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One Dollar

SMSS BASKETBALL SEASON: AMID WORRIES, MANY VICTORIES

By KAREN NANI



Photos by CONCEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Despite the news of the school's closing, the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball season ended on a high note. The varsity boys won the Bronx Division B championship. Shown above are the winners (bottom row, l. to r.): Andrew Whelan, Eric Lomonaco, Damien Thorne, Mario Castillo, Carlo Fine and John Cebollero. Top row: Jeremy Thomas, Daniel Johnson, Mateo Tomlinson, Deion Rodriguez, coach Rick Englander, Shane Englander, Conner Hanley-Piri, Maximilian Soyref and Michael Valentine.



The St. Mary's Girls Varsity team had a regular season record of 15-3. Shown above are the shooting stars. Bottom row: Destinee White Foster, Thalia Colon, Jessica Hines, Deirdre Spencer, Alexis Connors and Krystal Messiah Stone. Top row: coach Derek Jones, Ashley Livingston, Tassia Turner, Christine Rice, coach Chris Rice, Nia Lucher, Nia Philips, Alicia Jones, coaches Ralph Colon and George Spencer.

The 2012-2013 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball season concluded on a positive, victorious note despite the announcement that the school would be closing in June. Most of the teams posted winning records for the season, and the Boys Varsity team won the Bronx Division B Championship.

Although program director Annamarie Whelan praised all the coaches, players and parents for a season of particular dedication, she is deeply saddened by the announcement that St. Mary's school will be closing (see January-February issue of *The Current*). "We will miss many of the wonderful families that have participated in our program and wish them well at their new schools," she told *The Current*.

However, the games will go on! "We were told that the basketball program will be able to continue next season and would be open to all who live in our parish, as well as the children registered in the SMSS religious education program." According to the archdiocese, St. Mary's gym will still be available for games next season, and the basketball program would remain a parish program. "Also, if your children

are registering in a public school and were originally part of our program, you may register them in the fall," Annamarie said. But she emphasized that they will need even more community involvement to insure the success of the 2013-2014 season.

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) mission is to provide a service for our youth. Its main objective is to give opportunities for young people to be involved in competition to develop physical fitness, self-discipline, mental alertness and attitudes of sportsmanship, based on Christian principles of fair play and cooperation, under well organized and properly supervised forms of athletics. The goal of the CYO is to instill and build in young people attitudes and character that will make them better adjusted now and in the future, according to Annamarie.

The coordinator emphasized that CYO athletics is not just about the final score. It's about positive coaching, sportsmanship for children and their parents, learning to live together in a diverse community, maximizing talents, and fostering the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual strength in each of us.



The Boys JV Tyros finished their exciting season with 17 wins and 7 losses. The "Sharks" are shown above (bottom row): Timothy Stiene, Remy Vargas, Joseph Cruz, Michael Amos, Angelo Nieves, Nicholas Rivera and Matthew Valentine. Top row: coach Tom Leni, Anthony Massella, Cesar Lugo, Jayden Marrero, Steven Rice, Jimmy McGaughan, Joseph Leni, Nicholas Calbo and coach Mark Amos.



Congratulations to St. Mary's Girls JV, who captured the league record with 16 wins and 2 losses. Bottom row: Caleigh Patterson, Dava-Lee Candaleria, Christine Whelan, Amari Fails and Eleni Mantzaris. Top row: coach Bob Whelan, Meghan McConaghy, Alexa Gjonaj, Hailey Murphy, Inasia Banham, Amanda Connors and Alexandra Henning. Missing from photo, Scarlett Vargas.

And Annamarie Whelan couldn't be more proud of the superb efforts of this season's coaches, including the new coaches for the Boys Varsity team, Rick Englander and Derrick Thorne; Boys Junior Varsity coach Mark Amos and his assistant Tom Leni; Boys Bantam A team coaches James Goonan, Mike Torres and Brendan Murphy; Boys Bantam B Team coaches Michael Whelan and Pete Russell; and Intramurals coach James Goonan. On the girls side, she praised the Girls Varsity coaches Chris Rice and assistants George Spencer, Ralph Colon and Derrick Jones; Girls Junior Varsity coach Robert Whelan; and Girls Gidgets coach Bill Whelan and his assistant, Lorraine Watson.

As always, she also thanked all the parent volunteers who gave a helping hand at the admission desk and concession stand. She gave a special shout out to the uniform coordinator, Josslyne Rice.

Sometime in May, there will be a trophy day barbecue in St. Mary's schoolyard to congratulate all the basketball players and say farewell to many of the children who will be attending other schools this fall. Annamarie will let everyone know the date, and she looks forward to seeing all the coaches, players and family members at the barbecue.

A summary of each team's season follows.

Boys Varsity

Although St. Mary's Boys Varsity team finished the regular season with only a .500 record, the "Sharks" went into another gear

when the playoffs began. They won all four playoff games, defeating home team Villa 7 in the finals and winning the Bronx Division B championship!

The Sharks starting lineup consisted of Damien Thorne and Shane Englander sharing the point and shooting guard position; Deion Rodriguez as the off guard/small forward; Conner Hanley-Piri as the strong forward; and Michael Valentine at the center position. The starting five jelled together and produced a cohesive unit that was second to none. Daniel Johnson was a key spark coming off the bench with his defensive prowess. Jeremy Thomas did a nice job filling in the power forward/center position coming off the bench. Mateo Tomlinson, who hit two key free throws to get the team into the finals, came in as an offensive and defensive spark. Maximilian Soyref and Mario Castillo also did a good job off the bench.

The non-starting seventh-graders were led by Eric Lomonaco as the back-up point guard. Eric will be well equipped to lead next year's Sharks to victory. Andrew Whelan, Carlo Fine and John Cebollero showed a lot of hustle and determination throughout the season and will also help St. Mary's have another strong season next year.

Rick Englander and Dion Thorne shared the coaching duties, each bringing valuable experience and knowledge of the game to the team. Finally, the season wouldn't have been a success without the

Continued on page 5

BRIEFLY...

TEMPLE BETH-EL ANNUAL DINNER DANCE celebrating the Temple's 79th anniversary, will be held on Saturday evening, May 4, 7 p.m. at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course and honoring Olga Berde Mahl, Michael Tietze and Elan Wolf. Cost: \$75. To make reservations, call Paul Klein at 718-885-3090.

THE CLASSIC FARCE "BOEING BOEING," by French playwright Marc Camoletti and translated by Beverley Cross, will be produced by the City Island Theater Group over two weekends in May at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4, at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m., as well as the following weekend, beginning Thursday, May 9, and followed by Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, all at 8 p.m. For reservations please call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Pelham Bay Park Work Parties

Now that spring has come, the park needs volunteers to help clear trails and help with other maintenance work to keep the park vibrant and visitor-friendly. For more information about any of the activities below, call Clint Robinson at 347-512-5048 or e-mail cl.robinson@verizon.net. In all cases, check the locations and times ahead of the date to make sure that there have been no changes. Wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, along with a long-sleeved shirt, and bring water or a beverage and lunch. Tools and gloves will be provided.

April 6: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., trail maintenance of the Kazimiroff trail; installation of trail posts. Meet at northeast corner of Orchard Beach parking lot.

April 20: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hunter Island, clearing overgrown trail. Meet at northeast corner of Orchard Beach parking lot.

April 21: Earthfest. 12 noon to 3 p.m. Playground for all children. Learn how you and your family can personally help to preserve our environment.

April 27: Million Trees NYC: 9:30 a.m.

to 3 p.m., Turtle Cove and Rodman's Neck.

May 4: Trail maintenance, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orchard Beach meadow restoration. Meet at southeast corner of Orchard Beach parking lot.



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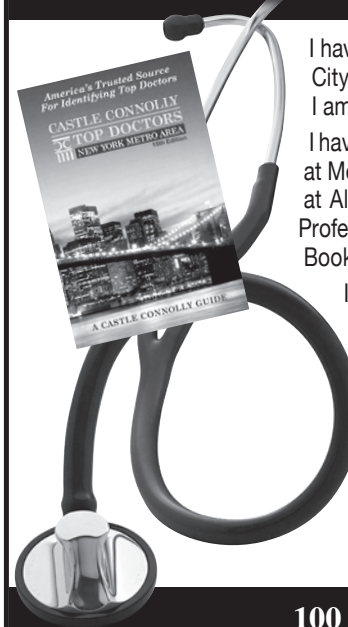
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FIRE DAMAGES FORDHAM STREET BUILDING

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RON TERNER

Ladder 53 went to work on its first major fire since arriving on City Island by battling a blaze at 233 Fordham Street that started shortly before 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2013. It is not known what caused the two-alarm fire, which was extinguished within a couple of hours.

Shortly after 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, fire trucks began racing down east Fordham Street to put out a fire at 233 Fordham on the second floor of the commercial building once occupied by the landscape designer John Mini, who moved to a larger facility off the Island in 2004.

The fire was discovered at 1:27 p.m. by a Fire Department inspector who happened to be in the area; the City Island fire trucks, Engine 70 and Ladder 53, quickly arrived at the scene, followed by several off-Island vehicles and 125 firefighters responding to the two-alarm call. The fire was extinguished by 3:04 p.m.

According to Battalion Chief Keith Cortica, people in the building "self-evacuated," and there was only one minor injury

to a firefighter. The cause of the fire, which appears to have originated on the north side of the second floor, was not known at the time, as the firefighters could not enter the building until Consolidated Edison turned off the power to the building.

The building is now owned by JRP Industries, which rents out parts of the building to various firms, including QC Laboratories, an environmental research firm based in Southampton, Pennsylvania; and Ultra Sports, a boat dealer that stores its jet skis and other equipment in the Quanset huts connected to the building. Voicemail messages left with these tenants were not answered, and it is assumed that the firms are, at least temporarily, working from other locations.

Nautical Museum Salutes Island Clubs

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by FRANCINE ALHEID

The Nautical Museum's newly renovated Walsh Room is hosting a fascinating new exhibition devoted to the yacht and boat clubs of City Island. The six clubs featured in the show are the City Island Yacht Club, the Harlem Yacht Club, the Island Boat Club, the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club and the Touring Kayak Club. The Museum, located at 190 Fordham Street, is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. or during the week by special appointment.

A beautiful new exhibition honoring the yacht and boat clubs of City Island was launched by the City Island Nautical Museum on March 16, 2013, as it reopened following a winter of renovation. Each of the six clubs contributed histories, photographs, documents and artifacts to the show, which was curated by Rich Coar and Judy Judson and art directed by Francine Alheid. Yacht club members worked hard to gather and prepare material for the exhibition, and museum volunteers devoted energy and effort to put the museum in shape for the season.

The clubs featured are the City Island Yacht Club, the Harlem Yacht Club, the Island Boat Club, the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, and the Touring Kayak Club. Three of them (Harlem, Morris and Stuyvesant) have been in existence for over 100 years and originated elsewhere, but they all eventually moved to City Island. The Morris and Stuyvesant were once located in Pelham Bay Park but were evicted in the 1930s by Robert Moses, the Parks Department Commissioner who masterminded the creation of Orchard Beach. The Harlem is the oldest one on the Island, having moved here in 1894.

A special section of the exhibit is devoted to the Morris Yacht Club fire in 2004, which destroyed one of the island's oldest and most beloved buildings, and to photographs of races featuring the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association and

the J-24 class of sailboats.

In spite of fire, taxes, hurricanes and other disasters, all of these clubs have managed to thrive here and are still active, participating in many international sailing competitions, providing educational programs for young and old, offering training facilities for local universities, and otherwise contributing greatly to New York City, City Island in particular. The Coast Guard Auxiliary based on City Island and the local U.S. Power Squadron chapter hold their meetings and other programs at the Harlem and City Island Yacht Clubs.

Aside from the nautical aspects of these clubs, a significant factor in their success has been the quality of cooperation and dedication demonstrated through the years by members who have expended energy and funds during times of stress and enjoyed fellowship and good food during good times and bad. These are not clubs for the one-percenters like J. Pierpont Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt and August Belmont, who had their yachts serviced here on City Island. These club members know their boats inside and out and do much of their own work, often in teams, though they also demonstrate a hearty sense of rivalry when race night comes around.

Many longtime City Islanders who are not familiar with the clubs will come away from the exhibition with a much greater understanding of how important they are to the City Island community. The show will remain in place at the Museum through July.

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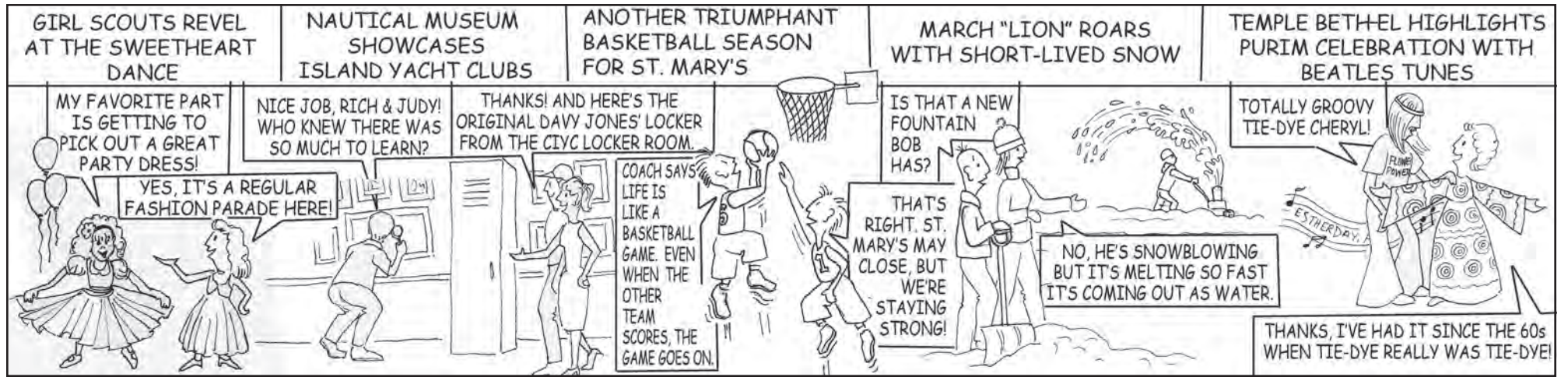
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Praise for the IGA

To the Editor:

For more than 20 years, I have been shopping at the IGA, and the store is just as special today as it was when Gabe and Frank (who has sadly passed on) founded the business. When I was younger, I went there by car or on foot and always found the freshest produce and a well-organized and well-stocked store. Today I deal mostly with the second generation, Paul and Michael, and the store is just as great as it was 20 years ago.

I now rely on Paul and Michael and

the staff to take my order over the phone and deliver it, which they do without fail, always providing professional service with kindness and a smile and sometimes an extra treat thrown in for good measure. I and the rest of City Island are very lucky to have such professional and caring merchants working here. And as a personal aside, try the meatloaf; it's the best in the city.

Alice Stuttig

Politician Visits to CI

To the Editor:

It is disturbing to me that City Island has to throw its lot in with the likes of Comptroller John Liu, a politician who, in my opinion, is ethically challenged. When I see his name in *The Current* (see March issue) giving us his support on the bridge matter or the firehouse closing, I feel queasy and have to lie down.

I understand the firehouse is threatened once more. I assume we'll be visited again by Scott Stringer and William Thompson in another shameless pandering for votes.

Anthony L. Roccamo

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SMSS BASKETBALL

Continued from page 1

hard work and dedication of Zea Zea Beasley and Annamarie Whelan. Zea Zea kept the scoring for every Boys Varsity game. In addition, she helped the coaches from time to time during games with her basketball knowledge. The coaches acknowledged the great job Annamarie Whelan did as program coordinator dealing with all the behind the scenes work that was the least glamorous job. She was a lifesaver coordinating practices, uniforms, games, etc. and the team gave her a big cheer!

Girls Varsity

The Girls Varsity team had a regular season record of 15-3. The team worked hard, showed improvement and displayed the qualities every CYO organization strives for.

In the playoffs, they won their first round against St. Brendan's but lost the second round game against St. Margaret's. St. Mary's team members applaud Santa Maria who won the Girls Varsity Division A championship against St. Margaret's.

Christine Rice led St. Mary's team this year in points and rebounding as a versatile point guard and shooting forward. She is respected by her teammates and throughout the entire CYO Program. She is graduating from St. Mary's this June and leaves the program both a champion and a three-time Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Coach Rice congratulated all the other members of the Girls Varsity team: Ashley Livingston, Tassia Turner, Nia Lucher, Nia Philips, Alicia Jones, Destinee White Foster, Thalia Colon, Jessica Hines, Deirdre Spencer, Alexis Connors and Krystal Mesiah Stone.

He also thanked Annamarie Whelan and assistant coaches, Ralph Colon, Derek Jones and George Spencer, each of whom left a lasting positive impression on the players.

Boys Junior Varsity Tyros

The 2012-2013 Boys Tyros basketball season was fantastic! The boys' pressure defense and swooping layups were great, led by Shark guards Michael Amos and Nicholas Rivera. Jayden Marrero, Cesar Lugo, Joseph Leni and Steven Rice all played great defense down low, altering many shot attempts and securing big rebounds when the team needed it.

The bench players were very instrumental in achieving a successful season, led by Angelo Nieves, Jimmy McGaughan and Joseph Cruz. Their hustle and commitment showed that they took the team slogan "Team First" to heart.

The Tyros had an overall record of 17 wins and 7 losses, and they made it to the second round of the Division A playoffs. Coach Mark Amos told *The Current*, "It's always heartbreaking to say goodbye, especially this year when St. Mary, Star of the Sea School is closing its doors for good. My prayers go out to all the students, parents, faculty and staff with their new journeys in life. My memories of coaching will

never be forgotten, like when a boy makes his first basket. The jubilation on his face is priceless."

Coach Amos thanked coach Tom Leni for all his hard work and dedication and all the parents for their commitment and sacrifice throughout the long grinding season.

Girls Junior Varsity

The 2012-2013 Girls JV team had another successful season. The girls won the western conference championship by posting a league record of 16-2. The playoffs were not as kind to the girls, who lost to St. Benedict's, which went on to win the Bronx/Manhattan Championship.

The St. Mary's team was led by guard Christine Whelan and center Inasia Bahnam, who scored over 400 points for the season. The tenacious defense of Eleni Mantzaris and Dava-Lee Candelaria helped stifle the opponents and was instrumental in the success of the team.

The girls did a magnificent job and should be commended on their teamwork.

Boys Bantams A

The St. Mary's Bantam A team had a great season. They played very hard and learned to work together as a team. They were able to make it to the second round of the playoffs, losing by one point on a last second shot.

Congratulations to the Bantam All Stars: Joshua Rosario, Sebastian Rodriguez and Carmine Testa.

Good luck to those moving up to the JV level. Coaches James Goonan, Mike Torres and Brendan Murphy look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Boys Bantams B

The 2012-2013 Boys Bantam B team played exceptionally well, finishing the season with 13 wins and 5 losses. They faced talented opponents throughout the season and reached the A Division playoffs. This was a significant accomplishment for a second- and third-grade team! All players contributed to the team's success.

The coaches extend thanks and appreciation to all the players, including Ryan Amos, Oscar Etzel, Thomas Forliano, Aidan Hanley-Piri, Mark Lomonico, Patrick Livingston, Marco Mazzella, John Russell, Ramone Vargas, Ryan Whelan and Thomas Whelan.

Coaches Mike Whelan and Pete Russell thanked all of the parents who committed their time volunteering at games and insuring the boys made it to practice.

Congratulations on a successful season!

Girls Gidgets

The St. Mary's Girls Gidgets had a challenging season, facing tough competition each week. The girls learned the fundamentals of the game and had lots of fun along the way.

Highlights of the girls' season included a four-game winning streak and victory at the St. Francis Xavier tournament—a great team effort!

Coaches Bill Whelan and Lorraine Watson are proud of all the girls' dedication to the team. The tenacious teammates were Amanda Acocella, Alexa Forliano, Kayla Fusco, Jennifer Gjonaj, Deirdre Kirwin, Demi Mantzaris, Adriana Testa, Mia Vargas, Sara Vega, Jaiden Watson and Isabel Whelan.

Intramurals

The St. Mary's Intramural basketball team coached by James Goonan lays the foundation for future shooting stars. He told *The Current*: "We had a great year and everyone learned a lot. Good luck to those who are moving up to Bantams."

He told the players to keep practicing over the summer and is proud of all of them: Cyrus Alston, Quincy Crouch, Paul Goonan, Donald Hostomsky, Peter Luderman, Michael Masella, Feorilla Miria, Ryan Montalvo, Hazel Montalvo and Jesse Sparks.



Coaches James Goonan, Mike Torres and Brendan Murphy (not shown) congratulated their Boys Bantam A team on making it to the second round of the playoffs. Front row: Aiden Torres, Alex Stewart, Lamire Bryant, Joseph Goonan and Daniel Vo. Back row: Julian McElroi, Joshau Rosario, Sebastian Rodriguez, Javen Thomas and Tristen Boga-Torres. Not pictured: Carmine Testa.



Coaches Bill Whelan and Lorraine Watson proudly present the St. Mary's Girls Gidgets team (front row, kneeling): Amanda Acocella, Alexa Forliano and Demi Mantzaris. Standing: Deirdre Kirwin, Kayla Fusco, Isabel Whelan, Jennifer Gjonaj and Jaiden Watson. Not shown: Sara Vega, Adriana Testa and Mia Vargas.




The Boys Bantams B team consisted of second- and third-graders. The young hoopsters had a winning season and are shown above (kneeling): Thomas Forliano, Oscar Etzel, Mark Lomonico, Ramone Vargas and Ryan Whelan. Standing: Thomas Whelan, Ryan Amos, John Russell, Marco Mazzella, Patrick Livingston, Aidan Hanley-Piri, coaches Mike Whelan and Pete Russell.



Intramurals coach James Goonan and St. Mary's future shooting stars (front row): Quincy Crouch, Cyrus Alston, Hazel Montalvo, Jesse Sparks and Donald Hostomsky. Back row: Michael Masella, Ryan Montalvo, Peter Luderman, Paul Goonan and Feorilla Miria.

HOME INSPECTION SERVICES

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

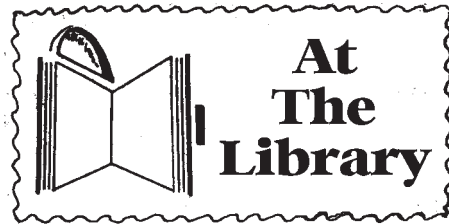
The Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue (718-885-1403) will be presenting its "Young Bronx Artists Exhibition" featuring artists 17 and younger, from April 6 through 28, with an opening reception on Saturday, April 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. This exhibition is sponsored by the Idea Factory/Street Art, a non-profit organization founded by Joseph J. Moscato. The goal of the organization is to nurture, promote and showcase the work of young artists, poets and performers.

For April, the Starving Artist (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) presents songwriters, young music artists and the debut performance of a City Islander. On Friday, April 12, at 8 p.m., City Island's Frank Cebek takes the stage with his group, playing guitar and some old favorites. The next night, Saturday, April 13, at 8 p.m., we welcome the Potato Heads, featuring City Island's Mike "Harps" DiMaggio. Young Music Artists are showcased on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m., and again, with Jonathan Russell, master jazz violinist, on Saturday, April 20, at 8 p.m. Songwriters are on deck on Friday, April 5, at 8 p.m. with Sonya Heller's Songwriter Song-Swap; on Sunday, April 14, at 3 p.m. with Scott and Rachel Urgola; and on Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m. with Jack Serra Lima. Join us for fun with No Stringz Attached on Saturday, April 27, at 8 p.m. There's always the last Friday of the month open mic night for actors, singers, songwriters, comics, poets, on Friday, April 26, at 8 p.m., and the first Sunday's Internet television program, "Elliott & Friends," this month on April 7, beginning at 3 p.m. LIVE from Starving Artist. For more information, visit our website at www.StarvingArtistOnline.com.



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
217 Fordham Street	12/20/12	\$652,000	Warehouse
172 Fordham Street	1/11/13	\$350,000	2 Family
101 City Island Ave.	1/4/12	\$1,300,000	Commercial
285 Minneford Ave.	2/8/13	\$490,320	2 Family
194 Carroll Street	2/26/13	\$375,000	1 Family



City Island Branch Library Events for April 2013

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.

April's Children's Programs

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Every ongoing Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Special Program: Mighty Action Theater Workshop: Audience participation for children ages 6-11. Friday, April 19, at 3:30 p.m.

April's Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Ongoing Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance. NEW! Microsoft Word will be briefly touched upon.

Resumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search: Ongoing Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. Please register in advance. A flash drive to save your work is highly recommended.

Movie of the Month: One of these films will be screened on a Saturday in April. Please check back with us for the date and time. We will be handing out and posting flyers for either "Lincoln," "Les Miserables," "Zero Dark Thirty" or "The Hobbit."

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue & Bay Street. Please call the branch at 718-885-1703 for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancelations. You can visit us at www.nypl.org for more details and for programs in other branches throughout the city.

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as you climb the bridge rise,
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an earthy whiff of a
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Photos by ERIC RAUHAUSER

Many City Islanders were ready to say *Sea-Ya* to the winter of 2013, but the snow kept coming in March. A storm on March 8 covered the City Island sign in Catherine Scott Park (inset photo) and another storm on March 18 covered the *Half Moon* in front of P.S. 175 (bottom photo). The winter weather that blanketed the crocuses and daffodils in residents' gardens in March left Islanders dreaming of a snow-free Passover and Easter holiday.

TAMING THE HOMEWORK MONSTER

By JOHN SCARDINA

A hot topic in the education world right now is homework: Is it useful? How much is enough? Which types of assignments are best for lifelong learning skills? Since we know that mastery requires practice, we can understand why homework has been a part of the school experience since we were kids. Yet in today's world of electronics, after-school activities and two-income households, how does homework fit into the rhythm of the 21st-century family?

While educators sort this out, what can we parents do when Johnny comes home after a long day at school and balks at those spelling word stories and math worksheets? Here are some hopefully helpful tips:

- Have a consistent time and place for homework completion. Schools thrive on routine, and you can benefit from your child's comfort with a definite schedule. (This will mean, of course, that you will have to be organized too!) Make sure the television is off and that there is good lighting and an uncluttered space. The timing of the homework is up to you and your child: some do better if they finish the work right after school and a quick snack, while others need 30 minutes of down time to regroup for the evening. Have a conversation with your child about the schedule, write a contract about the after-school routine, and make sure both of you sign it before you post it in the homework area.

- Use a timer to limit each "chunk" of the assignments to your child's individual capacity for productive work. If your child can do 15 minutes of productive work,

set a timer for fifteen minutes, then have a two-minute "sensory break" (jumping jacks, breathing exercises, crunchy snack foods), then get back to work for another 15 minutes.

- Use the 10/15 minute rubric: Optimum total homework time should be 10 to 15 minutes per grade (no homework for kindergarten, 10 to 15 minutes for first grade, 20 to 30 minutes for second grade, etc.). If you find that your child consistently has more homework than this rubric suggests, start to time their homework efforts. Keep a log of the times for a week, and ask the teacher for a conference to discuss how to make the situation better. No one benefits from exhausted students (and parents) dragging themselves back to school after a long night of homework and tears.

- Be available, but let the kids do the homework themselves. They need supervision (do you think the teacher doesn't watch them while they are working in school?) and space. You probably already passed the grade your child is currently in, so how well you can do their homework doesn't help much. Seat them within your sight range and offer encouragement as needed.

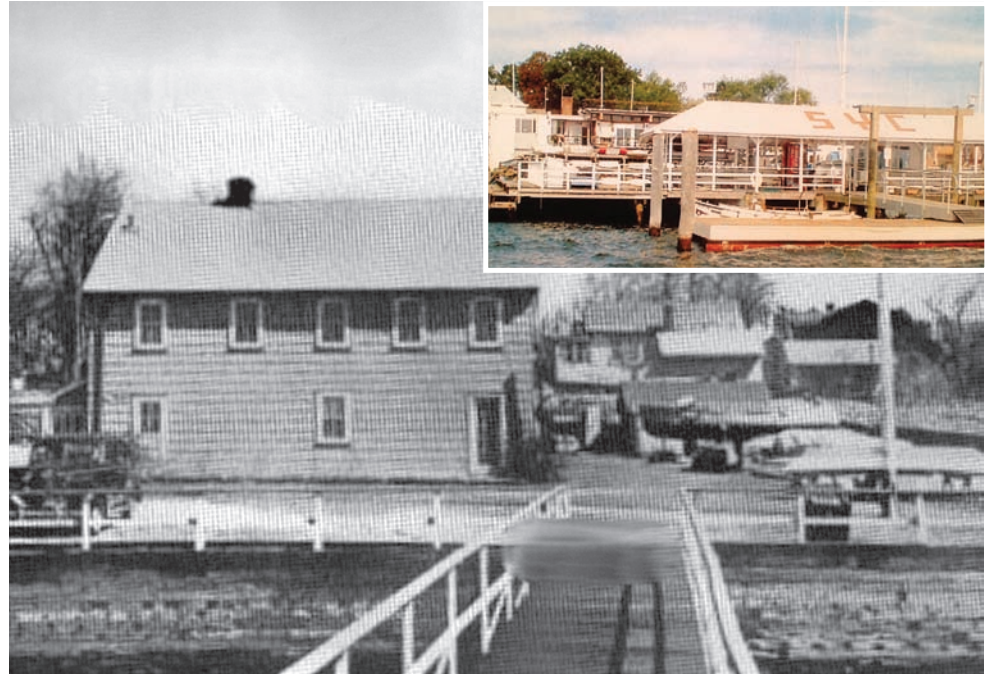
- Stay calm. Your stress won't help the situation.

- Remember that learning is about process as well as product. The goal need not be a perfect paper—teachers always know when you have corrected your child's homework for them—but it should be a true representation of what they can do on their own. We are building life skills here, not just finishing a worksheet!

The Stuyvesant Yacht Club: A History

Compiled by JEFFREY GOLDFARB

This is the first in a series of articles on each of the six yacht and boating clubs that are celebrated in a new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum.



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

The Stuyvesant Yacht Club then and now (inset).

The origins of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club were modest. Back in the early 1880s, a group of young men living in Manhattan were drawn together by their love of the water and boating. They pooled their modest resources and bought a stout row-boat, which was launched in the Harlem River with appropriate ceremonies after it had been hauled across the land on a milk wagon. It did not take very long for the group to tire of the oars, so a sail was added, and the "yacht" provided great sport for the handful of members during their weekends at the club. As the group became larger, more boats were acquired, and an empty store was rented near 125th Street, and this made it possible for the group to hold regular meetings.

The members did not feel like real yachtsmen, however, until they began to charter the sloop *Sea Bird* for cruises down Long Island Sound. On one of these expeditions, a strong nor'easter compelled the adventurers to seek shelter in Cow Bay (now Manhasset). As *Sea Bird* swung to anchor, all hands were attracted by the massive proportions of the dismantled ferry boat *Gerard Stuyvesant*, which in its day had been the pride of the East River. Now she lay moored close at hand. With enthusiasm, the group felt that the ferry boat would make an ideal clubhouse, so they purchased the boat in 1889, towed it to Port Morris in the Bronx, and beached it at the mouth of a creek. Thus the Stuyvesant Yacht Club was born. The charter of incorporation is dated April 27, 1890.

The headquarters were later moved to a house in Port Morris and then to a site in Pelham Bay Park near Jack's Rock. There the Stuyvesant clubhouse was located on a point of land that had once formed part of the Bayard Farm. By coincidence, the man for whom the ferry boat and the club had been named—Gerardus Stuyvesant (1690–1777)—had married a Judith Bayard, and so there was an historical link between the club and its new location.

In 1934 the good fortunes of Stuyvesant almost ran out. Not only were economic conditions most difficult during the depths of the Great Depression, but with the establishment of Orchard Beach the members were forced to abandon their clubhouse in Pelham Bay Park at the command of Robert Moses, the commissioner of the New York City Parks Department. This was particularly discouraging, since the installations at Jack's Rock were magnificent: spacious grounds with two marine railways and a fleet of more than one hundred boats. But the club had no

choice; it had to relocate during the bitterly cold winter of 1934.

Many anxious meetings were held at that time, since a new location had to be found quickly. Many of the newer members sought to abandon Stuyvesant in favor of other clubs, feeling that the club was surely doomed, and they urged that the organization be dissolved. But the sturdy old timers replied bravely "Never!" and they carried the day. The present property on City Island was purchased for \$7,000 in 1935, and with the happy news of the relocation to City Island on Eastchester Bay, the spirits of members rebounded to new heights.

In the cold light of morning, however, prospects seemed rather bleak. The club had some land of its own and a fine anchorage, but nothing beyond that. The property was bare, except for an old tent that served as a clubhouse, but by the end of the first season, the grounds were filled in and a wooden bulkhead was in place. All of the work was done cooperatively by the members, and thus continued the tradition of club members working together. Later on, because the work could not be done by amateurs, no matter how dedicated they were, contracts were let for a new clubhouse and runway. Over the years, a modern mechanical boat lift was installed to replace the antiquated railway, and custom launches of larger capacity were purchased.

A devastating fire in February 1968 destroyed the clubhouse, but members pledged significant loans to launch the rebuilding project. Without this extraordinary courage and dedication, the present clubhouse would never have been built. On June 21, 1969, the new clubhouse was dedicated, and members could again be proud of their accomplishments.

One of the outstanding qualities of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club is the extent to which it is a creation of its own members. They rebuilt a clubhouse to replace the one that burned, they hauled boulders and cement blocks to create a retaining wall; they waded in mud while bulkheads were erected or repaired, and they rebuilt docks after hurricanes, both past and present.

In spite of these temporary setbacks, the Stuyvesant continues its history of club cruising rendezvous, family races on sunny summer weekends, and frostbite races in the winter. Loyal members can continue to bask in the glow of the fire and enjoy the crackle of logs while the snow presses on the canvas-covered boats, as they share memories of cool summer evenings in the breeze-swept summer house, watching the bridges sparkle across the water.

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

MARCH/APRIL

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., March 28, 29 and 30, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sat., April 13, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Thurs., April 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway.

Sat., April 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

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

MAY

Sat. May 4, **79th Anniversary of Temple Beth El Dinner**, 7 p.m. Pelham Split Rock Golf Course.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

April 5, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome.

After a two-week break for Holy Week and Easter, our students in our religious education program will resume classes on Wednesday, April 10.

Our students from our school and parish who are preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation will participate in a retreat day at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point on Friday, April 12. This is part of their immediate preparation for the reception of the sacrament at the end of the month.

All are invited to join us at our monthly coffee hour on Sunday, April 14. It will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass.

His Excellency, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro will be here at St. Mary's on Tuesday, April 30, to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to 32 of the young people in our school and our religious education program. The ceremony will begin at 4 p.m. We congratulate all our confirmandi on this special event in their lives.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, Your Shul by the Sea, an unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian synagogue, offers a stimulating place for observance in the Jewish tradition. The spirited congregation gathers together with our innovative rabbi, Shohama Wiener and our joyful engaging associate spiritual leader, Reb David Evan Markus. For 78 years, Temple Beth-El has welcomed all who come to celebrate and pray here at 480 City Island Avenue.

Friday night Sabbath services commence at 7:30 p.m. We use the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book written primarily in English with some text in Hebrew. The Hebrew is transliterated, allowing words to be sung and read easily. Even if congregants are unfamiliar with Hebrew, everyone who attends is able to participate comfortably.

Your Shul by the Sea Band offers an added delightful quality to our services and some of us even get up and dance as we welcome the Sabbath.

Our special events and services for April are as follows:

Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m. Israeli Independence Kabbalat Shabbat led by Reb

David and Reb Eva

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., a monthly class called "Spirit and Song: The Liturgy and Spirituality of Welcoming Shabbat" is led by Reb David. To register or ask questions, please e-mail Reb David at: davidevanmarkus@gmail.com.

Friday April 26, at 7:30 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Shohama

Save these dates:

Saturday evening, May 4, our Annual Dinner Dance, celebrating the Temple's 79th anniversary at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course honoring Olga Berde Mahl, Michael Tietze and Elan Wolf. We welcome all those who want to join us on this festive occasion and appreciate all those who wish to take out an ad in our journal commemorating this special event. For information call Paul Klein at 718-885-3090.

Friday, May 10, Shavuot Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama

As spring has arrived our thoughts are turning toward summer and our annual Shabbat by the Sea scheduled for July 19, at the home of our congregants Ken Binder and Steve Roth, with a lovely waterside view of a brilliant sunset, good food and company, and, of course, Your Shul by the Sea Band.

All other Friday night services, starting at 7:30 p.m., are community led, usually with our Trustee Bob Berent and his accordion. Recently, our Treasurer, Michael Eiron, has been assisting Bob. Mike has been inspired and encouraged to engage with leading the service after attending Liturgy classes led by Reb David. Please come and join us when we celebrate Friday night Sabbath services here on City Island and for these other events and activities! We look forward to seeing you.

Ellen Ruth Topol

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 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.

Mark your calendars now for a special Trinity Church Memorial Concert featuring the Milal Missionary Choir on May 18 at 7 p.m. This choir has performed around the world, and Trinity is blessed that they will perform for its congregation and friends. The event is free and a special meet-and-greet coffee hour is being planned.

It is spring and that means cleaning! Think of what you can donate to the Budget Corner this season, and unclutter your home at the same time. The spring schedule is March 26 and 30, April 9, 13, 23 and 27. As always, Trinity United Methodist Church is thankful for the City Island community's continued support of the Budget Corner.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Theater Group

CITG is pleased to present "Boeing Boeing" as its next production, opening the first weekend of May. The classic farce, written by French playwright Marc Camoletti and translated by Beverley Cross, premiered in London in 1962 and was a hit on Broadway, first in 1965 and again in 2008, after which it began a North American tour.

The action takes place in an apartment in Paris in the 1960s, where swinging bachelor Bernard is engaged to several stewardesses, a complicated situation made workable by the reluctant assistance of his housekeeper.



Photo by JOSHUA DAVIDOWITZ

Temple Beth-El celebrated Purim on Saturday, Feb. 23. Planned as a teaching session, the celebration turned into a swinging time as members heard the story of Purim set to Beatles melodies. Led by Reb David and Reb Eva, tunes such as "Yesterday" (as "Estherday") and "Help" were remastered for the rejoicing. Purim revelers (above, l. to r.) were Michael Eiron, Reb Eva Sax-Bolder, Reb David Markus, Francesca Vitale, Cheryl Berent, Olga Berde Mahl and Bob Berent.

Unfortunately, the introduction of a faster Boeing jet throws off all of his careful scheduling, and chaos prevails.

Returning to CITG's stage in the cast of this production are Christina Drake, Jay Langkamp, Susan Rauh, Liza Reid and Lindy Tabano. The group is pleased to welcome Brad Cassini to the group for his first performance here. Nick Sala will direct.

The play will be performed in Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4 at 8 p.m., and on Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m., as well as the following weekend, beginning Thursday, May 9, and followed by Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, all at 8 p.m. Tickets are available by e-mailing tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com or by calling 718-885-3066.

CITG has set the 2013 schedule and is currently waiting to for the rights to the productions. Advertising for the 2013 programs is now available; the deadline for inclusion in this year's program is April 15. For further information, rates, etc. please e-mail information@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

The group is proud to be sponsors of a City Island Little League team this year. Watch for the purple shirts!

Mary McIntyre

City Island Republicans

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post. The mayoral race is heating up. There may be a Republican primary in September. Details will follow.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Grace Episcopal Church

Located at 116 City Island, Grace Church is a historic Episcopal parish, which has served the nautical community of City Island for over 160 years. We welcome you!

Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite I, Sundays at 10 a.m. Lambs Babysitting available first Sundays (April 8 at 9:50 a.m.) in Grace Church Hall.

April Events:

Hearts and Hands: Monday, April 15, 7:15 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. This knitting group creates comfort items for patients at Calvary Hospital. Please join us and bring your needles and hooks!

Friday Night Fellowship: April 12, 7 p.m., Grace Church Hall. Barbara Dolensek will talk about the history of the Horton family, and Philomena Dunn, president of the Westchester County Genealogical Society and independent researcher, will give a genealogy lecture. Tips will be given on how to start your own genealogical research. Refreshments will be served.

Eileen Marcus

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be held on April 2, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. This is an important meeting, as the Cancer Bingo is scheduled for April 25, and we need everyone's help in completing the final planned details. Remember that you can leave your gifts at the Legion or come by Wednesday evenings, when the ladies will be there wrapping. Don't miss the event. Have fun and good luck to all.

Happy springtime.

Maryann Occhicone

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that dues are now past due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed into the SAL Box.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11, at 8 p.m. We will be taking nominations for officers. New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All old flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole. They will be retired with dignity. It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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



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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Weight Watchers Meetings: Meetings will be on Thursday evenings at 5:30. For more information, call Patty at 718-885-1891.

Family Bingo Night: Bring the family Friday, April 12, for bingo. Lots of prizes waiting to be taken home. Come join us for a night of fun. \$5 a card. Free card for CICC members. Refreshments will be on sale that night.

Teen Dance: Teen dance being held

April 27 for grades 6, 7 and 8. Free.

Zumbathon: We are holding a Zumbathon for all ages on April 21. Lettie and Julia will be leading the adults, while Sarah Persteins leads children in Zumbatomic. The cost for adults is \$10 and children \$8. Help us raise much-needed funds to continue to upgrade the Community Center.

Uptown Coffeehouse: The Uptown has brought traditional and contemporary folk music to the Bronx for 26 years. As we enter our second season on City Island, we present live performances from some of the very finest artists in the folk genre. We host a show on either the first or second Saturday of each month. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, unless otherwise noted. We are a 501(c)(3) organization run entirely by volunteers. Please visit www.uptowncoffeehouse.org or call 718-885-2955 for our latest schedule and details.

City Island Parenting Group: An ongoing topic-oriented discussion group for parents with John Scardina. All are welcome, come once or every month. We try to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month in the dance studio at 7:00 p.m.

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 to 12:30 p.m. No charge but donations are appreciated. Call 917-330-0922 for more information.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! Taught by Geri Smith, former Laguardia High School teacher and exam auditioner. \$90 for five-week session, \$25 materials fee (after session ends students bring materials home). For registration or more information, call 718-885-1503.

ADULT PROGRAM

Zumba with Julia: Want to lose that belly fat before summer? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout with me for an hour. Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30. \$10 per class. Call 917-601-5514. It's fun!

Zumba with Letti: Letti is a fantastic Zumba instructor who brings a lot of creativity and energy to her classes. Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Classes are \$10 or 5 class card for \$40.

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 helps remove any fears or challenges in doing these exercises, while it also assists 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 a class. Call 718-885-0535.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for age 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. 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

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).

Sarah Persteins

Cardio Fitness with Mary: Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Arthritis Exercise with Patty: Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Orchard Beach Walk: Wednesday; we leave Pilot St. at 9:30 a.m. (must have three walkers).

Yoga Stretch with Michael: Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Fit for Life with Sarah: Friday at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Senior Writing Group

What is your favorite family story—the one that makes everyone smile? Come turn those memories into wonderful stories. Every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. Call Gail for more information at 718-885-0444. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Volunteering

Please think about volunteering for one of our senior programs. We need help in many areas including clerical and computer, reception, telephoning, visiting and help with parties and events to name a few.

Telephone Reassurance

If you live alone or know someone who lives alone, a telephone call everyday might be of benefit. Please call Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Caregiver 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 Debbie at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services

Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday, Bay Plaza or Stop & Shop; Thursday, 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. Suggested contributions for round trips are \$1 on Island, and \$2.50 off-Island. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services in our beautiful new van.

Program Services

Call Debbie at 718-885-0727 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, including group theater discounts to shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Westchester Dinner Theater on Nov. 8 (\$53). Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Debbie Erosa

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Fitness Program

Exercise is an important key to good health, especially for an older person. We hope more people will join our wonderful and affordable exercise classes as listed below.

Zumba Gold with Sarah: Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

City Island Reflexology

David Cook
 190 Fordham St
 718-885-1494

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American Legion Post #156

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. The executive board meeting will be on Monday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The Veterans Administration accepts clothing donations for our veterans. Donations can be dropped off at the Post or brought over to the fourth floor of the VA hospital.

Vice Commander Mike Treat reports that membership dues are past due. They are \$45. Anyone who has not paid dues yet should drop them off at the Post.

Now that party season has arrived, we have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 100 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals.

We are in need of a few flag stewards to help put up the flags on the poles this year. Stop by the Post if you are interested. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

Ed Shipp



If the Shoe Fits

The “ruby red slippers” from **The Wizard of Oz** (1939) are so famous that they reside at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. This classic film stars Judy Garland as Dorothy, who is swept away from her Kansas home to the mythical mystical Land of Oz. When Dorothy finds those famous shoes on her feet, she is terrified by the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), who wants them for herself. She is sent off to follow the Yellow Brick Road by Glinda, the Good Witch (Billie Burke), so she can ask the great Wizard to help her get home. On her way, she befriends the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), the Tin Man (Jack Haley) and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who join her on her journey.

Another classic is **The Red Shoes** (1948). Under the tutelage of ballet impresario Boris Lermontov (Anton Walbrook), fledgling ballerina Victoria Page (Maira Shearer) is destined to become a great star. When the brilliant composer Julian Craster (Marius Goring) composes the ballet “The Red Shoes” based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, she falls in love with him, to the outrage of Boris who loves her himself. Professional and personal jealousies abound, and Victoria is torn between her love for Julian, her responsibility to Boris and her need to dance.

There are several versions of the story of the orphaned girl who is treated like a

servant by her wicked stepmother and two stepsisters. Her fairy godmother uses magic to help her attend the king’s ball. When she runs away before the magic wears off at midnight, she leaves behind a glass slipper, which the prince uses to search for her. The Disney cartoon **Cinderella** (1950) is the definitive version, but other versions include Rodgers & Hammerstein’s **Cinderella** (1957) starring Julie Andrews in the title role and **The Slipper and the Rose** (1976), with Richard Chamberlain as the prince.

Turning to an epic drama with shoes that are figurative rather than literal, **The Shoes of the Fisherman** (1968) stars Anthony Quinn as Kiril Lakota, a Russian priest who is freed after 20 years in a Siberian labor camp. With the world on the edge of destruction, because famine in China threatens the invasion of Russia, Prime Minister Kamenev (Sir Laurence Olivier) has had Lakota released and sent to the Vatican. There Lakota is made a cardinal and begins a journey to intercede in international politics, trying to avoid war by making a profound gesture. This exceptional international cast includes Oscar Werner as Father David Telemond, Sir John Gielgud as His Holiness the Pope, Leo McKern as Cardinal Leone and famous Italian director Vittorio De Sica as Cardinal Rinaldi. There is a sub-plot involving David Janson as news reporter George Faber, who is estranged from his wife, Dr. Ruth Faber (Barbara Jefford). Through David Faber, the uninformed viewer may learn the fascinating process by which a pope is elected.

The Tall Blond Man with One Black Shoe (1972) is a French spy comedy about François (Pierre Richard), a bumbling violinist who becomes an unwitting pawn of rival factions within the French secret service. Chosen at random from a crowd of people because of mismatched shoes, he is identified as a super secret agent. However, his lack of any notable spy-like failings

only serves to convince his watchers that he is more skillful and professional than they are. The American remake **The Man with One Red Shoe** (1985) stars Tom Hanks in a disappointingly UNfunny production.

Moving to a steamy drama, there is **Sea of Love** (1989) co-starring Ellen Barkin as Helen Cruger, manager of a shoe store. She becomes the object of affection for Detective Frank Keller (Al Pacino) when he meets her while he is investigating a killer who has shot a victim in the neck and left a record playing “Sea of Love.” Frank partners with Detective Sherman (John Goodman) from a district outside Manhattan when a second victim is killed with the same MO.

Hero (1992) stars Dustin Hoffman as Bernie LaPlante, a loser who is one step ahead of the law. When he happens upon a crashed airplane, he boards to try to steal from the victims, but he winds up rescuing passengers instead. He leaves his shoe behind when he runs away from the cops. He gives a ride to a homeless man, John Bubber (Andy Garcia) who uses the other shoe to take credit for the rescue, when a huge reward is offered by reporter Gale Gayley (Geena Davis), who was on the plane.

Children of Heaven (1997) is an Iranian film about a family struggling to make a better future for their children. When the eldest son, Ali (Amir Farrokh Hashemian), is asked to have shoes repaired for his sister Zohre (Bahare Seddiqi), he loses them. To avoid getting Ali into trouble, the children decide to share his shoes. Zohre wears them to morning school and runs home so Ali can wear them to afternoon school. With the family in dire straits economically, what will the children do when Ali’s shoes wear out?

In Her Shoes (2005) is the story of Rose (Toni Collette), a dowdy lawyer who is plagued by the antics of her gorgeous sister, Maggie (Cameron Diaz), who lusts after Rose’s extravagant shoe collection. After the two have a huge fight, each

embarks on a new life, and watching them blossom in their own ways is enchanting. Shirley MacLaine is terrific as the grandmother they never knew they had, in this poignant and well-written film. The cast also features Mark Feuerstein as Simon Stein, Rose’s colleague and love interest.

Kinky Boots (2005) is a British comedy set in a family-run shoe factory, which has come on hard times. When transvestite cabaret singer Lola (Chiwetel Ejiofor) arrives on the scene, s/he has a plan to save the business. Lola convinces the new owner, Charlie Price (Joel Edgerton), to produce erotic footwear. A Broadway version of Kinky Boots is set to open this spring.

No discussion of movies in which shoes play a prominent role can be complete without mentioning **Sex & the City** (2008). The movie includes Carrie (Sarah Jessica Parker), Miranda (Cynthia Nixon), Charlotte (Kristin Davis) and Samantha (Kim Cattrall), a writer, lawyer, housewife and publicist respectively. The film moves the plot of the TV series forward and is definitely intended for fans of the show. The clothing is compelling, and the film, of course, ends in Bryant Park’s Fashion Week in New York City. A particular pair of shoes plays a significant role in fashioning the ending.

In a totally different vein from all the other films, **Please Remove Your Shoes** (2010) is a disturbing documentary that examines the Transportation Security Administration’s role as guardian of the American airways. It includes condemnations from actual members of a TSA “Red Team,” whose job was to attempt to circumvent the system by smuggling bombs through airport security. Their negative reports were not received kindly by the powers that be. The film raises disconcerting questions about actual airport safety since 9/11.

And until next time, travel safely wherever you go...and happy viewing. . .

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SCHOOL NEWS
2+2=4
By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School

As St. Mary's begins to prepare to close its doors for good this June, the children, teachers and staff continue to work hard and enjoy their time together. Our eighth-grade students all registered for their high schools on March 6. On March 22, the entire school had an afternoon celebration for Easter, including songs, dancing and refreshments. On March 26, Sr. Joan's first grade gave a wonderful and moving performance of the Passion Play. Great job, first grade! The second-grade students are happily preparing for their First Holy Communion on May 18, and the seventh- and eighth-graders are ready to receive Confirmation on April 30. Good luck and congratulations to all those receiving these special sacraments of initiation.

During the next few months, all classes will be going on a wide variety of exciting class trips, including Lego Land, Medieval Times and Cirque de Soleil Totem, thanks to the home school association. The fourth, sixth and eighth grades are busy preparing for the New York State ELA and Math exams coming in May.

Although it is with sadness that we await the closing in June, the family of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School continues to teach and learn with excellence, care and love. We are facing each day with a smile and a determination to let the world know we were here and that we mattered. We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, donations and prayers during this difficult time and ask that you continue to pray for our families as we all move on to new adventures!

Public School 175

There was a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March. Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair projects, which were displayed during parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 12. Lower grade students worked on group projects and upper grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. Students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students also attended several exciting trips. The kindergarten went to Hostos Center for the Performing Arts to see an African dance performance; the first grade attended an Arts on Stage performance of "Butterfly Story"; the third grade saw a Chinese acrobatic performance at Queens College; the fourth grade went to the Hall of Science for a hands-on science exploration of many interesting topics, including velocity and speed and microbes from Mars; the fifth grade went to the Sony Technology Lab for a hands-on exploration of modern technol-

ogy; the sixth grade went to the American Museum of Natural History to explore the Global Kitchen exhibit; and seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many historical sites and visited the Franklin Institute Science Museum, where they explored the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits. As part of our "Rewarding Positive Behavior Program," sixth- through eighth-grade students who had exemplary behavior attended a trip to the movies.

Fifth-grade students recently finished their musical production of "A Year with Frog and Toad." The two evening performances were a huge success, and we are sure that we have some students that are Broadway-bound! Our fabulous fifth-grade teachers Shannon Montenare and Liza Greenspan worked with Jessica McCuiston and Katelyn Taylor from the Bronx Arts Ensemble to put on a wonderful show. We are grateful to Council Member James Vacca for the arts grant that helps to subsidize the fifth-grade play.

Kindergarten through third-grade students finished their puppetry unit of study with a terrific performance of "Boats." Students were able to experience all the puppetry elements they learned through this unit of study. As always, we are grateful to our PTA for subsidizing the Lincoln Center Institute, so that it continues being a part of the P.S. 175 arts and aesthetics education program.

Our phenomenal Parent Teacher Association held its annual Card Party at the Lido Caterers. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated parents, the event was a tremendous success. Many thanks to all the parents who spent countless hours preparing for the event. We are very pleased that the funds raised will enable the PTA to continue to assist us in providing exciting and enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks also to the businesses in our community that supported the party.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Kindergarten registration is on-going. Families with children turning 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2013, should come in to fill out registration paperwork.
 - Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 21, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 19, at 6 p.m.
 - The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 20, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym.
- March Citizens-of-the-Month are Violet Chadwick and Isabel Quiles (kindergarten), Abigail Hayes (first grade), Thomas Forliano and Emily Lyons (second grade), Joseph Peloso and Jennifer Gjonaj (third grade), Robert Samboy and Francis Padagas (fourth grade), Jack Morrissey and Maddox Pedroza (fifth grade), Julisa Viguera and Carolina Clara (sixth grade), John Cebollero and Raphael Hay (seventh grade), Ethan Wolf and Laura Clarke (eighth grade).



Photos by SUSAN GOONAN
The P.S. 175 PTA Card Party held at the Lido Restaurant on March 8, 2013, was a huge success. Guests and school supporters, including State Senator Jeff Klein, filled the main dining room and took chances on the many prizes, which were then delivered to happy winners by members of the eighth-grade class. Organizers Brenda Prohaska and Leslie Hanley (left) led the pirate-themed event and thanked all the volunteers who enabled the fund-raising event to meet its goal.

Herstory of the Passover: Unsung Women Heroines

By ELLEN RUTH TOPOL



Photo by BOB BERENT
Toby Z. Liederman and Violet Smith lit the Sabbath candles at the beginning of the service honoring Women's History Month on Friday, March 8. Looking on are Reb David Markus and Rabbi Shohama Wiener.

These days we are often told that women hold up half the sky. To acknowledge this sentiment, on March 8, 2013, at Temple Beth-El of City Island, Rabbi Shohama led a service honoring the unsung women heroines of the Bible, focusing on the Passover narrative. Many of us have read the Passover story in the Bible and have seen Charlton Heston play Moses, larger than life, in the film "The Ten Commandments." Rabbi Shohama reminded us that there would have been no Moses if his Mother, Yocheved, and his sister, Miriam, had not placed him in the river where the Egyptian princess, Batya, discovered him and brought him to the palace, where he received an excellent education. Indeed, Moses would not have lived if the midwives, Shifra and Puah, had not told the pharaoh that they were unable to kill the first-born Hebrew male children, as he had directed. They cleverly made up a tale by telling the pharaoh that they could not carry out his directive since the Hebrew

women gave birth so quickly that the child was born before the midwives arrived. The pharaoh believed them, and those first-born male children were saved.

So not only did Shifra and Puah save these first-born male children from certain death, but they also saved Moses, who gave us the Ten Commandments and the Five Books of Moses. Therefore, we owe these four women—Yocheved, Miriam, Shifra and Puah—a debt. Indeed, they are in their own ways the shoulders on which the Jewish tradition survived and flourished. These women used imagination to outsmart the restrictions placed on them.

So during the service, called HER-story of the Passover: Unsung Women HEROines, we as a community gained a new appreciation of women's place in and contribution to the Passover story.

Later, congregants enjoyed an Oneg, refreshments, sponsored by Toby Liederman and Violet Smith, two women who both inspire and contribute much to Temple Beth-El, as well as to our community here on City Island.

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Obituaries

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

Marvin Salzberg

Longtime Island resident Marvin Salzberg died on Dec. 29, 2012, at the age of 81, following a long illness.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1931 and was a musical prodigy. At the age of 15 he established a band and played the borscht circuit well into his college years. He composed his first work at the age of 16, and after two unhappy years at Brooklyn College, he decided he wanted to study music and received a full scholarship at the Hartt College of Music in Hartford, Connecticut. He received a master's degree at the University of Illinois and a teaching fellowship at Cornell, where he earned his PhD. In between degrees, he married, had children and completed his military service.

He returned to New York to become musical director at the Cherry Lane Theater (Tiger Rag). He was offered the opportunity to establish a music department at the new Bronx Community College and happily accepted the challenge. He taught music composition and theory and served as the department chair for 15 years of his 25-year tenure.

Marvin was Artist in Residence in the Theater Department at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He was co-founder of Oceanwest Theater on Block Island, as well as a member of the Dramatist's Guild. He was the recipient of the Anne M. Gannett Award at the Tanglewood Berkshire Music Festival; the Oliver M. Ditson Award for Composition; a Princeton Fellowship for Advanced Musical Studies; a Cornell Fellowship and a Tanglewood Fellowship.

He composed numerous and widely performed classical works and made recordings, including "Under Milk Wood; String Quartet #1" (Mercury), among others.

Marvin and his wife, Ellen, were active with the City Island Theater Group and composed the original musical "Zelda Inside Out," based on the lives of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald, which the theater group presented in 2001 as its first musical production. He served on the group's board, and as president Nick Sala recalls: "We enjoyed his counsel, wisdom and contributions." In addition to "Zelda Inside Out," Marvin composed "Where We Belong," another original musical; "Hester," a musical adaptation of "The Scarlet Letter"; "The Body Shop," an original musical; "Tom Thumb," an adaptation of the Henry Fielding novel and "Under Milk Wood," by Dylan Thomas.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Ellen, and his children, Laura and Brainard and their families; his stepchildren Alyssa, Leigh, Reva and Joshua; and several grandchildren.

Ronald A. Robson

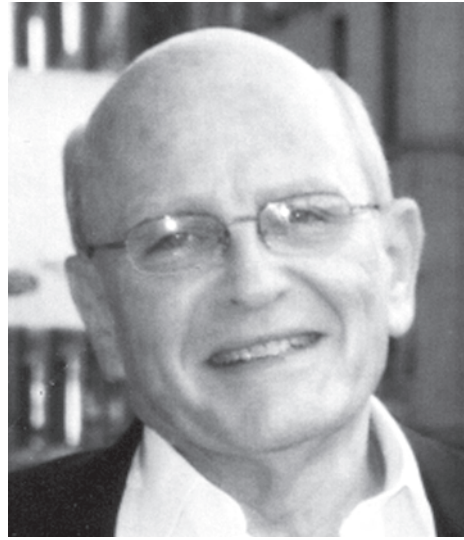
Ronald A. Robson died on Feb. 2, 2013, at the age of 64. He was born and raised on City Island.

He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. He graduated from St. Helena's Boys High School and Manhattan College, where he earned a degree in business.

From the time he was 17 years old, he worked for the New York Telephone Company and retired after 37 years. He and his wife, Cecilia, were married for 41 years and raised their family in Throggs Neck.

Ronald is survived by his wife; his son, Gregory Robson (Amy); his daughter, Alicia Hanrahan (Sean); his grandson, Michael Robson; his sister, Christine Sortino,

and three nieces, Donna O'Keeffe, Susan Acocella and Jennifer Marrone.



William H. Gerber

William H. Gerber M.D.

Dr. William H. Gerber passed away on March 2, 2013, in West Hartford, Connecticut. Known as Bill, he was born in 1937, the son of Hermann Gerber and Pauline Gerber (née Stalzer), and grew up on City Island, then considered by many the boating capital of New York City, where his father constructed custom-built racing sailboats.

After completing his education at Cornell University and the Heidelberg University Faculty of Medicine, Bill accepted a residency in 1968 in obstetrics and gynecology at Hartford Hospital. He received his board certification and with Dr. Robert C. Emmel co-founded a practice of obstetrics and gynecology in West Hartford from which he retired in 1998.

After retirement, he continued to be engaged as a volunteer physician with the Malta House of Care, which dispenses primary care to the urban uninsured. He took great pleasure in this capacity. Not only did he share his medical expertise with his patients but also was enriched by learning of their life experiences.

Bill is survived by his partner, Professor Gene J. Gort of West Hartford; his former wife, Dr. Joanna S. Gerber, M.D., of West Hartford; his daughter, Christina L. Gerber of New York City; and his sister Margaret Gerber Benedini and her husband, Ernesto Benedini of Lugano, Switzerland.



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

10 Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer

Many people look for help from professionals when it's time to file their tax return. If you use a paid tax preparer to file your income tax returns this year, the IRS urges you to choose that preparer carefully. Even if someone else prepares your return, you are legally responsible for what is on it. Here are 10 tips to keep in mind when choosing a tax return preparer:

1. Check the preparer's qualifications. All paid tax return preparers are required to have a Preparer Tax Identification Number. In addition to making sure they have a PTIN, ask if the preparer belongs to a professional organization and attends continuing education classes.

2. Check on the preparer's history. Check with the Better Business Bureau to see if the preparer has a questionable history. Also check for any disciplinary actions and for the status of their licenses. For certified public accountants, check with the state boards of accountancy. For attorneys,

check with the state bar associations. For enrolled agents, check with the IRS Office of Enrollment.

3. Ask about service fees. Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of your refund or those who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers can. Also, always make sure any refund due is sent to you or deposited into an account in your name. Taxpayers should not deposit their refund into a preparer's bank account.

4. Ask to e-file your return. Make sure your preparer offers IRS e-file. Any paid preparer who prepares and files more than 10 returns for clients must file the returns electronically, unless the client opts to file a paper return. IRS has safely and securely processed more than one billion individual tax returns since the debut of electronic filing in 1990.

5. Make sure the preparer is accessible. Make sure you will be able to contact the tax preparer after you file your return, even after the April 15 due date. This may be helpful in the event questions arise about your tax return.

6. Provide records and receipts. Reputable preparers will request to see your records and receipts. They will ask you questions to determine your total income and your qualifications for deductions, credits and other items. Do not use a preparer who is willing to e-file your return by using your last pay stub before you receive your Form W-2. This is against IRS e-file rules.

7. Never sign a blank return. Avoid tax preparers that ask you to sign a blank tax form.

8. Review the entire return before signing. Before you sign your tax return, review it and ask questions. Make sure you understand everything and are comfortable with the accuracy of the return before you sign it.

9. Make sure the preparer signs and includes their PTIN. A paid preparer must sign the return and include their PTIN as required by law. The preparer must also give you a copy of the return.

10. Report abusive tax preparers to the IRS. You can report abusive tax preparers and suspected tax fraud to the IRS on Form 14157, Complaint: Tax Return Preparer. If you suspect that a return preparer filed or altered a return without your consent, you should also file Form 14157-A, Return Preparer Fraud or Misconduct Affidavit. Download the forms on the IRS.gov website or order them by mail at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

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

APRIL 2013									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0312	8.11	1007	-0.09	1555	7.15	2211	0.49	Mon 01
02 Tue	0413	7.68	1134	0.24	1710	6.88	2342	0.81	Tue 02
03 Wed	0531	7.29	1259	0.34	1856	6.88			Wed 03
04 Thu	0123	0.76	0726	7.22	1409	0.22	2010	7.17	Thu 04
05 Fri	0234	0.42	0839	7.41	1509	-0.02	2111	7.56	Fri 05
06 Sat	0335	-0.02	0938	7.65	1604	-0.27	2204	7.92	Sat 06
07 Sun	0430	-0.45	1031	7.85	1654	-0.46	2252	8.19	Sun 07
08 Mon	0520	-0.76	1119	7.94	1740	-0.52	2337	8.32	Mon 08
09 Tue	0606	-0.90	1204	7.92	1823	-0.45			Tue 09
10 Wed	0019	8.33	0650	-0.85	1245	7.80	1902	-0.26	Wed 10
11 Thu	0057	8.22	0730	-0.65	1324	7.61	1936	0.03	Thu 11
12 Fri	0131	8.03	0807	-0.32	-0.32	1400	7.39	1959	Fri 12
13 Sat	0158	7.81	0839	0.06	1431	7.17	2009	0.63	Sat 13
14 Sun	0220	7.60	0856	0.44	1457	6.99	2037	0.87	Sun 14
15 Mon	0250	7.41	0915	0.74	1528	6.85	2116	1.11	Mon 15
16 Tue	0328	7.22	0951	1.00	1608	6.74	2202	1.35	Tue 16
17 Wed	0413	7.04	1037	1.21	1655	6.69	2253	1.53	Wed 17
18 Thu	0503	6.88	1128	1.35	1749	6.71	2350	1.59	Thu 18
19 Fri	0600	6.81	1225	1.36	1848	6.85			Fri 19
20 Sat	0053	1.48	0702	6.83	1325	1.23	1946	7.11	Sat 20
21 Sun	0201	1.18	0804	6.98	1425	0.96	2037	7.45	Sun 21
22 Mon	0308	0.73	0901	7.21	1519	0.61	2123	7.84	Mon 22
23 Tue	0403	0.22	0951	7.46	1607	0.24	2207	8.23	Tue 23
24 Wed	0453	-0.27	1038	7.70	1654	-0.09	2252	8.57	Wed 24
25 Thu	0540	-0.66	1125	7.88	1740	-0.32	2338	8.81	Thu 25
26 Fri	0628	-0.91	1213	7.96	1828	-0.41			Fri 26
27 Sat	0025	8.89	0718	-0.97	1302	7.94	1917	-0.34	Sat 27
28 Sun	0114	8.80	0811	-0.85	1355	7.81	2011	-0.13	Sun 28
29 Mon	0207	8.53	0910	-0.59	1452	7.60	2112	0.18	Mon 29
30 Tue	0305	8.13	1019	-0.26	1601	7.38	2231	0.49	Tue 30
MAY 2013									
01 Wed	0414	7.68	1133	0.00	1729	7.28	2359	0.61	Wed 01
02 Thu	0554	7.38	1242	0.14	1847	7.38			Thu 02
03 Fri	0113	0.50	0716	7.33	1346	0.14	1951	7.61	Fri 03
04 Sat	0218	0.23	0821	7.42	1445	0.06	2049	7.88	Sat 04
05 Sun	0317	-0.09	0918	7.55	1539	-0.03	2141	8.12	Sun 05



DUCK OF THE YEAR

A variety of ducks made their presence known this winter. There were the usual dabblers and divers, including one or two surprises. And then there were the specimens we photographed in and out of the water beside the Seashore parking lot. More on them later.

A dabbling duck is distinguished from a diver by the size of its feet and its rather comical way of looking for food. If you've ever noticed a duck in the shallows, half submerged, probing the bottom for food with its bill while its own bottom spins around and around above the surface, then you know what dabblers do. A mallard is a classic dabbler. The American black duck, of which there were many this year, is another dabbler, although this species has been known to dive as well.

Diving ducks use their bigger webbed feet to propel them down into the deeper water in search of food. Our favorites are the buffleheads. The contrasting white and black plumage of the male buffleheads calls to mind a tuxedo. They are smaller ducks than most and they seem to bob in the water after diving like the old weebles some of us use to play with. Another black and white diver that was well represented this year was the greater scaup. We watched many of these birds bring steamers (a.k.a. piss clams) to the surface. Apparently, they can break them up with their strong beaks or swallow them whole.

It seemed that the diving ducks were feeding closer to shore this year, but one diver kept its distance. This was the red-throated loon (not a duck, but a loon) that made a couple of surprise appearances this year. If you noticed a cormorant-like bird offshore but noticed that it was more white than black, then you were probably noticing the same loon that we did.

The Duck of the Year Award has to go to one of the three hybrids in the pho-



Hybrid ducks

tographs. We say hybrids for two reasons: one, because they bear no resemblance to any duck in any stage of its development that we are aware of. This conclusion was shared by Jack of *cityislandbirds.com* fame. But we also think that they may be hybrids because ducks are well known for their propensity for interbreeding. Ornithologists have documented more than 400 different hybrids.

The interbreeding occurs naturally, but mostly it happens in captivity. Breeders are always in search of a better bird to bring to market. It is very possible, then, that our visitors were escapees.

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A Current Review

"THE GLASS MENAGERIE" BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Reviewed by BRUCE R. WEIS

I am intrigued by nasty reviews. When *Time Magazine* reviewed Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo," the magazine concluded that "the mystery is not so much who done it as who cares." John Simon felt the movie "2001 A Space Odyssey" was really nothing more than "a shaggy God story." And after seeing "Lawrence of Arabia," Bosley Crowther of *The New York Times* declared: "Seldom has so little been said in so many words."

However, I have to ignore this fascination when discussing the City Island Theater Group's most recent production. "The Glass Menagerie" (which ran over two weekends in March) was solidly produced, with excellent acting and direction, and it carried on the amazing CITG tradition of making each show better than the production it followed.

"The Glass Menagerie" is considered the play that put its author, Tennessee Williams, on the Broadway map. The play was based on one of Williams's short stories, "Portrait of a Girl in Glass," and premiered in Chicago in 1944. Enthusiasm (and audiences) for the show built rapidly, and in March 1945 the producers moved "The Glass Menagerie" to the Playhouse Theatre on Broadway, where it ran for 563 performances and won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945. The show moved to the Royale Theater in July 1946, where it ran until August. In 1997 Kiefer Sutherland and (his mother) Shirley Douglas starred in a Canadian production of "The Glass Menagerie" at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto.

This "memory play" opens with an introduction by Tom Wingfield, the narrator and protagonist, who is remembering life with his mother, Amanda, and his sister, Laura, Tom's father having abandoned the family long ago. Tom's mother yearns for the life she remembers as a Southern belle, and she wishes these things for her daughter, a young woman with a limp and tremulous lack of self-confidence. Tom works in a warehouse doing his best to support them, but he despises the banality and boredom of his life and spends much of his time going to movies. Amanda's obsession with finding a suitor for Laura increases throughout the show, but Laura remains involved with a collection of tiny glass animals and playing old records.

At Amanda's behest, Tom brings home a work acquaintance named Jim O'Conner, whom Amanda envisions as a long-awaited suitor for Laura. When Jim arrives, Laura realizes he is the boy she loved in high school and has thought about ever since. After a tense meal during which the electric power goes out, Jim and Laura are left alone waiting for electricity to be restored. During a long scene together, Jim diagnoses Laura's inferiority complex and finally kisses her. As they share a quiet dance, he accidentally brushes against her glass menagerie, knocking a glass unicorn to the floor and breaking off its horn. When Jim reveals that he is engaged to be married, Laura asks him to take the broken unicorn as a gift. Amanda, who assumes that Tom knew Jim was engaged, is furious and lashes out at her son.

As Tom narrates the end of the play, it becomes clear that he left home soon afterward and has never returned. One adaptation of "The Glass Menagerie" has Tom recalling the story from the deck of a Merchant Marine freighter.

This play was considered by many Williams's autobiography with the characters and story mimicking his own. Williams (whose real name was Thomas) would be Tom, his mother, Edwina, would be Amanda, and his sickly and (supposedly) mentally ill sister, Rose, would be Laura.

The performances in the CITG production of "The Glass Menagerie" were truly exceptional. Each character is desperate for something, and each seems to have set upon some way to address this desperation. The show revolves around Amanda Wingfield's longing for her youth, and her attempt to relive her happier days through a daughter temperamentally unfit for the task. Basia Zak, in her first appearance with CITG, truly nailed this role. The faded Southern belle is

easily overplayed into a stereotype, but Basia made us believe in her remembered gentility and the underlying anguish.

Tom Wingfield opened the play with narration delivered from the edge of the stage, on a fire escape, and spent the next few hours being angered, frustrated, exasperated, hopeful and finally wistful. Nic Anthony Calabro, last seen with CITG as Bert Jefferson in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," skillfully shifted emotional gears as necessary, often on a dime.

The role of Laura Wingfield is a delicate one, calling for a nuanced portrayal. The character suffered from a physical disability in her youth, and though her physical problems have faded, mental issues (exacerbated by her mother) remain. Tawney-Joy Bedkober, new to CITG from Sydney, Australia, via the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, did a masterful job in this portrayal.

Jim O'Conner (Denis Zepeda) appears in the second act, the anticipated answer to Amanda Wingfield's prayers. A positive, high-energy character and Laura's long-lost high school heartthrob, Jim has talent for analysis and an inconvenient fiancée. A CITG veteran, Denis did a fine job of helping Laura better understand herself before he drops that other shoe.

Radio adaptations of "The Glass Menagerie" aired on Theatre Guild on the Air in 1951, starring Helen Hayes, Montgomery Clift, Kathryn Baird and Karl Malden, and in 1953 it appeared on the radio series Best Plays with Evelyn Varden and Geraldine Page. Jane Wyman was heard in a 1954 adaptation on Lux Radio Theatre, with Fay Bainter, Frank Lovejoy and Tom Brown as Jim. The 1953 version is not known to survive, but recordings of the other two are in circulation.

A movie version of "The Glass Menagerie" was produced in 1950. Directed by Irving Rapper and starring Jane Wyman, Kirk Douglas, Gertrude Lawrence and Arthur Kennedy, the film was compared unfavorably to stage productions of the show and faded from view. Paul Newman directed a 1987 movie version, which was shown at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival before opening in New York City in October 1987. The movie starred Joanne Woodward, John Malkovich, Karen Allen and James Naughton, but in spite of this level of talent, it too was poorly received.

City Island Theater Group's production of "The Glass Menagerie" had its usual great set. Keith Rodriguez reprised his excellent work from earlier shows, and Joe Burck Jr. artfully designed the seedy apartment and designed the effective lighting for the show. In addition to breaking Laura's heart, Denis Zepeda did the sound design, and Hannah Glick handled the performance sound board duties. CITG's prop mistress, Barbara Dolensek, furnished the seedy apartment and became obsessed with tiny animals while doing so.

Susan Rauh is a familiar face on stage in CITG productions, but this marked her first direction of a full-length show, and she did a masterful job. Nick Sala shared the show's production management duties with Carol McCabe, who designed and produced costumes, with the help of Cheryl Brinker. The production stage manager for the play was another CITG acting veteran, Elizabeth Paldino.

Now that the group has set the bar still higher, we are eager for the next production of this amazing organization.

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Harlem Yacht Club Events for April

Two interesting events will be taking place in April at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue, one that should appeal to anyone who has ever longed for adventure and the other for serious competitive sailors.

On Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m., Doyle Sailmakers will present a talk by Reid Stowe and his wife, Soayna Ahmad, who will talk about their most recent trip: "A year on the jungle rivers of Guyana." Reid recently completed the longest ocean voyage in history, spending almost three years at sea on the traditional gaff-rigged schooner *Anne*, which he built himself. Reid and Soayna left in 2007, but before they did so, they made a plan that nothing would stop their attempt to sail 1,000 days non-stop at sea without resupply.

Soayna, a young photographer from New York City, sailed 307 days out of sight of land and ended her voyage because of a surprise pregnancy. She was transferred ashore off of Australia and returned home to give birth to their son, Darshen, five months later. Reid sailed on for another 846 days without seeing another person, accomplishing the longest solo sailing record and the longest sea voyage in history when he returned to NYC after sailing 1,152 days. Luckily, the whole voyage was verified by a satellite tracking company.

Soayna, their son, family, friends and the world press were on the dock waiting for Reid to take his first step back on earth after having been away from the land for over three years, longer than any human in history. Soon after his arrival, with hardly enough time to recuperate from his unprecedented achievement, Reid, Soayna, Darshen and an inexperienced crew of five set off for the isolated jungles of Guyana for another adventure and to repair the worn-out schooner.

Sea sickness, jungle sickness and disillusionment caused the crew to return to the safety of the United States, so the adventurous family was left alone to survive on an isolated jungle river. During

the year they spent in Guyana they never saw another foreign boat or tourist. Pirate stories repeated themselves in the newspapers. A marauding jaguar was killed next to the schooner. Water-walking tarantulas crawled across the dinner table while they ate, but life went on.

Not surprisingly, Reid is a captivating speaker and this talk is not to be missed. Admission is free. For more information, visit Reid Stowe's website, www.1000days.net.

The second event at the Harlem will be a talk sponsored by US Sailing featuring Chris Petracco on Sunday, April 21, at 4 p.m. at the Harlem clubhouse. Chris, a lifelong sailor from Bay Head, New Jersey, will discuss the top 10 rules questions and the new rules. He started his sailing career in dinghies (Sunfish, Blue Jay, Lighting, Laser) on the Metedeconk River. He then moved to windsurfing (Windsurfer, Mistral Super Light) and then collegiate sailing at St. Mary's College of Maryland. In later years he has raced various one-design keelboats (J24, J105, J120, Henderson 30).

Since running his first team race over 20 years ago, Chris has been involved in race administration. He has been a US Sailing regional race officer, senior judge and national Umpire, and ISAF international umpire. He has served on the US Sailing judges committee, chaired the BBYRA Appeals Committee, and taught many US Sailing judges workshops.

Chris is the US Sailing Race Administration Director in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Working with the rules, appeals, race management, judges and umpires committees, he has sought to streamline the race administration process and to make it more enjoyable and easier for all the volunteers and the racers they support.

The talk will be followed by a cocktail party with a tasting of Old Pulteney Scotch. Admission is \$15 and tickets may be purchased at hyc-petracco.eventbrite.com. For more information, e-mail race@hyc.org.

City Island Yacht Club Events

The City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, will be hosting two events in April. Sail designer Kerry Klingler will speak on Racing Tips on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.. A leader of Quantum's J-boat division, the J80 World and North American champion Kerry Klingler will arm you with tips and techniques sure to improve your results. Kerry's J/80 sails have won three of the last four North American Championships. His sail designs in the J/105, J/109 and J/122 classes have also enjoyed great success, including the J/109 North American Championship, the J/122 IRC National Championship and top finishes in seven major J/105 regattas. Now he's out to conquer the new J/70 Class!

On Wednesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m., a double-header with Dawn Riley and Butch Ulmer will offer a sailing seminar. Dawn Riley is one of the best-known sailors in the world. She was the first woman ever to manage an entire America's Cup

syndicate and the first American, man or woman, to sail in three America's Cups and two Whitbread Round the World races. She is one of the forerunners in providing community access to the sport of sailing. She is currently executive director of Oakcliff Sailing Center. Her dynamic presentations, whether to major corporations or the sailing public, always receive great acclaim. Learn from an expert and international leader! Butch Ulmer is master and commander of the rules, a consummate teacher and winning sailor. Long Island's premier rules guru explains the new rules with the latest modifications. Decidedly entertaining and informative, Butch repeatedly humbles the best of us! This seminar is scheduled just before the season starts to keep the gems dispensed at the top of your mind. For more information, contact CIYC at 718-885-2487 or go to www.cityislandyc.org.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY

Covering Ground

After this long flu
I rise like the hellebore
Bursting pink through the snow.
C.H. Mason

Now the budding trees of spring cast their shimmering veil over the landscape. Shoots break through the crusty earth, and if we had planted ground cover, our shrubs and flowers would be skirted and decorated. Covering the soil with ground cover plants will save a great deal of time and expense in the long run. It also ties the garden together if used with restraint and repetition.

Mulching is essential to suppress weeds and to hold moisture in. Plants can accomplish this as well. If you plant ground cover this year, mulch in between to keep the weeds from getting in and around them. Lay down crushed bark or shredded cedar bark mulch. Like peat it absorbs a lot of water, so water the garden after you mulch. Three inches of mulch will suppress weeds all season, but if you love self-sowers leave it thin in those areas. Here are some beautiful combinations that will not disappoint:

Ajuga in the dark leaf form with small daffodils or daylilies.
The grass (and this is a tongue twister), hakonechloa 'all gold' with hellebores for shade.

Mats of violets or violas beneath viburnums.

Tulips emerging from blankets of blue forget-me-nots.

Boxwood globes among English ivy as if floating on a sea.

Ferns for shade; they give the garden age and delicacy.

Full sun/poor soil, artemisia 'silver brocade' around rosa rugosa.

Many plants you would not think of as weed-suppressing are, when planted in numbers. Cushions of dwarf carnations underneath a rose is simple perfection.

As I age, I think with relief of a small garden with ground cover and shrubs. Yet since it is spring, some remarks on yellow.

Gardens, like rooms, benefit from color schemes, and I love the freshness of a yellow garden, complemented with green and dotted with white. The com-



Dog tooth Lily

mon sunflower, although an annual, has its perennial cousins. This group includes helianthus, heliopsis, helenium, rudbeckia, coreopsis and inula. I once made a garden just of daisies, starting with the shasta and ending with heliopsis and helenium. Their beauty with grasses evokes a naturalness and, combined with later asters, can take you through October. Rudbeckia, miscanthus grass and white phlox 'David' makes a beautiful long-lasting picture. If daisies are surrounded with a boxwood border, they act as a delicate filler, burgeoning out of their stays. Yellow is so lovely with blue. Muscari grape bulbs underneath the forsythias. Chinodoxa with white azaleas.

Daisies are round with a button eye. Combine this shape with a rocket, an elegant spire. Verbascums are good and come easily from seed, also foxtail lilies, delphiniums, and salvia x superba. Shape, color, bloom time! This, and knowing your soil and what will thrive therein, will bring success. Repeat planting schemes throughout the garden, and remember that less is more. Think Warhol.

Mary Colby is a gardener and fine artist, whose studio and gallery, Fe Fi Faux, is on City Island.

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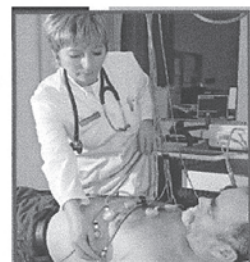
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Happy April 2 birthday to Horton Street's Eric Rauhauser, who is celebrating his first birthday back on City Island after many years in California. Your family looks forward to celebrating with you in person this year. Much love from Ducky, Lyly and the Nani family.

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, who will celebrate on April 23, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Keep up the good work to the children of the Minneford Avenue playgroup who have been learning about shapes and colors. Their artwork is on display at the Focal Point Gallery in the "Young Artist" exhibition.

Birthday greetings to Bay Street's Matthew Sasko, who turns 21 on April 28. With lots of love from your family and friends.

Belated happy birthday wishes on St. Patrick's Day to Briana Whelan, who turned Sweet 16, and to her brother, Kevin, who turned 19 years old on March 19. Mom, Dad and your sister Christine love you both very much and wish you all the best.

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to Frank Rosa from your family and friends.

All the best to our former co-worker, Eileen Scott of Pell Place, who will celebrate her big day on April 19. Happy birthday from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Happy April 25 birthday wishes to the Chase Bank's Brenda Winston, with love from your Chase family and City Island friends.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Elizabeth and Ken Farnum, who will celebrate their 22nd anniversary on April 20.

Belated happy "special" birthday wishes on March 31 to Ken/Dad/Pop, with love from Edwina, Toni, Heather, Frank, Kesley, Justin, Joseph, Frankie and Brianna.

Happy 21st birthday on April 18 to Kesley, with love from Mama, Pop, Mom, Aunt Heather, Uncle Frank, Justin, Joseph, Frankie, Brianna and Kasey.

Happy 23rd birthday to my Daddy Frank with all my love - Gianna Marie.

Happy April 4 birthday to Frank Ramftl, with love from Mom, Dad, Fred and Grandma.



Islanders Peter Coyle and Stephen Swieciki joined thousands of marchers in Washington, D. C., at the Forward on Climate Rally on Feb. 17, 2013, to protest the Keystone XL pipeline and to urge President Obama to take action against climate change.

Birthday greetings on April 22 to Bay Street's Anne McIntyre, with love from the Butterworths.

Happy Birthday on April 22 to Elizabeth Farnum, from mom and Deb.

Happy birthday on April 14 to Mari Doyle, with love from the Doyle and Butterworth families.

Happy 20th birthday on April 30 to David Butterworth, with love from the Butterworth and Doyle families.

And a very happy birthday to Maria Swieciki—the Talebearer—who turns 60 on April 25. We love you - Bob, Stephen, Bobby and Maria Christina.

Keep up the good work to Toby Liederman, who marched in the group representing New York in the parade in Washington, D.C., celebrating the centennial of the Women's Suffrage Parade on March 3, 1913. Thousands of women from all over the world came together to honor the brave women who, on March 3, 1913, marched to the White House for voter's rights for women.

Happy and blessed holidays to all our neighbors and friends.

Maria Swieciki

City Island Farmer's Market advertisement with logo and contact information.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Girl Scouts annual Sweetheart Dance was held on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Lido Restaurant. DJ Ray helped to make the night a lot of fun, as usual, and Rick DeWitt and Laury Hopkins took pictures, so that each girl has a photo memory from the evening.



During Pope Benedict XVI's last week in office, City Island's Monica Glick (front row at right) was in Rome for a week of meetings for the Pontifical Mission Societies, where she has worked for the past 25 years.

Trellis Fine Florals advertisement with logo and contact information.

Metro Bicycles - Westchester advertisement with logo and contact information.

MOVING? form with fields for name, old address, and new address.

Subscriptions form for The Island Current with fields for name, address, and phone number.

NYIC Contracting advertisement with logo and list of services.

SU-SU BALLOONS advertisement with logo and contact information.