time, there were no pending applications, and it appears that the bar is closed for good.

"I am pleased that the City Island Community was heard loud and clear by this applicant," Senator Jeff Klein told *The Current*. "We have had many problems in the larger area with problem night life establishments, and my hope is this sends a message to all operators that they need to be compliant to the letter of the law. I'd also like to thank Captain Green, who was instrumental in getting this establishment closed down."

Adolfo Carrión Fined

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Adolfo Carrión's house on City Island Avenue.

Island resident and former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión recently agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine for having broken a city rule in employing an architect to design a porch on his house on City Island while the architect was involved with several projects in the Bronx that required the Borough President's support.

Although *The Daily News* first disclosed this arrangement with the architect, Hugo Subotovsky, in March 2009, more than two years after the fact, investigations by the city and the Bronx District Attorney found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing. But the city's Conflicts of Interest Board used the investigation to work out a disposition with Mr. Carrión in which he admitted breaking city rules and agreed to pay the fine.

He admitted he learned of Subotovsky by asking a local developer, Peter Fine, to recommend an architect for work on the

house, which he had recently purchased. Mr. Fine's projects frequently required Mr. Carrión's support, but he said he was unaware that the architect was involved in a project then seeking his approval.

"As a city official, I was charged with exercising reasonable care in ascertaining the relevant facts, about which I should have known, that could create a conflict of interest," Mr. Carrión said in the disposition, according to *The Daily News*. In a separate statement, he said: "The settlement shows that the Conflicts of Interest Board found a technical violation. I did not intend to gain any benefit or avoid my obligations. I am glad this is now behind me and I can continue my life's work of building smart and sustainable communities."

Mr. Carrión is currently Regional Administrator in the New York area for the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (see letter this issue).

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Fair Winds or Foul an editorial column

Fair Winds to those who keep City Island beautiful. Although the economy has taken its toll on City Island, as it has everywhere else, many residents chose to take the high road by decorating their houses and yards with bright and fanciful holiday decorations. Although we can always count on the house at 320 King Avenue for festive décor no matter what the holiday, several newcomers were notable, especially on the south side of Tier Street between City Island and William Avenues. Another nicely decorated house was at 430 City Island Avenue, where the residents have already put up their decorations for Valentine's Day. As one resident put it, "It's so nice to see such beauty and spirit in our many beautiful homes here on our Island. Can't wait for the next holiday. Bring on Easter!"

Foul Winds to those owners who allow their properties to deteriorate and become real eyesores, such as the building at 135 City Island Avenue, the yard at 414 City Island Avenue, and the vacant property at the northwest corner of Tier Street and William Avenue.

Foul Winds: Every few years, City Island suffers at the hands of some bad apples, most of them high school students who tend to drink too much, use drugs and vandalize the property of other Islanders. The apple crop this year is particularly obnoxious, because they have been trespassing in large groups, blatantly using illegal substances in public, making a lot of noise, breaking into buildings and being nasty to other Island residents, as if they were daring the authorities to take notice. The police have made a strong effort to monitor and control the situation, but of course the kids are fast-moving, and most residents are reluctant to get involved because they fear retaliation.

Many of the kids know that their parents, who have clearly lost control, will nevertheless defend them against anyone else who tries to control them, and in the meantime, the rest of us suffer with cars that are keyed or otherwise damaged, with graffiti everywhere we look, with noise late at night, with broken windows, and—perhaps most seriously—with actual violence against other Islanders. We have heard at least two reports of young people attacking others with sticks or their fists, as if bad language was no longer threatening enough.

This is not acceptable. Although we know that most Island teens are good citizens, providing community service and adding much to the quality of life here on City Island, we must try to pick out the bad apples and throw them to authorities that know what to do with them. After all, they will only get older and more dangerous.

Anonymous calls can be made to 911 for any suspicious activity and to 311 for reporting damage after the fact. Do not be afraid to give names to the police, but don't take unnecessary risks, such as filming a suspicious act unless you know you cannot be seen. City Island has traditionally been a peaceful, peace-loving community, but it is at risk of losing that reputation. And this time we can't hold off-Islanders responsible. We have only ourselves to blame.



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.

It Can't Happen Here

To the Editor:

Last night, I was walking home along City Island Avenue, about 6:30 pm, when I witnessed four young teenage boys—all of them overweight and white—run into On Board Laundromat and then run back out. "Asian Bitch," one of them yelled at the proprietress, whom I have always known only as Suzy. She had had the courage to chase them off. As they ran down the street, I asked her if she was all right. She had been alone in the store. She said, "Not in 16 years has anything like that ever happened. And I know their parents." I was shocked.

A relative newcomer to City Island, I have lived on Carroll Street since 1999. I am proud to call City Island my home, and I am grateful for the relative quietude and harmony that prevail here, and for the closeness we have to nature. I am also pleased to have come to City Island at a time when it was gradually becoming more diverse in its population.

We cannot allow an atmosphere of intimidation, intolerance and divisiveness to

poison our community. We must be vigilant, and when City Island's children act up, we need to call them out and hold them accountable.

Melissa De Medeiors

Anne Hutchinson Year Thanks

To the Editor

This letter is to thank all of you who helped make the Anne Hutchinson Year a success. You created a historic first for the Bronx and nearby towns by honoring our important pioneer foremother during the 420th anniversary of her birth.

Right here on City Island, heartfelt thanks go to our Library, the Community Center, PSS Senior Programs at Pilot Cove and at Grace Church, Bistro SK, *The Island Current*, the *images.me* website, Temple Beth-El, Grace Episcopal Church, Artie's Restaurant and IGA Catering. And there just aren't enough words to thank you, Violet Smith, for the invaluable help you gave every step of the way.

Additional thanks go to the following: Bronx County Historical Society Museum for your superb exhibition and lecture; Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum's over-the-top Anne Hutchinson Festival; Philipse Manor Hall, State Historic Site in Yonkers and the LIRIC program at Iona College for outstanding presentations; two Anne Hutchinson schools, in Eastchester and in the Bronx (PS 78), for your fantastic assemblies and related projects; Ken Kearns, District Manager of Community Board 10; the Bronx Arts Ensemble and City Council Member James Vacca for arranging music selections in tribute to Anne at your Summer Concerts in the Parks.

Thank you, Governor Cuomo, Sena-

tor Jeff Klein, Assemblyman Benedetto, and Representative Crowley for your Anne Hutchinson Year proclamations; Borough President Diaz for the Bronx Week Trolley Tour of Anne Hutchinson sites; former Island resident and author Katherine Kirkpatrick for donations of your book "Trouble's Daughter"; the Bronx River Alliance and HRRP for AHY boating and clean-up events on the Hutch; Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan and historian Tom Vasti for your absorbing lectures at several different venues; Susan Hoetzel, Director of Lehman College Art Gallery; Melinda Hunt, Director of the Hart Island Project "Picture the Homeless"; City Island's Annual Women's Herstory Month Celebration; and the Memorial United Methodist Church of White Plains for hosting meaningful AHY programs.

A contribution from Assemblyman Benedetto was instrumental in getting the project started, and another from John and Mary Rapaport of New Rochelle helped us end in the black. The project also received enormous support all year from Pelham Bay Park Administrator Marianne Anderson and her staff, including the hosting of several AHY events. Especially thrilling was the ceremony planting a Roxbury russet apple tree in Anne's memory, a species that grew in the early Boston colony. The tree is growing on the grounds of Bartow-Pell, where it can be enjoyed by all at no cost.

Many thanks to Islanders Grace Nicoletti, Eleanor Rae, and Violet Smith for authentically impersonating Mistress Hutchinson, costume and all. My appreciation also goes to volunteers Dr. Beryl Dorsett, Carole Avitabile, Dr. Bernice Cosey-Pulley, Cheryl Berent, Gail Hitt and Pat Grondahl.

My very special thanks to Vershall Wigfall and Gary Makufka at the City Island Library for your programs and continuing assistance, and to Bill Tuomy, Tom Casey, Tom Vasti, Cathy McChesney and the East Bronx History Forum for your ongoing support and for hosting Hutchinson activities, especially Casey's marvelous walking tour of areas where she most likely would have lived; Ellen Bruzelius, Executive Director of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum; Bill Scribner, Director of the Bronx Arts Ensemble; former City Council Member Madeline Provenzano; David Osborn of St. Paul's National Historic Site; Supervisor Jessica Carrero and the Bronx Urban Park Rangers; John Wright, Director of New Rochelle's Thomas Paine Cottage; Laura Chmielewski, Assistant History Professor, SUNY Purchase; and Valerie DeBrule of Newport, Rhode Island, President of the Friends of Anne Hutchinson. All of you added immeasurably to the understanding and appreciation of our early colonial history and of the Hutchinson saga.

Special thanks must also go to the Bronx Times Reporter for your extensive coverage and photographs. We appreciate, too, coverage from Bronx 360, the New York Daily News, the Co-Op City Times, White Plains Journal News and Bronx 12.

As you can see, the outpourings of interest and support from so many and varied sources were and are indeed amazing. Each and every one of you who came to events or were otherwise involved played a major role in making it all happen, and you have my deepest personal thanks. I am humbly grateful for having been able to do this work. It has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you.

Toby Liederman
Anne Hutchinson Year Coordinator

Looking for the Cochran Cemetery

To the Editor:

The Cochran part of my family used to live on City Island. My great-grandmother Hannah Elizabeth (Cochran) Arnow and her family attended Grace Episcopal Church many years ago.

The Cochrans were a large family, and I believe that there are still a few Cochran descendants living on City Island. My great-great-grandfather William W. Cochran operated his shoe and boot shop just north of Hawkins park in the pink house next to Lickety Split (the old Ford Boat Agency). I have the documents that show he purchased the land and a list of the people who are buried there.

I am eager to find out if anyone remembers Hawkins Park before the major renovation that was done in 1999. Back in the late 1970s, the park area was grassed over and had a few picnic tables. In the back corner to the left was a small obelisk monument, which had a low chain link fence around it about a foot high. The monument stood about three or four feet high and had three sets of names inscribed on it: Hannah and Herman Arnow, William and Adeline Cochran and John and Hannah Martin.

The last time I visited the park, in 2006, the monument was missing. Norma Duryea Larsen, a third cousin who ran a restaurant at the end of Main Street (now City Island Avenue), had pointed out the monument to me in 1979. I had seen it a number of times after that, the last time in 1999. If anyone remembers that monument, please contact me at Hugenot10@sbcglobal.net. I would like to know what happened to it and where it was taken away. Thanks.

Jon Arnow

Part of the Solution

To the Editor:

I am writing to share with you the incredible generosity that Part of the Solution (POTS), a social services agency in the Bronx that addresses low-income people's most immediate, basic needs, has been shown by St. Mary Star of the Sea parish in City Island this holiday season.

Father Michael Challinor, Jane La Scala and many other St. Mary Star of the Sea parishioners participate every year in a Holiday Gift and Toy Drive for POTS. Because of their kindness, nine families were "adopted" for Christmas. They received everything from clothing and toys to household items, including beds, bedding, towels and even pots and pans. In addition, St. Mary's helped make it possible for POTS to accomplish the following:

- On Sunday, Dec. 18, POTS held our annual Santa Land party during which 175 families received a professionally printed 5x7 photo with Santa while enjoying cookies and cocoa, and over 500 kids received gifts.

Continued on page 6

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Photo by GARY MAKUFKA

On Jan. 6, 2012, the ASPCA sent a spay-neuter van to City Island, where it parked in front of the library from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Yolanda Cirulli (at left) arranged for the van, and Lia Albo and her dog Tilly were among the residents who took advantage of the program.

Five Horrific Dresses

by MARY MCINTYRE

Every woman who has ever been asked to be a bridesmaid has hoped that the bride would choose a dress she could wear at least one more time, only to have that hope dashed on the day she went with the bride to choose “the dress.”

In the City Island Theater Group’s production of Alan Ball’s “Five Women Wearing The Same Dress,” each of the bridesmaids escapes from an ostentatious wedding reception to the bedroom of the bride’s sister and finds that they have a few things in common other than their horrific dresses. Although at one time they were all connected to the bride, Tracy, none of them now understands why they are in her wedding. It turns out that one other small detail they share is that each of them has a romantic history with the unscrupulous Tommy Valentine, who also happens to be at the wedding.

The five bridesmaids all share a general disdain for the bride, who is described as “a Macy’s day float” in her wedding gown, but they are all very different from each other: the religious zealot, the lesbian, the rebel, the heartbroken girl and the “experienced” woman. Wearing the bridesmaids’ dresses will be some of City Island’s favorites: Emily Bendler, Christina Drake, Maureen

Fleming, Elizabeth Paldino and Susan Rauh. Donning the tux for the only male role in the play will be CITG veteran Steven Bendler.

The play is directed by Maria Provenzano and will be stage managed by Fiorella DeLima. When asked about the challenge of costuming the show, Carol McCabe, costume mistress, said: “Before every show I wonder about the bodies I will have fun dressing. At least for this one I do not have to worry about what they will wear. Horrific dresses. All of them.”

The script of the play was written by Alan Ball of “Six Feet Under” fame; he was also the screenwriter and co-producer of “American Beauty.”

CITG is also offering a fun night “package” for any bride and her bridal party who calls and makes reservations to attend the play together. The package includes one free ticket for the bride, one bottle of champagne, reserved seating, a picture of the bridal party with the cast and special recognition at the performance.

The theater group’s performances will be on March 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. and March 4 at 3 p.m. in Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For reservations, please call 718 885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Islander Wins Recipe Contest

By KAREN NANI



Roy Jansson

Clam digger Roy Jansson loves to cook and especially enjoys making some of his mother’s old German recipes. So when The Daily News posted a recipe contest last November, Roy submitted a Thanksgiving family favorite, Sweet and Savory Turkey Delight. His holiday wish came true—he won the grand prize of a \$1,000 Fairway gift card and a three-piece kitchen appliance set courtesy of EBA Appliance.

Roy, who is 76, came to City Island “with the trolley cars” after being born at Westchester Square Hospital. His father was a boat captain, and his grandfather was a caretaker at Trinity Methodist Church. Over the years, he has lived in different locations on and off the Island.

His German mother, who passed away when she was 90, taught him how to cook at a young age. “She said, ‘when you leave the house you should never starve, you should know how to cook,’” he told The Daily News in an article that appeared on Dec. 1, 2011. He took her advice and became proficient in the kitchen and on the dance floor as well. He met his wife, Livia, while ballroom dancing at Phillips Dance Studio, and they have been married for 38 years.

They have three children, including a daughter who lives in Connecticut. Roy shared a family joke with *The Current* that “my children are ‘Swedericans.’ Their mother was born in Puerto Rico and my family comes from Sweden and Germany.” Roy served his famous turkey recipe at his daughter’s house the Saturday after Thanksgiving because he had to work on the holiday. Roy is a doorman at a building on 55th Street in Manhattan.

The recipe here garnered him the top

prize because, he believes, “they were looking for something different from the usual turkey recipes.” He is enjoying shopping with his Fairway gift card, and he gave the new appliances (refrigerator, stove and dishwasher) to his daughter. He also shops at IGA on City Island, which is most convenient since he lives in an apartment in the same building.

So here is the winning recipe with some extra pointers from Island chef Roy!

Grand Prize Winner: Sweet and Savory Turkey Delight (Serves 6)

- 1 box Stove Top stuffing, turkey or herb flavor
- 2 cups turkey or chicken stock
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1 cup golden raisins

Cook the Stove Top stuffing according to the instructions on the box, using 1 cup of the stock. When stuffing is done, let cool for about half an hour and add the chopped walnuts and golden raisins.

- 1 oven roasting bag
- ¼ cup corn flour or baking flour (to coat inside of oven bag)
- 1 9 to 10 pound Butterball turkey
- 4 green apples, scored
- 4 green pears, scored
- 4 navel oranges, scored
- Seasonings of your choice
- 1 jar duck sauce glaze
- 1 quart cranberries or currants or lingonberries

Defrost the turkey as directed and remove the giblets. Wash the turkey with cold salted water, and pat dry with paper towels. Season with salt, pepper and your choice of herbs and seasonings. Use flour to coat inside of the roasting bag. Place turkey in roasting bag and add the other cup of stock. Add the apples, pears, oranges and cranberries. Put the stuffing inside the turkey and make a few small slits in the bag. Cover loosely with aluminum foil over the top of the bag.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cook about 4 to 4 ½ hours in a roasting pan until the turkey popper comes up. Take out of oven, being careful not to spill. Slit roasting bag carefully to release the steam. Coat the turkey with duck sauce glaze and cook for 30 minutes more at 350 degrees. Take out of oven, carve and enjoy.

Put the whole scored fruits aside and keep them warm. Cut them up and serve over ice cream for dessert.



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, and again during the week of Jan. 9, the television show “Unforgettable” shot several scenes on City Island. The first day involved interior shots at Burck’s marine supply store at 526 City Island Avenue. During the following week, two days were spent filming at the Island Boat Club, and another day was spent at the Lobster Box. The star of the show, Poppy Montgomery, was filmed in two boats at the Island Boat Club, one of them belonging to owner Bill Steiniger. For some reason, the show felt the need to import a sailboat from New Jersey for filming, although there were plenty to choose from right here on the Island! Islander Capt. Mike Carew, pictured here with Poppy Montgomery, was on hand in case any members of the crew tumbled into the water.

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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.

“Water, Water, everywhere...” a photography show by Islander Jane Protzman, will be held at the Mamaroneck Public Library in March. The show presents framed photographs from her recently published book, “Water, Water everywhere.” (reviewed in *The Current* in October 2011. The opening reception will be on Saturday, March 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. The library is located at 136 Prospect Avenue in Mamaroneck. The show will be in place until March 31 and can be seen when the library is open: Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 6, Friday and Saturday from 10 to 5, and Sunday from 1 to



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The Uptown Coffee House recently relocated from Riverdale to City Island and will hold its music events at the City Island Community Center. Their debut concert was performed by singer/songwriter Diana Jones on Jan. 15. The next concert will be Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. and will feature the duo Left on Red. Tickets are \$15; more information can be found at www.uptowncoffeehouse.org.

4:30.

The Uptown Coffeehouse presents Left on Red on Sunday, February 12, at 6 pm, at our new address: City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, lower level, City Island, NY 10464, (718) 885-2955. Admission is \$15.00, children under 12, \$5.00. Bronx Cultural cards are accepted.

Left on Red, whose name means simply taking your own direction, is an edgy and entertaining duo consisting of Liah Alonso and Kelly Halloran. The group started three years ago when Liah and Kelly decided to make their living exclusively through busking, playing their music, in the New York Subways. Since that time Liah on guitar and Kelly on violin, guitar, vocals and drums, have recorded 2 EPs, had their music played on over 150 non-commercial and college radio stations, and performed at clubs, coffeehouses, and festivals in the US, Canada, and Europe.

Using both intelligence and humor Left on Red deliver songs that are socially relevant in today’s world. “Shop” addresses America’s addiction to retail, while “High Heel Blues” sings of the pain of being fashionable. “Jack and Jill” – their first single – tells what its like to grow up not fitting the stereotype of age and gender.

Kelly and Liah do not just sing about the important issues in today’s society. As members of Musicians On Call they bring their music to those who would otherwise not get to hear live music. Whether playing at nursing homes, bedsides of hospital patients, or at YMCA shelters, Left On red bring a passion to their unique and original songs.

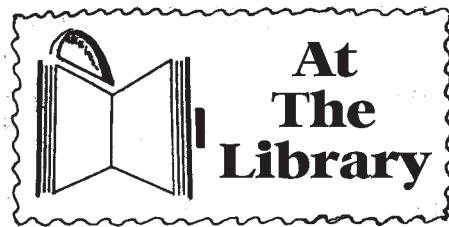
The Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, will open “The Meaning of Love,” an art exhibition, on Feb. 3, with an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. The exhibition will be on view until Feb. 29.

Bistro SK (273 City Island Avenue) will host a wine tasting on Friday, Feb. 3, starting at 5 p.m. Cold cuts and cheese will be served along with some delicious wines from Rutini vineyards, one of the oldest wineries in Argentina, which Stefan recently vis-

ited. The wine tasting will be conducted by Rutini’s export manager Alejandro Camus and their brand manager Ariel Menniti and will include Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec-Syrah and Pinot Noir. The cost will be \$15 per person. For more information, call 718-885-1670.

There will also be a special menu for Valentine’s Day.

In the month that the **Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) celebrates eight years of bringing live music to City Island, we’ve got a lineup that includes a variety of sweet sounds. It’s a Saturday Night Blues Party that starts on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. with Bennett Harris. A jazzy-edged duo performance is “on the menu” for Friday, Feb. 17, as Jon and Lynn take the stage at 8 p.m. Songwriters are plentiful as well: Carolann Solebello (Friday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m.), Fred Gillen Jr. with Eric Puento (Saturday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.) and the Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick (Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.). On Sunday, Feb. 19, at 3 p.m. it’s an “afternoon delight” with City Island’s Freddie “Flip” Lando, and look for City Island’s own Gerard “Skip” Giacco singing the standards, with Lou Volpe on guitar, on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. For a complete schedule, please visit www.starvingartistonline.com. And thanks to all on City Island for the great support!



City Island Branch Library Events for January 2012

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

February Children’s Programs

Lapsit Program: Thursday, Feb. 9 and 23, at 11 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Thursday, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Toddler Time: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 14 and 28; Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. 18 months to 3 years.

Valentine’s Day Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 3:30 p.m. All ages.

Special Program: “Treasures of the Heart,” multicultural stories. Monday, Feb. 13, at 4 p.m.

February Young Adult Programs

Board Games: Every Monday at 3:30 p.m.

NEW! Music Video Choice: Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

“Yu-Gi-Oh”: Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Game On: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Tweens and Teen Lounge: Every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Special Event! Money Matters: College planning and financial aid. Saturday, Feb. 11, at 12 noon. Don’t miss this program!

We may screen a movie for teens this month. Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for further details.

February Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please register in advance.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please register in advance. It is highly recommended that you bring a flash drive to save your work. Introduction to Facebook: Find lost friends, make new ones. Friday, Feb. 3 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Special Event: Lecture: Professor Victor Mastro presents the history of the Super Bowl and connections to the Bronx. Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m.

Saturday Films: Jazz movies, “The Birth of Jazz,” a musical featuring Louis

Armstrong and Billy Holiday (1947, UA) on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. “The Charlie Parker Story,” a drama starring Forrest Whitaker (1988, WB) on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m.; “Dexter Gordon in Paris,” a drama with Herbie Hancock, John McLaughlin, Wayne Shorter, Ron Carter, Tony Williams, Freddie Hubbard, Cedar Walton, Bobby Hutchinson and more. (1986, WB) on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

We have good news for City Island and surrounding communities. For the



The POTS program was grateful to St. Mary Star of the Sea for collecting donations of clothing and food during the holiday season.

BOX 6

Continued from page 4

- Another 100 children have also received a gift of their choosing from a Dear Santa letter program.

- Everyone who ate in our Dining Room on Christmas eve received a wrapped gift (hat, scarf, gloves).

- Finally, an additional 100 families “shopped” at POTS’ first official Holiday Store, where we distributed all remaining toys, along with pajamas and books on Friday, Dec. 23.

Our agency’s mission is to be a loving community that nourishes the basic needs and hungers of all who come through our door and St. Mary Star of the Sea has certainly helped us with that. We thank them for the generosity they have shown to the POTS community throughout the years. All of us at POTS greatly appreciate their support; none of our work is possible without the help of people like them. It’s really incredible to be a part of this and to witness firsthand the generosity of our amazing donors during the holiday season.

Thank you once again for brightening the holidays for your neighbors in need and for being “part of the solution.” Happy holidays to you and yours!

Kimberly Roginski
Volunteer and Development
Coordinator

Thanks

To the Editor:

February marks three years since I joined the Obama administration. It has been a privilege and an extraordinary opportunity to work with folks who are deeply committed to our country’s future. On Feb. 10, I will be ending my tenure with the federal government to pursue exciting projects in the private sector and to continue my political activism and help reelect President Obama.

I am grateful to the President for the opportunity to serve in his administration. As you know, I started at the White House serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs. Our work resulted in the establishment of a White House Urban Policy Working Group and the first comprehensive interagency review in 30 years of federal government approaches and funding in urban and metropolitan areas. I’m proud to have worked with my colleagues in the White House and our federal agency partners to advance a 21st century urban/metro agenda for America.

Our work in the White House launched a set of policies and initiatives that aligned the

first time, the NYPL can now screen the most recent DVD releases. We can screen films based on books or special topics. It will be as if your local movie theater had reopened after 35 years. Come on in and check us out. Here’s the best part: all the films are free! Please check our flyers for any additional programs, cancellations, or last-minute changes for February 2012. We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

work of federal agencies to offer place-based competitive opportunities for stakeholders throughout the country. These include, among many others, Regional Planning and Sustainability Grants, Promise Neighborhoods, Choice Neighborhoods, the Inter-agency Partnership on Sustainable Communities, the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, the Strong Cities/Strong Communities Fellowship to assist troubled cities, a coordinated effort to end veterans’ homelessness, and a proposal to Congress for a National Infrastructure Bank included in the American Jobs Act.

I am deeply grateful to my friend Shaun Donovan, HUD Secretary, for inviting me to join him and the great team he was assembling, to help implement these initiatives at the local level. I was very happy to be able to do this front-lines work back home in New York City.

Here, in the region, I’ve had the honor of working with so many of you who are committed to our shared mission of building competitive, sustainable and opportunity-rich communities. I look forward to our continued collaboration as I launch a new private sector venture called Metro Futures LLC. This entity will be dedicated to accelerating investment in infrastructure, housing and smart metropolitan growth. Stay tuned for further news on my upcoming activities in this arena.

Thank you to all for your kindness and friendship.

Adolfo Carrión Jr.

Continued on page 9



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
36 Deepwater Way	11/08/11	\$440,000	condo
158 Hawkins Street	11/10/11	\$240,000	1 family
73 Hawkins Street	11/11/11	\$288,620	2 family
82 Tier Street	11/17/11	\$350,000	1 family
13 Deepwater Way	11/21/11	\$410,000	Condo

UNSEASONABLY MILD MEMORIES



Photos by BOB BERENT, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and PAUL NANI

Above average temperatures and lack of snow kept the 2011 holiday season calm and bright. The children of Trinity Methodist Church did a wonderful job telling a packed congregation the Christmas story at their Christmas pageant (top photo at left), featuring Jessica Melicharek, George Melicharek, Grace Kretzmer, Simone Karibian, Olivia and Violet Chadwick, Marc and Lilliana Browning, Ryan and Tyler Gustas, and Laci Howard, Gwen Boyle and Ben Chadwick. At Grace Church (bottom photo at left), the Christmas Eve service began with a concert from the enthusiastic choir (bottom photo left, front row, l. to r.): Sandra Boer, Caroline Coppola (music director), Lyla Lorraine MacDonald and Joanne Brogan; (back row): Fred Lando, Luis Pesante and Karen Nani (not pictured: Evyonne Baker, Lucy Brown). The top two photos at the right show the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah in Hawkins Park on Dec. 20 by members and friends of Temple Beth-El. The youthful sounds of Christmas could be joyously heard at St. Mary's annual Ceremony of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 18, led by organist Ken Farnum (third photo at right). Three Islanders helped make the season bright at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum (bottom right photo): Amanda and Tanya Kraemer and Barbara Dennis (center).



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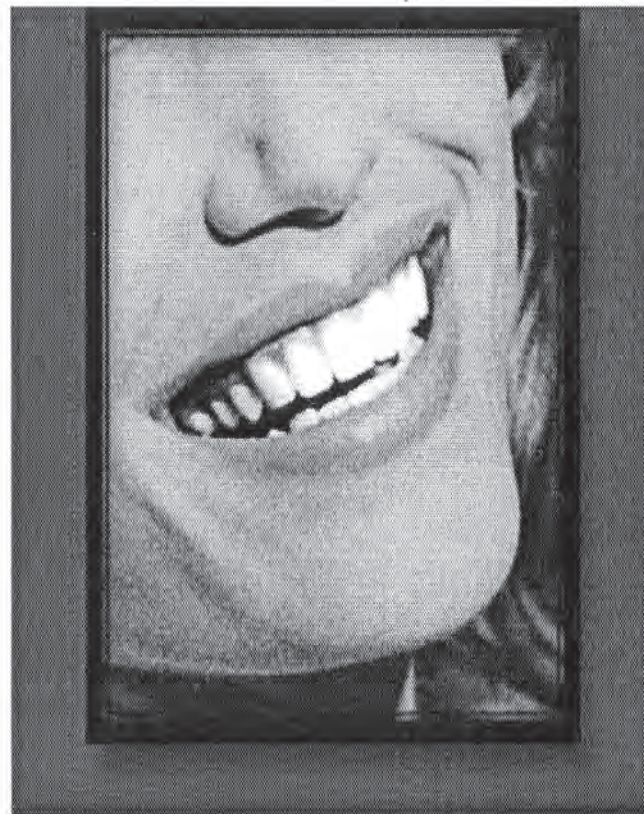
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SAILING LIFE ON CITY ISLAND

By JOYCE MULCAHY

Shel Kimen came to City Island not long ago simply because she liked the water. Several years later, and a relative novice at sailing, she found herself traveling one of the most treacherous journeys there is—through the Northwest Passage.

When Shel first arrived on City Island, she decided to give sailing a try and began racing in the EBYRA (Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association) Wednesday night races aboard the 25-foot C&C *John Gault*. Her exuberance shines through as she explains: “When I first set foot on a sailboat, I thought, I know why I came to City Island. To learn how to sail!” She also joined the Harlem Yacht Club and later the Morris Yacht & Beach Club.

Only a few years later with no long-distance ocean races on her resume and only a few occasional overnight trips, she signed up for a SIM (Sea, Ice, Mountain) expedition, and last summer she traveled part of the Northwest passage for 10 weeks on a 68-foot aluminum Reinke ketch, the *Santa Maria Australis*. During that time she braved 30-knot gales, and at times she and the crew found themselves surrounded by large ice floes typical of Greenland and Alaska.

While on her journey through Greenland, Canada and Alaska, she took part in watches, which were typically 90 minutes long, with two crew at one time. During the first gale, the watches went down to 30 minutes. The wind blew hard against the sails, and there was no heave-to to be had, as ice was also an issue. The first time she experienced steering the boat in a storm, she felt relatively inexperienced

and had doubts. “Turns out I could do it! You actually get into a rhythm when in a storm with the wind and the waves.”

The SIM expedition from Cape Horn to Cape Horn began in March 2010, and Captain Wolf Kloss hopes to break a record and complete the expedition in 10 months’ time. The *Santa Maria Australis* is only about the 47th sailboat to travel the Northwest Passage. According to the SIM website, the organization seeks to “protect what we love and help others see and understand what is possible and why we should preserve it.” When you see Shel’s pictures, you can understand exactly why Captain Kloss developed this mission (flickr.com/photos/arcticgrail).

During Shel’s 10-week expedition, the crew would sail several days at a time and then drop anchor at a scenic location and go hiking. “Connecting with the boat and the elements around me were wonderful. The air. The water. The simplicity of it all.”

Shel has found herself continuing her journey as she moves from City Island to live and work in Michigan. Her 27-foot C&C sailboat *Nixie* is now drydocked on City Island, but she will continue her sailing adventures when she retrieves her boat next May and travels up the Hudson with a crew of four to her destination port in Michigan via the Erie Canal.

City Island has a long history of helping individuals discover their love of sailing. As I wrote in my first column, that’s the reason I moved here. Shel Kimen says it best, however: “I absolutely fell in love with sailing!”

BEST CAR: A LOVE STORY

By KEN BINDER



Photo by STEFANE KANE

Ken Binder (left) with his brother David and his partner, Steve Roth, with Ken’s 1948 Buick Super Sedan, after their journey from South Dakota to City Island.

I fell in love when I was in first grade. It happened the day my grandmother took possession of her birthday gift, a beautiful, shiny, new 1948 Buick Super Sedan. I had never seen anything so beautiful. And she still is beautiful, over 60 years later, and she is all mine again, right here on City Island.

Much of my youth was spent in and around that car in the Black Hills of South Dakota. For me, the car represented everything that was good. The back seat was my castle. As the years went by, I finally moved to the front seat, the driver’s seat! My grandfather did not drive, so I got to drive him around in it.

In 1958 the Buick was replaced by a new car. Instead of getting rid of it, my grandparents parked the Buick behind the house and gave it to me. By then it was just an old car and not even a convertible, but it was mine and I loved it even more, especially when I proudly drove it off to college complete with a fresh wax job and retread tires.

As my college years were ending, I felt I needed a newer car to start my adult life, and I traded the Buick for a used Oldsmobile. I knew I had made a mistake so I went for a new Ford, which I hated.

Year after year I wondered what had happened to the old Buick, so finally I started a search for it and found it in a small town in southern Minnesota. It had acquired a couple of paint jobs and a really strange exhaust system but was still my car. I bought it back, fixed the exhaust, replaced the tires and resumed driving it as much as possible.

When I moved to Manhattan, I sent the

car to my brother in South Dakota because I didn’t want to deal with it in the city. My three nephews used the car to drive to high school, and they were each awarded with the “Best Car” citation in their yearbooks. They too had a close relationship with my grandmother, who was very old by then and living nearby. A couple of weeks before my grandmother’s 102nd birthday, I flew out to South Dakota and took her for coffee in the car!

After my nephews graduated, the car was sent to Sundance, Wyoming, for a complete restoration. The man doing the restoration developed a rare blood cancer and took a year off to get well—and he did. He finished the car in September of this year, and my husband, Steve, and I flew out to pick it up. We spent several days in the Black Hills of South Dakota, visiting family and preparing for a long drive. My brother Dan was able to join us on our adventure, and we spent almost three weeks slowly driving 2,000 miles across nine states bringing the Buick home. What a great trip we had!

The first day we saw the Badlands and Wall Drug. The second day the car started acting funny. We made it to Murdo, South Dakota, where it was determined that the fuel pump was bad, and by some miracle the only parts shop in that town of 400 actually had one. It was installed and we were on our way. The next day, the new fuel pump failed. The town of Worthington, Minnesota, had both a pump and an excellent mechanic.

We drove slowly, about 200 miles each day, taking side trips as the spirit moved us. Steve is an excellent navigator and got us on interesting roads with beautiful scenery. We stopped at every gas station, every antique shop and most food places along the route. Three days were spent in Oak Park, Illinois, visiting my brother Tim and his family. One evening we spent with my nephew (also a Tim), who had driven the car in high school. We toured Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin in Wisconsin, and saw his home and studio in Illinois. Pennsylvania was at the height of fall color. Everywhere we went, the car got star billing. It is not every day that you see three old guys in an old car going down the highway at 60 mph!

Coming across the George Washington Bridge—and then the City Island Bridge—was very emotional. We were home at last. What a wonderful trip we had. My brother and I had never spent so much time together, and Steve got to see a lot of where I grew up (including lunch at a cafe filled with cowhands taking a break from the roundup). We had an adventure.

How often do you get to have a dream come true? I certainly did, and the dream will continue as we drive the Buick around. Indeed, it is now part of City Island. When you see us, yell and wave. You just might get a ride with us!

BOX 6

Continued from page 6

Thanks

To the Island Current,

We would like to thank *The Island Current* for publishing the article that was written by our dear friend Bill Stuttig. This was a beautiful article and so well written. All the time and hard work that were put into writing and printing this article are deeply appreciated.

After 25 years of being in the travel business, we decided to close O’Sullivan Travel on Dec. 31, 2011. The memories and friendships that we have made over the past 25 years have enriched our lives so much. We will always remember the many wonderful times we shared with so many people. We look forward to continued travels by escorting groups booked with AAA Travel of Scarsdale.

Thanks again to Bill and *The Island Current* for this article and for all the kind words that were expressed. Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. Until we meet again.

Dianne and John O’Sullivan

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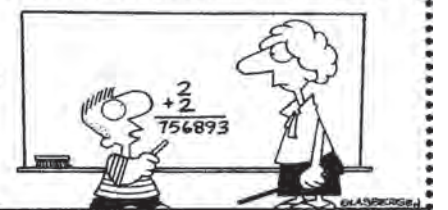
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"In an increasingly complex world, sometimes old questions require new answers."

Contact Alaura Imperioli: (718) 885-9277

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

Thurs., Feb. 3, **45th Precinct Council Meeting**, St. Theresa's Church, 2855 St. Theresa Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 11, **Community Center Friday Night Movie Series: "Some Like it Hot,"** doors open at 6:45 p.m., 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Feb. 12 and 19, **City Island Little League Registration**, Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thurs., Feb. 16, **Community Board 10 meets**, Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, 7:30 p.m.

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

Tues., Feb. 28, **Blood Drive**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 8 p.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Thrift Shop

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be open every Thursday and Saturday in February from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come and browse while enjoying a complementary cup of coffee. There are linens, books, records, tapes, CDs, clothing, shoes, bags, household appliances and bric-a-brac of all descriptions. You are sure to find something interesting.

A \$5 bag sale will be going on during all of February. Fill a bag with clothing for the bargain price of \$5. Remember that donations are always gratefully accepted.

Do stop by, We are sure you will not leave empty-handed.

Arlene Byrne

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue, provides an exciting place for observance for Jews of all ages who come from many different communities and cultures. We are a spirited congregation that gathers together under the leadership of the stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Reb David Evan Markus, our associate spiritual leader.

Located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, the temple conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all and we follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees, will be celebrated with a seder on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. Our celebration is meaningful religiously, ecologically and socially, and during the seder, we will make a presentation to our now retired cantor, Elaine Faver, for her dedicated service. The seder ends with a potluck dinner with dairy and vegetarian contributions. To make your reservation for this social event and to confirm your food contribution, please call Mike (Program Committee Chair) at 718-792-3709.

Rabbi Shohama will conduct her next Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, Feb. 10. Reb David will lead our Shabbat Across America service on Friday, March 2. To join our pre-service traditional chicken dinner at 6 p.m., please make reservations with Mike Eiron at 718-792-3709.

Purim (a big shindig on City Island) will be celebrated on Sunday, March 4 (starting at 2 p.m.) so come to our party. Also, plan for our Community Passover seder at the temple on Saturday, April 7, the second night of Passover. As in the past, glatt kosher food will be served during our warm and congenial seder, conducted primarily in English and led by Reb David Markus. For information, to volunteer, or to RSVP,

please call Mike Eiron at 718-792-3709 by Thursday, March 29 (\$45 for adults; \$15 for children).

We thank all our caring friends and neighbors for their recent support. Happy sailing.

Bob Berent

City Island Republicans

The Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire primary took place in early January, and the field of candidates has narrowed. New York will vote on Tuesday, April 24. Bronx County will be screening candidates soon. Anyone interested in running should call 718-792-5800.

Our next meeting will be held when the weather gets a bit warmer. Details will follow in the next issue.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Chapter 318 AARP

A.A.R.P. Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall at 1 p.m. January meetings took place on Jan. 4 and 18, but we will not meet during the month of February.

Dues for 2012 are \$10 and will be collected at any of the future spring meetings. The first meeting in March will be held on March 7 and will be a St. Patrick's Day celebration with corned beef and cabbage luncheon followed by cake and coffee. All are invited. The cost is \$20 per person. Please call Barbara Whalen at 718-885-1882 if you are interested in attending.

Our second meeting of March will be held on Wednesday, March 21. Plans are being made for day trips, speakers and other interesting activities for the coming meetings. New members are always welcome. Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends.

Call 718-885-0926 for information about any of the above events.

Rosetta Woods

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

On Thursday, Feb. 2, there will be an important meeting of all parents whose children are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist this year. It will be held in St. Mary's School gym at 7 p.m. All parents are urged to attend.

Our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 5. Come and enjoy some refreshments and friendly conversation.

Feb. 5 is also National Scout Sunday. All scouts will be honored in a special way on that day. See your scoutmaster for details.

Since all our children who attend public school will be on vacation during the week of Feb. 19, there will be no religious education classes on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Classes will resume on Feb. 29.

Feb. 22 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Although there are no religious education classes that day, all are urged to attend church services as we begin this special penitential season. The Lenten devotion, Stations of the Cross, will be held each Friday evening during Lent at 7 p.m. beginning Feb. 24.

SAVE THE DATE: St. Mary's will hold a gala St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 10, 2012, in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School gym beginning at 7 p.m. Details will follow.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each



Cub Scout Troop 211 treated the residents of Pilot Cove to a heartwarming round of Christmas Carols in Dec. 2011 (top photo). On Jan. 20 the scouts competed in their annual Pinewood Derby on their brand-new high-tech Pinewood Derby track. The pack conducted a fund-raiser earlier in the year and raised the funds to replace the rickety old track with a beautiful brand-new high-tech one. Jake Zawell is shown cutting the ribbon on the new track (bottom photo).

month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring will happen on Sunday, Feb. 5, during our coffee hour. Lunch will be served, please plan to attend and make a monetary or food donation.

A Lenten Bible Study Group will begin Sunday, Feb. 26, and will conclude on Sunday, March 25. The sessions will start immediately following the regular worship service and conclude at 12:30 p.m. The theme of the study will be "Paul, the Apostle sent to the Nations, goes on trial." The study is aimed at understanding the text's meaning and its application to us as Christians today. The group will be lead by George Cavaliere, Trinity's Lay Leader/Speaker, as well as others leaders to be named during some of the five sessions.

The Budget Corner was very busy leading up to the holiday season and has reopened with lots of new donations. It has been so busy that it will now be open on occasional Fridays! The schedule is: Feb. 7, 11, 17, 21 and 25 and March 6, 10, 20, 24 and 31. Remember that donations to and proceeds from the Budget Shop help Trinity to continue in programs and outreach on City Island.

Rick DeWitt

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion

Welcome, 2012! The holiday season flew by. A good time was had by all at our Trim-the-Tree meeting, the Legion's awesome children's party with DJ Ray (great job as usual!) and the adult Christmas and New Year's Eve party at the Post. Thanks to all; it's great how nicely we all work together. Now back to business: our next Auxiliary meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. We have welcomed a lot of nice new members and 2012 should be a banner year. We will start planning our spring "Cancer Bingo" and will be asking for any new donations from the community. Looking forward to seeing you.

Regina Murphy

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

Saturdays at 11 a.m., Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information, visit www.cityisland-communitycenter.org, call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook.

SPECIAL EVENTS

February Movie Night: "Fame" on Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. \$2 per ticket. Concessions available. For more information, please e-mail BxShanley@optonline.net or call 917-721-8747

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown Coffeehouse was excited to begin its new era on City Island with Diana Jones on Jan. 15 and will continue through the spring. Diana has a fascinating biography, growing up in the northeast in an adoptive family but always having an affinity for the rural music of the south. When she searched for her birth family in her 20s, she discovered a mysterious link to the mountain music she always adored. It blends into wonderful results: her songs have been covered by Joan Baez and Gretchen Peters, as she delivers her topical subject matter in a homespun manner with a beautiful and distinctive voice. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 at the door, or you can pay on PayPal through our website: www.uptowncoffeehouse.org. Dates are Feb. 12, March 11, April 1, May 6 and June 3.

NEW CLASS

ZUMBA with Letti: Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. Letti is a fantastic Zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Classes are \$10; a five-class card is \$40.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Jill's Playgroup: for pre-school children on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Art classes with Laury Hopkins: Call 718-885-3202 (leave a message).

ADULT PROGRAM

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These yoga stretch poses help remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while they also assist with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10.00/class 718-885-0535.

Fit For Life: A balanced cardio and strength training class for all experience levels. Classes offered Monday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. (children are welcome to come along

with parents during Tuesday morning class only). For any questions, please call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122. Classes are \$8.00.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for ages 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 25 years and a teacher of the art for 17 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Walk-ins are very welcome, along with spectators interested in seeing what the class is all about and meeting Salacia. Questions can be directed to Salacia at 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Tap Dance: Intermediate level adult Jazz-Tap class with Corinne Grondahl. Let your feet become a musical instrument! Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call 718-309-8041.

Chess Club: Meets each Thursday at 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid T.V. Have fun.

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

Amy Gottlieb

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

On Saturday, Dec. 10, we had our 70th anniversary Pearl Harbor service at the triangle, and 17 people attended, which is better than last year. We hope to get many more by the time we reach the 75th anniversary. Commander Walter Natiw conducted the ceremony without a hitch, and everyone was invited back to the Post for drinks and pizza, complimentary of the Squadron.

A big thank-you goes to Peter Zvara and Gene Valesio along with Jimmy, Caroline, Patrick and Ashley Livingston, who helped decorate the Post for Christmas. The Ladies Auxiliary once again did a wonderful job trimming the Post Christmas tree. Everyone had a ball at the annual Post Christmas party. They enjoyed cocktails and danced the night away.

Commander Natiw also reported the possibility of some type of fund-raiser for the one of the heart foundations in memory of Walter Henning. Details will follow.

The annual Super Bowl Party will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5.

The annual pig's-knuckle party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. Pig's knuckles, bratwurst and knockwurst will be served, and the price is only \$25. We appropriate the proceeds to good causes. The feast is limited to 60 people.

Remember that the Post is here for all of your party needs. We have the best hall rates on City Island, and members receive a discount. The Post can accommodate up to 100 people.

Longtime Legionnaire Donald Varian died in December, and we have several members who have been or are still on sick call. Post Commander Dave Carman is now a new person after a brief hospital visit resulting from a recent health scare. Joe McDonald is recuperating after a procedure; he sounds good over the phone and will be back soon. Judge Advocate Jack Hartigan is finished with his procedure and slowly getting better; we hope that he will be back soon. Associate member Jack Keane is currently undergoing physical therapy at a rehabilitation center in Middletown, New York, but his family reassured us that he will be back in the Bronx soon. Squadron Com-

mander Walter Natiw is back from a recent visit to the infirmary for tests and is feeling much better.

Membership dues (\$30) are now past due; please drop off your check at the Post. We are always looking for good members. Any male descendant or step-descendant of a veteran who served during a wartime period can join. If you have questions, call the Post at 718-885-0639.

Dual member Mike McKenna reported that the VA Hospital on Kingsbridge Road in the Bronx is in need of used (but clean) clothing for both men and women, especially women.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

American Legion Post 156

Is everyone ready for Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 5? The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. at the Legion. There will be a cash bar. Members pay \$10; non-members \$15. Come early. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served.

There is only one member on sick call: Robert Branizza. I will keep in touch with the family and put updates on the Post bulletin board.

Bob was a navigator during World War II on a B-24; he was shot down and landed in the Berlin Zoo. I have written a number of *Current* profiles on WW2 veterans, but Bob was my first. There is a copy in the library at the City Island Nautical Museum.

Post meetings for February are as follows: regular meeting Monday, Feb. 6, and executive board meeting Monday, Feb. 13. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Until March, then, at ease....

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus



Cub Scout Troop 211

The pack wishes everyone a belated happy and healthy New Year! We have been extremely busy being great Scouts. In December, as a small part of their community awareness. The scouts went to Pilot Cove and Christmas caroled their little hearts out to the residents. The Tuesday before Christmas, the scouts enjoyed their Christmas pizza party and were also visited by the one and only Santa Claus, who brought gifts and basketballs.

On Jan. 20 the scouts competed in their annual Pinewood Derby on their brand-new high-tech Pinewood Derby track. You can almost hear the engines running while they build their cars with their families. Stay tuned for the trophy winners.

In the very near future the scouts are looking forward to their annual defense of the Queen at Medieval Times and a visit to the 911 Memorial.

What an exciting night the Scouts had on Jan 2 when they had their annual Pinewood Derby on the Pinewood Derby track. The pack conducted a fund-raiser earlier in the year and raised the funds to replace the rickety old track with a beautiful brand-new high-tech one with a finish gate that records finishing times to the thousands of a second. Thank goodness, because this year's scouts showed up with some awesome and extremely fast cars that they made with their families. This year we had blinking lights, sharks and candy bars, a wonderful display of craftsmanship. Many scouts won amazing amounts of certificates for their ingenuity along with first, second and third place trophies.

Tiger Winners were: first place Hudson Ghezzer-Cherry; second place Nicholas Barrata; third place Colin Kyle Kenny. Wolverine winners: first place Ben Nicoletti; second place Jonathan Rodriguez; third place Ryan Amos. Bear winners: first place Ginutis Sipas; second place Carmine Testa; Webelos 1, Den 1 winners: first place Jordan Rodriguez; second place Brandon McGaughn; third place Ben Chadwick. Webelos 1, Den

2 winners: first place Jonathan Mazzella; second place Matthew Franco; third place Jaden Torrado. Webelos 2 winners: first place Joseph Leni; second place James McGaughn; third place Nicholas Calbo; Overall pack winners: first place Jonathan Mazzella; second place Ben Nicoletti; third place Hudson Ghezzer Cherry. Congratulations to all!

Angelo Bellocchio

PSS Senior Programs

PSS Healthy Aging: Begin 2012 with a healthful program of regular exercise. You can attend all classes for \$20 per month or all classes for \$6 per week. Or for individual classes you may contribute \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance. Thursday evening Zumba will be handled differently.

Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Sittercise with Patty on Tuesdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays, leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Fit for Life with Sarah on Fridays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall. Zumba with Lettie on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the City Island Community Center; and Zumba Gold with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center.

Anne Hutchinson Legacy Writing Group. The writing group meets on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Grace Church Hall. For further information or to sign up, please call group leader Gail Hitt at 718-885-0444.

Telephone Reassurance. If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Caregivers Support. If you are caring for someone or you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and shopping assistance. Please call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Transportation Services. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van. Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for trips on and off City Island. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday: Bay Plaza; Thursday: Stop & Shop; every other Wednesday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island, and \$2.50 off Island.

Call 718-885-1891 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events such as group theater discounts. These programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Prayer is suspended until further notice.

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

Sunday, February 5: Lambs babysitting available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, February 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, two seatings (5 p.m. and 7 p.m.); cost \$5 per person for pancakes, bacon, sausage, and hot cross buns.

Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be given out at 7:30 p.m.

Scott Meyer, Senior Warden



Houses

There are so many films about houses that it was difficult to select just a few to discuss this month. We begin with the classic film **Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House** (1948), which stars Cary Grant in the title role as advertising executive Jim Blandings, who along with his wife, Muriel (Myrna Loy), is fed up with crowded big-city living. Much to the consternation of his lawyer/business manager Bill Cole (Melvyn Douglas), the Blandings buy a house in the country, where they encounter every conceivable homeowner's nightmare. This theme is repeated 40 years later in the **The Money Pit** (1986), which stars Tom Hanks and Shelley Long and shows how little has changed in all that time—except, of course, for the cost of everything.

Another classic Cary Grant comedy is **Houseboat** (1958), in which he stars as Tom Winston, a widower living on a houseboat and trying to raise three precocious children on his own. When the children meet Cinzia (Sophia Loren), they decide she should be the new maid. In reality, she is an Italian socialite trying to get away from her overprotective father, Arturo Zaccardi (Eduardo Ciannelli).

We move on to **Pacific Heights** (1990), a harsh film about a landlord with the ultimate problem tenant. Patty Palmer (Melanie Griffith) and Drake Goodman (Matthew Modine) are a middle-class couple who buy an old Victorian house in San Francisco, with plans to renovate it and rent it out. Unfortunately, the tenant they select, Carter Hayes (Michael Keaton), turns out to be a psychotic with whom they become engaged in psychological warfare.

Get out your handkerchiefs for the wonderful weeper **Life as a House** (2001), starring

Kevin Kline as George Monroe, an embittered architect who lives in a shack overlooking the Pacific. George's ex-wife Robin (Kristin Scott Thomas) remarried Peter (Jamey Sheridan), a cold-hearted, wealthy businessman with whom she had two sons, but the focus of the film is on Robin and George's troubled teenage son, Sam (Hayden Christensen). George insists that Sam help him build a house on his oceanfront property, and in the process they build a relationship.

Panic Room (2002) is a Manhattan luxury-real estate thriller. Jodie Foster plays the newly divorced Meg Altman, who moves into an enormous Upper West Side brownstone with her daughter, Sarah (Kristin Stewart). The house is equipped with a high-tech, fortified hiding place—a panic room—just in case something bad should happen. Of course it does, on their very first night in the house, when three bad guys, Burnham (Forest Whitaker), Raoul (Dwight Yoakam) and Junior (Jared Leto), arrive in search of hidden treasure.

The most unusual and quirky entry is **I Capture the Castle** (2003). The story is told by Cassandra Mortmain (Romola Garai), the middle child in an eccentric, artistic English family. Her father, James (Bill Nighy), a frustrated novelist, has moved them to a crumbling, dank, ruined castle in the countryside. When Simon (Henry Thomas) and Neil (Marc Blucas), a pair of American brothers, show up, it turns out they are the castle's new owners, who cause emotional turmoil in the lives of Cassandra and her sister, Rose (Rose Byrne).

My House in Umbria (2003) stars the always excellent Dame Maggie Smith as Mrs. Emily Delahunty, a British romance novelist living in Italy. While returning from

a shopping excursion to Milan, Emily barely survives a terrorist train bombing. She invites three fellow survivors—Werner, a German journalist (Benno Fürmann); a British general (Ronnie Barker); and Aimee, a traumatized orphan girl (Emily Clarke)—to recuperate at her lavish Italian estate. This odd “family” gets along famously until the arrival of Aimee's American uncle, entomologist Tom Riversmith (Chris Cooper), who strongly disapproves of Mrs. Delahunty's carefree life.

A richly realized and disturbing melodrama is the **House of Sand and Fog** (2003), which stars Jennifer Connelly as Cathy Nicolo, a recovering addict whose modest house on the California coast is seized by the county and sold at auction to Massoud Behrani (Ben Kingsley), a former Iranian military officer who lives a dismal existence in exile with his family. Cathy's attempt to get the house back and Behrani's obdurate refusal to let go of it escalate toward catastrophe. Ron Eldard is on hand as Deputy Sheriff Lester Burdon, whose attempts to help Cathy accelerate the inevitable disaster.

One of my favorite films in this category is **The Lake House** (2006) a fantastical time-travel romance that reunites Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock, who together survived a harrowing bus ride 12 years previously in **Speed** (1994). When the film begins, Bullock's character, a stressed-out physician named Kate, moves out of the architectural curiosity that gives the picture its title, leaving a note in the mailbox for the next tenant. Reeves's Alex is a real estate developer who turns out to be the previous tenant. An unexplained wrinkle in the space-time continuum has made it possible for Kate in 2006, to correspond with Alex in 2004, by means of

handwritten letters placed in that mailbox. Of course, they fall deeply and achingly in love.

In the delightful comedy **The Holiday** (2006), Los Angeles resident Amanda (Cameron Diaz) and Londoner Iris (Kate Winslet) are each suffering from a broken relationship with men who have cheated. They decide to swap homes, and their trade paves the way for new, more satisfying romances. Amanda falls for Iris's brother Graham (Jude Law), while Iris is captivated by movie score composer Miles (Jack Black). A poignant subplot concerns the lovely friendship that develops between Iris and neighbor Arthur (Eli Wallach), an aging Hollywood screenwriter.

One of my all-time favorite animated films is the touching Pixar production of **Up** (2009). Seventy-eight-year-old Carl Fredrickson has spent a lifetime in his home with his beloved wife, Ellie. When the house is destined for destruction by developers, widowed Carl ties thousands of balloons to his home and sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream of seeing the wilds of South America. His trip is complicated by an inadvertent stowaway, eight-year-old Russell, a wilderness explorer.

Nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award for this role, newcomer Jennifer Lawrence stars as Ree Dolly in the 2010 drama **Winter's Bone**, which is set in the Ozark Mountains. Ree tries to find her drug-dealing father while keeping her family together and saving their home.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. Our kindergarten students attended a multicultural holiday celebration at Hostos Center for the Performing Arts. Third graders visited the Bronx Zoo for a holiday presentation of "The Polar Express" and went to Wave Hill for an avian workshop. Fourth-graders visited the Native American exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History. The sixth grade attended a performance at the Tarrytown Music Hall by the Chamber Theatre Company of short stories they were studying in class. Kindergarten through third-grade classes attended a performance of "The Man Who Planted Trees" at Lincoln Center as part of their aesthetic education study of puppetry.

The "Hollyrock Game Show" returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Finally, on Dec. 22, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended our year on a high note!

January promises to be just as exciting. Our fifth-graders have begun rehearsals for their spring performance of "Dear Edwina," and, by the sound of things, this is going to be another fabulous P. S. 175 production! The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After School Program has resumed for fifth through eighth grades. Students are participating in a variety of activities including art, athletics, games and homework help.

Our Character Education program continues to thrive. Community service projects continue with eighth-graders doing individual projects and other grades doing class and small group projects. The seventh and eighth grades participate in "Rewards Trips" every six weeks for exemplary behavior.

Their most recent trip was to Whitestone Bowling Lanes.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits. **IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION NEWS:** Kindergarten registration for the 2011-2012 school year has begun. Between Jan. 9 and March 2, parents are to come into the school to submit an application of interest. Parents must submit the child's birth certificate, proof of immunization and two proofs of residency (a current Con Edison bill and either a current deed or a lease).

Pre-registration for kindergarten will officially begin on March 26 and end on April 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. The child **MUST** accompany the parent on the day of pre-registration and parents will once again be required to submit up-to-date proof of residency.

Any registration questions can be directed to Mrs. Veltri, school secretary, at 718-885-1093.

January Citizens-of-the-Month are Michael Sanfratello and Denise Rayne Taclibon (kindergarten); Ryan Whelan and Fiorela Miria (first grade); Joseph Persteins and Aiden Hanley-Piri (second grade); Maria Leni and Carmine Testa (third grade); Maddox Pedroza and Albieris Sosa (fourth grade); Dava Lee Candelaria and Rebecca Lubelli (fifth grade); John Tomsen and Raphael Hay (sixth grade); Samantha Germosen and Isaiah Hinton (seventh grade); Amanda Beqiraj and Michael Bellochio (eighth grade).

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Congratulations to our eighth-graders who were accepted to the various Catholic high schools of their choice. They did very well. School resumed on Jan. 3, and students began the new year with first Friday Mass on the sixth. School on was closed on Monday, Jan., 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. From Jan. 23 through 27, grades one through eight took midterms in religion, reading, science, language arts, math and social studies. The week ended with School Bingo on Friday afternoon.

A special event was planned for each day the week of Jan. 29 through Feb. 3 in celebration of Catholic School Week. Open house took place from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Monday was Pajama Day, signifying that St. Mary's is a home-away-from-home. Tuesday was Crazy Hat Day, and every student was encouraged to incorporate this year's theme, "Faith! Academics! Service!" into their hats. Wednesday was Color Day, and each class selected a class color to include as part of their uniforms for the day to illustrate that we are all a rainbow of God's children working together peacefully for a common goal.

The 23rd annual International Luncheon was held on Thursday; children brought in dishes that reflect their own or another culture, and the day culminated with the third annual Family Raffle Drawing. The week and semester concluded on Friday with the celebration of First Friday Mass.

St. Mary's was the recipient of the Bronx Rotary Club's Books for Schools Program. Report Cards will be distributed on Feb. 9. Registration for new students will take place from Feb. 13 through 24. The school will be closed on Feb. 20 in honor of Presidents' Day. Ash Wednesday, which begins Lent, is Feb. 22, and students will attend Mass at 12 noon.



The staff of *The Island Current* ushered in the 41st year of publication with a party at the home of longtime contributor Barbara Dolensek on Jan. 8, 2012. Editor Karen Nani acknowledged the tremendous efforts of the advertising staff, Margaret Lenz, Joan Ramftl and Carol Koshak, who keep the advertising inches coming despite the recession. She also highlighted the years of experience among the volunteers: from the most recent staff addition, sailing columnist Joyce Mulcahy, to cartoonist, Russell Schaller, who has been on board for over 30 years! Shown at the event are (seated in front, l. to r.): Eileen Mazza, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koshak, Russell Schaller, Cathy Mazza, Miriam Kleinberg and Joyce Mulcahy. Back row: Pauline and Michael Shanley, Karen Nani, Bruce Weis, Maria Swieciki, Jane Protzman, Ginger Dannegger, Margaret Lenz, Joan Ramftl, Judy Rauh and Barbara Dolensek. We promise our readers and advertisers we will keep the presses rolling for another year.

What's My Mindset?

By JOHN SCARDINA

In her book "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success," Carol Dworkin talks about fundamental differences in the way we approach the world, through school, work, and relationships, in order to either maximize our development as people or remain stuck in our current life situation. She presents two worldviews—the "fixed mindset" and the "growth mindset"—that represent these approaches to life:

Fixed Mindset:

Intelligence is static.
Look smart at all costs.
Avoid challenges.
Give up on obstacles.
Effort is fruitless.
Ignore negative feedback.
Feel threatened by the success of others.
Lose interest if things are hard.

Growth Mindset:

Intelligence can be developed.
Remain curious and humble.
Embrace challenges.
Persist in the face of obstacles.
Effort is the key.
Learn from negative feedback.
Find inspiration in the success of others.
Get motivated if things are hard.

selves from the trials and tribulations of the world? How can you build resilience if you always give up too easily (i.e., "That's not for me" or "I just don't have the talent" or "I'm too (old/tired/busy) for that"?)

So, try new experiences (the opera, NASCAR, a yoga class). Learn a new skill or hobby (the violin, welding, sailing). Read about people who can be role

models (Michael Jordan, Mother Teresa, the Quakers). Ask yourself: "What would [my role model] do in this situation?" and see if you can act in a positive way, too. Learn to give and receive feedback with compassion and acceptance.

People who live long and productive lives never stop learning from their mistakes and continually work on themselves and their skills. How about

trying on a "growth mindset"?

City Islander John Scardina is a child development specialist, a certified school psychologist, and a parent educator. Check out his website. www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.

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MR. AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRAINING

By BUTCH NIEVES

Teens Need Exercise Too!

So get 'em off the couch, pull the cell phone out of their hands and send them to the field and the gym. Remember the good old days, when the only video game available was a pinball machine down at the local soda shop? Well, those days are long gone. Today's teens have access to infinite types of technology that keeps them away from the great outdoors and off the basketball court. Instead of moving their growing bodies, they spend countless hours pushing buttons, texting friends and playing video games. But if exercise isn't a regular part of your teen's life, big trouble could be right down the road. Why should your teen get into the exercise routine, and how can you make it happen?

Why Exercise Matters

Take a look around at teens. They have countless social media tools that are supposed to help them be more connected with others than ever. Unfortunately, these social sites can cause teens to forget how to socialize with real people in real life. Get these kids to the gym and encourage them to exercise with other teens, and you give them an instant lesson in socialization.

But exercise is about more than being socially adept. It's about good health. And in case you've not picked up a newspaper or magazine in the last 10 years, you should know that there is an obesity epidemic currently taking place. It has affected plenty of adults, but it is now affecting teens as well, especially as they spend less time exercising and more time sitting around watching television, playing video games, texting and chatting online. Get your teens exercising today, and you'll help them obtain

and maintain a healthy weight and develop lifelong healthy habits.

How to Get Them Moving

Sometimes, getting a teenager to do something is as easy as teaching a rhinoceros to fetch. Don't let their attitude get you down. Remember your own attitude problems as a teenager, take a deep breath, and prepare to put up a fight. When you're going into battle with your teen, try these tips out.

Make It Fun. Remember when your teen was a toddler? Exercise wasn't something you forced him or her to do. It just happened, via hide-and-seek, tag or just running all day long. Find out what physical activities interest your teens, and encourage him or her to get out and do it.

Up the Chores. Is your teen lazing around the house doing nothing, while you're working frantically to keep everything in order? Flip your teen's world upside down by having him or her take over some of the more physically demanding chores. Have your teen rake leaves, plant flowers, scrub toilets and take out the garbage. It may not be the same as lifting weights, but it'll get your teen's body on the move!

Do It Together. If your child isn't motivated to get in the gym on his or her own, offer to do it together. Whether you lift weights, ride bikes, swim or hike, doing it as a family makes it easier to keep your teen on an exercise schedule.

Take It Easy. Your teen needs to exercise. There is no question about it. Just don't let this need override your parenting know-how. Ever tried to force your teen to do something he or she didn't want to do? Didn't work so well, did it? Remember this when working with your teen, and encour-

age your teen gently. You may be surprised at the end result.

How Much? While medical experts normally recommend adults get 30 minutes of exercise five or more days a week, the same doesn't hold true for teenagers. Instead, try to get your teen to exercise for at least 60 minutes most days of the week. It doesn't have to be incredibly vigorous. A light jog, a game of kickball or riding a bike will do the trick.

We are two weeks into the New Year. How are you doing with your resolutions? If you didn't make any resolutions this year, consider taking the time to commit to one small healthy change. Here are some suggestions:

- Don't eat after 7 p.m.
- Drink a healthy protein shake for breakfast.
- Cut out that daily sugary snack.
- Exercise a minimum of four days each week.

Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.

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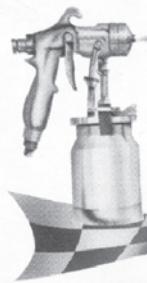
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BIRDS & SOUNDS

By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND



Photo by JOHN GARRONE
A pelican is a rare sight in Long Island Sound, but this one was photographed sitting astern off *The Island Current III* in early November just off the coast of Mamaroneck.

WHAT WOULD DARWIN SAY?
We told you so. Regular readers of this column will recall our prediction for a mild winter. We based it not on science, though, but on the investment we made in a new snow blower. Well, here we are in late January, and as we go to print only a few flakes of snow have landed on the ground and temperatures are baffling even the birds.

That is, in fact, what seems to have taken place: the birds have been baffled. Jack of www.cityislandbirds.com reports that there are far fewer common birds in our area this winter than is usually the case. For example, he says that he hasn't seen or heard a chickadee. The saw-whet and long-eared owls are also much harder to find.

On the other hand, some uncommon visitors to our area have been spotted with greater frequency, such as snowy owls. And we had an e-mail from John about a brown pelican on Long Island Sound.

The snowbirds of City Island will tell you all about brown pelicans and how they really belong in Florida. We've seen them as far north as Virginia and can imagine them off the Jersey shore somewhere, but not on the Sound, not until November anyway, which was when John snapped this picture. The plumage on this specimen would seem to indicate that he is a juvenile. He was not alone, either. John hastened to add that at least 12 other brown pelicans were spotted over a three-week period by Captain Chris of the fishing vessel *Island Current III*.

Perhaps even more spectacular is the seven to eight-foot sea turtle that Captain Chris claims to have seen somewhere near the Stamford reef. Now we've seen our share of giant sea turtles, but they were in the Galapagos Islands. And none of them were as big as that.

Speaking of the Galapagos Islands, did you hear that long lost specimens belonging to Charles Darwin were located in someplace called the British Geological Survey? The paleontologist who stumbled upon them said that, because of this find, "there is a lot more to learn from a period of history scientists thought they knew well." Isn't learning always just like that? You think you've got it all figured out until a giant sea turtle swims into Long Island Sound and says, in so many words, "Uh, uh, folks, not so fast."

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

New York State Taxes

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has signed legislation containing modifications to personal income tax rates and brackets and the corporate income tax, as well as modifications to the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax. The legislation also establishes new credit programs and contains new property tax provisions. The key provisions and modifications are as follows.

Individual Income Tax

For taxable years beginning after 2011 and before 2015, taxpayers filing jointly with New York taxable income of \$40,000 to \$150,000 will be taxed at 6.45 percent (previously 6.85 percent); taxpayers with New York taxable income of \$150,000 to \$300,000 will be taxed at 6.65 percent (previously 6.85 percent); taxpayers with New York taxable income of \$300,000 to \$2 million will be taxed at 6.85 percent (previously 7.85 to 8.97 percent); and taxpayers with New York taxable income over \$2 million will be taxed at 8.82 percent (previously 8.97 percent).

For other filing statuses, the maximum 8.82 percent rate will apply to head-of-household filers with New York taxable income over \$1.5 million and to single filers with New York taxable income over \$1 million. The legislation also provides a new cost-of-living adjustment to the brackets and the standard deduction.

The Department of Taxation and Fi-

nance is in the process of developing new withholding tables that became effective on Jan. 1, 2012.

Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax (MCTMT)

The MCTMT provisions have been amended to exclude certain small businesses, eligible educational institutions and certain self-employed individuals from the tax, effectively repealing the tax for more than 700,000 taxpayers. The legislation amends the definition of "employer" to provide that, in order to be subject to the tax, the employer must have payroll expense exceeding \$312,500 (previously \$2,500) in any calendar quarter.

In addition, the MCTMT, previously imposed on employers at the rate of 0.34 percent, is modified as follows: 0.11 percent for employers with payroll expense of up to \$375,000 in any calendar quarter; 0.23 percent for employers with payroll expense of up to \$437,500 in any calendar quarter; and 0.34 percent for employers with payroll expense exceeding \$437,500 in any calendar quarter. For self-employed individuals, the tax applies at the rate of 0.34 percent if earnings attributable to the MCTMT District exceed \$50,000 (previously, \$10,000) for the tax year.

These amendments are effective for employers for the quarter beginning on April 1, 2012.

Corporate Franchise Tax on Manufacturers

For taxable years beginning after 2011 and before 2015, the legislation provides a 50 percent corporate franchise tax rate reduction to 3.25 percent (previously 6.5 percent) for eligible qualified New York manufacturers.

The term "manufacturer" means a taxpayer principally engaged in the production of goods by manufacturing, processing, assembling, refining, mining, extracting, farming, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture or commercial fish-

ing. The legislation requires the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to establish guidelines and criteria that specify the requirements for a manufacturer to be classified as an "eligible qualified New York manufacturer." The criteria may include such factors as regional unemployment, the economic impact that manufacturing has on the surrounding community, population decline within the region and median income within the region.

Tax Credits and Real Property Tax

Youth Works Tax Credit Program: The legislation creates the Youth Works Tax Credit Program, under which credits are available to businesses employing at-risk youths in part-time and full-time positions. For each qualified employee, employers may claim a credit of \$500 (full-time) or \$250 (part-time) per month for up to six months for each qualified employee. Employers may also claim a credit of \$1,000 (full-time) or \$500 (part-time) for each qualified employee who is retained for an additional six months. Qualified employees must start their employment on or after Jan. 1, 2012, and no later than July 1, 2012. New York State has capped total credits available under this program at \$25 million.

Empire State Jobs Retention Credit: The legislation establishes the Empire State Jobs Retention Program, which provides credits to targeted businesses that can demonstrate substantial physical damage and economic harm resulting from a natural disaster. In order to be eligible for the program, the business must (1) show that it is located in a county in which an emergency has been declared by the governor on or after Jan. 1, 2011; (2) demonstrate substantial physical damage and economic harm resulting from the event leading to the emergency declaration; and (3) retain at least 100 full-time equivalent jobs in the county. The credit is calculated at a rate of 6.85 percent of the wages of impacted

jobs that are retained. To be eligible for the credit, the business must submit a completed application to the Commissioner within 180 days of the declaration of an emergency by the governor in the county in which the business is located or 180 days of the enactment of this law (Dec. 9, 2011), if the 180 days from the date of the declaration of emergency has already passed.

Property Tax Assessment reductions: The legislation allows eligible municipalities to adopt provisions of the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Assessment Relief Act, allowing reductions in the assessment of properties that have lost at least 50 percent of value due to storm damage. These provisions are effective Dec. 9, 2011, retroactive to Aug. 26, 2011.

The assessment reductions range from 55 percent for property that has lost between 50 percent and 60 percent of its taxable assessed value to 95 percent for property that has lost between 90 percent and 100 percent of its value. If a property has lost all of its value due to storm damage, the taxable assessed value is reduced to zero. The local assessor may determine the percentage reduction, subject to review by the board of assessment review. Eligible homeowners should submit a written request to the assessor within 90 days of Dec. 9, 2011, describing in reasonable detail the damage that was storm related.

Installment Payments in Federally Declared Disaster Counties: Effective Dec. 9, 2011, a school district that is located in a federally declared disaster county may adopt, by resolution and within the six months preceding the due date for school taxes, an installment payment schedule, with payment amounts and dates specified in the resolution. The school district is authorized to refund any portion of taxes previously paid if the school board adopts an installment payment resolution.



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A Current Review

Bronx Paradise

By MICHAEL SHANLEY



The promotional poster for *Bronx Paradise*.

What would you get if you crossed Tony Soprano with Archie Bunker, Jerry Seinfeld and the working class “neighborhood” family man who lives next door with his wife and kids? Well, I’m not exactly sure, but Wayne Gurman, before the year 2000, was little bit of each of them and a whole lot more. His semi-autobiographical film “Bronx Paradise” tells his personal saga as a small time shylock, bookie, drug dealer and neighborhood tuff guy who is struggling to raise his four biracial children with his African-American wife in the only world he knows—the Throggs Neck community of the east Bronx. By Gurman’s own account, the film is about 70 percent real life Wayne Gurman and about 30 percent artistic license.

“Bronx Paradise” is hard hitting and is sure to add new credence to the unofficial Bronx motto “Only the Strong Survive.” The film is sometimes brutal, often vulgar and void of any political correctness. Surprisingly, however, it is also quite comical. In fact, there are a few scenes that are down-right hysterical, even if you do feel a little bit guilty for thinking so. This will set it apart from other mob movies such as “Goodfellas” and “A Bronx Tale,” with which one could easily compare this film.

This film packs a punch in the opening scene, as the camera pans the gritty side of a Bronx streetscape, we meet the main man, Wayne Gurman. We immediately get a pretty good idea about the type of guy he is—a “rage-aholic” with a propensity for confrontation and vulgarity. As Gurman evolves into his environment and navigates through his (self-inflicted) complicated life, the audience is intro-

duced to an array of colorful characters. Each character is vividly brought to life by an outstanding cast of actors who masterfully capture the essence of their roles.

It would be difficult and even unfair to single out any one performance in particular, as they are all terrific, but I will do so anyway. Gurman himself delivers an unforgettable lead performance that manages to fuse rampant aggression with comedic subtlety. Actor John Palumbo, who portrays Gurman’s sidekick, John Manfredi, as a fearless nut job and mob enforcer, embodies his character so well. His bad energy, anger and inner turmoil jump off the screen and practically grip you around the neck with his bare hands.

Filmed entirely in the Bronx and directed by Bronx film-making legend Bill Lappe, this low-budget indie gem is destined for cult classic status. It is one of those movies that if you “get it,” you’ll find yourself watching it over and over again. There is not a missed beat in the acting or cinematography, and the Bronx serves as the perfect backdrop to the unpredictable story line and adds greatly to the authenticity of this very honest and authentic movie. In fact, “Bronx Paradise” is about as real as it gets.

Admittedly, this is not a film for everyone. It’s not supposed to be. However, if you are tired of the all too often overproduced, mega-million dollar Hollywood thrillers that are usually too predictable, remember “Bronx Paradise.” You won’t be disappointed.

The DVD of the film is available on www.Amazon.com. To view the trailer, visit www.BronxParadise.com.

Obituaries

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



Nelly Peterson

Nelly Peterson

Nelly Peterson, an Island resident for over 60 years, died on Sept. 25, 2011, at Providence Rest Nursing Home. She was 98 years old.

Known for her generous spirit and endearing Swedish colloquialisms, Nelly frequently opened her doors to those who needed a hot meal or a place to stay. Her culinary specialties included Swedish meatballs, Potatoeslauter and the celebrated Swedish Glogg.

Born Nelly Erickson in Aland, Finland, in the year of the Titanic disaster, she came to America in 1929 and soon after met her future husband, Henry Peterson. They married in 1934 and moved to City Island in the 1940s, where they raised three children.

Throughout her life, Nelly worked as a cook and a housekeeper, first on Long Island and then in Manhattan.

Nelly was predeceased by her son Randall. She is survived by her son Ronald; her daughter, Linda; her 11 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Sept. 28.



Walter Huffell

Walter Charles Huffell

Walter Charles Huffell, 81, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at Calvary Hospital. He was a longtime resident of City Island, a member of Morris Yacht and Beach Club and former Fleet Captain and Recording Secretary of Stuyvesant Yacht Club. Before retiring in 1992, he enjoyed sailing his 30-foot Ericson, *Ms. Twink*, around Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound.

He was a native of England, and as a young boy in London during World War II, he experienced the air raids, bombings, backyard bomb shelters and food shortages of a nation at war. He and his sister, Doreen, were among the thousands of children who were evacuated to the English countryside to keep them out of harm's way as Adolph Hitler's V2 rockets set London on fire, while

their older brother, Jack, fought in the war as a British commando and ultimately helped liberate one of the Nazi death camps.

Walter's father, John Henry Huffell, was a radio operator aboard a merchant vessel during World War I. The ship was torpedoed and John Henry spent a long period in cold ocean waters before being rescued. The ordeal left his lungs in a weakened condition, and he thereafter suffered bouts of pneumonia that required his being hospitalized. He was thus incapacitated when the evacuation of Dunkirk occurred in 1940, and because the hospitals were quickly filled with the wounded, beds were needed and John Henry was sent home, where he died at the age of 46.

But John Henry had been a freemason, and his death entitled Walter to a full scholarship at the Royal Masonic School, where he got his education. He then went on to serve in the British military as a First Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps from 1948 to 1950. He subsequently emigrated to the United States and forged a career in data processing, honing his skills at Crocker Bank in San Francisco, Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. in New York and the New York Clearing House.

Walter had a favorite poem entitled "The Soldier" by Rupert Brooke. It begins: "If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England..." He was laid to rest on Jan. 9, 2012, in the Rosewood Mausoleum at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York.

He is survived by his wife, Paula; his daughter and son-in law, Susan and Robert Laga; his granddaughters Michelle and Jennifer Laga; his sister, Doreen Amer, who lives in the United Kingdom, and numerous nieces and nephews around the globe. He was dearly loved and is greatly missed.

Donald Varian

Donald Varian, who was born on April 27, 1926, in the house he grew up in on the east side of Fordham Street, passed away on Dec. 3, 2011, at the Wartburg Nursing Home in Mount Vernon.

Donald graduated from NYC Machine and Metal Trades High School, where he learned a variety of trades, including electrical and sheet metal. He joined the Navy in 1944 and worked on a PT boat protecting the Panama Canal during World War II. He was discharged in 1946, when he began to work for A&A Sheetmetal Works as an apprentice mechanic.

He married Genevieve (Jennie) Lapina from Mount Vernon in 1948 and shortly thereafter became the proprietor of A&A Heating and Air Conditioning, a City Island business he was to keep for nearly 40 years. At A&A, Donald regularly employed Island youth, providing some of the same opportunities he himself had as a young City Islander.

Donald was an active member of the City Island community. He was Commander of the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 American Legion in 1968 and 1969 and a member for 49 years. For the Legion, he volunteered his time supervising the installation of a new kitchen; managing a youth scholarship program and hanging American flags along City Island Avenue for many years. He was always available for many repairs when needed. Donald also served on the original board for Pilot Cove Manor, and he belonged to the City Island Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Association. He also assisted Jennie and the Garden Club of City Island when needed.

Donald stayed active in retirement. He was not afraid to learn new skills on a computer or to develop old ones. He became an artisan, crafting interesting works of art out of copper and brass. He pursued his passion for sailing, too, and could often be spotted on Eastchester Bay flying his red, white and blue jib off of *The Windcharm*. Those that knew Donald best will remember him for his integrity and work ethic, his willingness

to lend a hand, his keen interest in the lives of others, and his concern for his community. He is survived by Jennie, his wife of 63 years, his sister, Barbara Mullen, of Virginia Beach and many nieces and nephews.

John H. Loughman

John H. Loughman, who was a resident of City Island for many years, died on Jan. 19, 2012, in East Durham, New York, surrounded by his family and friends.

John was the son of Loretta Loughman of Cairo and the late Edward Loughman. His grandfather, also John H., established Loughman Lumber in the 1930s at 362 City Island Avenue. Young John was born in the Bronx on April 27, 1942, and moved with his family back to City Island in 1950. The Loughmans lived at 616 City Island Avenue, and John attended Saint Mary, Star of the Sea School and Cardinal Hayes High School.

During the 1960s, John took over Loughman Lumber from his grandfather and eventually moved upstate to Cairo.

John served in the U.S. Navy and was a New York City police officer in the Motorcycle Division. He believed that love and friendship gave life purpose. He was a kind soul who embraced life and brought happiness to the many lives of which he was a part.

He is survived by his mother, Loretta Loughman of Cairo; five brothers: Edward of Virginia, Thomas of Connecticut, James of New Jersey, William of Georgia and Daniel of Acra; two sisters: Ann Loughman of Albany and Lore Brady of Virginia; as well as 29 nieces and nephews.

John received military honors at his burial on Jan. 24 at Wooster Cemetery in Danbury, Connecticut.

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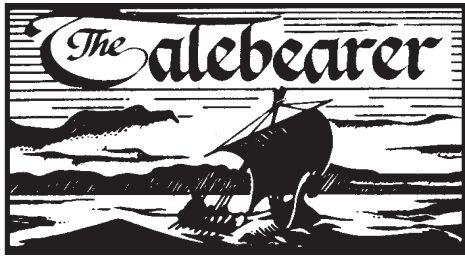
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Photo by MARK NANI

Roger Nani and Leah Mentch

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Roger Nani, who proposed to Leah Mentch on Dec. 29 on the ice under the Rockefeller Center tree. Both Roger and Leah are currently completing graduate degrees in Pasadena, California. The couple's parents, Karen and Paul Nani of King Avenue and Fran and Mace Mentch of Cleveland, Ohio, are delighted and look forward to a wed-



Jack Hansen Kinford

ding in 2013.

It's a boy! Welcome to new clamdigger Jack Hansen Kinford, born Nov. 28. Proud

parents are Philip and Jen Kinford.

Birthday greetings on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio.

Happy belated birthday wishes to our lovable little Jake Penny, who turned two years old on Dec. 26. Lot of hugs and kisses from Grandma and Grandpa Penny.

Belated birthday wishes to Bay Street's Alanna McIntyre, who turned 21 on Jan. 18.

Happy birthday(s) to the City Island Diner's Lisa Clarke on Feb. 26 and her mother, Ceil, on Feb. 21.

Birthday greetings to Hailey Nelson, who turns 11 on Feb. 23, with love from the Butterworth/Doyle families.

Happy birthday on Feb. 26 to Colleen Pecoraro, with love from your family and friends.

It is with much joy that Mary Lou and Bob Lachman welcome their new granddaughter, Ella Mae Cady, born on Nov. 28, 2011. Proud parents are Christa (Lachman) and Nathan Cady. Big brother Dylan was so happy to meet his sister, Ella, shortly after she was born. All are doing well. Congratulations to everyone!

Best wishes to Hawkins Street's Bob Carmody, who celebrated his 55th birthday on Jan. 9. Bob's Club House hosted his party on Jan. 7 and featured entertainment from Nick Artsay and a hot and cold buffet.

Happy birthday on Jan. 2 to Winters Street's Alex Cebek, with love from Uncle Bob, Aunt Diane and cousins Kelly and Bob.

Happy birthday to Abigail Hayes, who turns six on Feb. 15. We love you! Mom, Dad and Maddy.

Congratulations and best wishes to Kelly Carmody, who completed accelerated courses at St. Leo's University in Florida and was awarded a B.A. in Business Management in only three years.

Happy 65th birthday wishes on Feb. 27 to "Fossil" Brian Sullivan from all of your friends.

Birthday greetings on Feb. 1 to Walter Natiw from the "Boys."

"Lil" Bob Carmody is now the proud "parent" of Alice, a stray cat he and his mother rescued and nursed back to health over the last few months. Way to go, Bob! Love, Dad.

Happy birthday on Feb. 26 to Bay Street's Lucy Zec.

Congratulations to City Island's Susannah Strazzera, who was featured in the New York Times "Home & Garden" section on Jan. 18. Susannah, known to many Islanders for her green thumb, is a professional gardener at Wave Hill and was interviewed for her expertise and advice on plantings for the spring. Keep up the good work!

My precious Opal, if you could look into my heart, you'd see all the wonderful things you are to me—my friend, soul mate, confidante, lover and darling wife. Happy Valentine's Day!

It's a boy! Welcome to the world to Patrick Joseph O'Sullivan, who arrived on Nov. 11 at White Plains Hospital. Proud



Photos courtesy MCCUE FAMILY Bowne Street's Linda and Jerry McCue celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30 together with their five sons and 12 grandchildren, who came from as far away as California to join them for this special occasion.



Susannah Strazzera

parents are Susan and Sean O'Sullivan and thrilled grandparents are Margaret and Ronald McKeegan of the Bronx and City Island's Dianne and John O'Sullivan.

Katie and Paul Frisch are happy to announce the birth of Reagan Elizabeth Frisch on Nov. 26. Proud grandparents are Mary Jo Delaney of City Island and Paul and Susan Frisch of Nanuet, New York.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Maria Swieciki

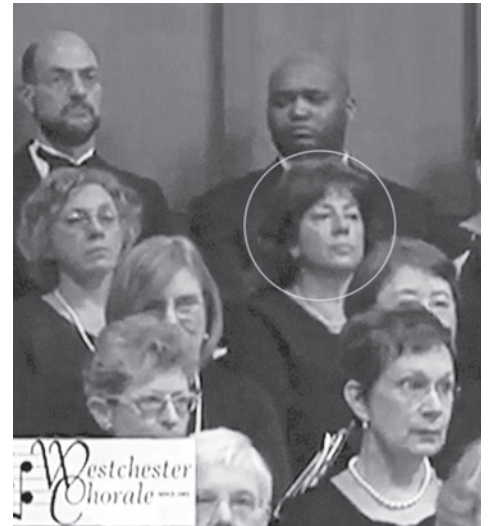


Photo courtesy of the WESTCHESTER CHORALE Congratulations for a job well done to Schofield Street resident Maura Mandrano (circled), who performed in a Christmas concert on Dec. 10 with her group, the Westchester Chorale, at the Larchmont Avenue Church.

Advertisement for 'I can dance I can coach' with text: 'how can you keep a kid off drugs?' and 'www.youcanhelpkids.org'.

Advertisement for 'City Island Reflexology' by David Cook, 190 Fordham St, 718-885-1494.

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