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One Dollar

RECOVERY OF MISSING BOYS CLOSES TRAGIC CHAPTER IN C.I. HISTORY

By KAREN NANI

After the recovery of the body of Max Guarino on April 25, each week brought another sad chapter in the effort to find the four teenagers missing since January 24, 2003. Volunteers, Islanders and spring tides were among those who helped return the boys to their families.

Ten days after the discovery of the first boy, the body of Islander Carlo Wertenbaker was spotted by a fisherman off Hart Island (see story this issue). Then two weeks later, Andrew Melnikov's body was found on the shore of Hart Island by a kayaker and co-worker of Henry Badillo, the father of the teenager who remained missing. His son's body surfaced the following day and was discovered by residents Lorraine and Arthur Rauhauser near the dock of Consolidated Yachts on Pilot Street.

When residents heard the sound of helicopters on Sunday, May 18, a shudder once more went through the community. The body of Andrew Melnikov had been discovered on Hart Island by Chris Rhoads, one of a team of volunteers and divers who had been searching on behalf of the families.

According to Carol Koschak of Captain Mike's Diving on City Island, the parents of the missing teenagers had organized a boat search on May 17 with some volunteer divers. They believed that the high spring tides and strong northeast winds of the preceding week might have caused the bodies to surface and be washed ashore.

One of the divers, Carlos Soto of Castle Hill Avenue in the Bronx, made numerous dives that day in a dedicated effort to find the boys. He dove around Hart Island,

among other locations, but to no avail, Ms. Koschak told *The Current*.

The next day, May 18, Mr. Rhoads came to City Island with his kayak to help search the waters, and he headed for the western shoreline of Hart Island well above the high-water mark. He beached his kayak, started walking and apparently found Henry Badillo's body among the beach grasses, where it could not be seen from the water's edge. He told Ms. Koschak that the body looked like "part of the scenery."

In a sad twist of fate, the teenager was discovered near the Hart Island ferry dock, which the police and others have speculated was the original destination for the four boys on the night of their disappearance. The ferry and dock are used by the city to transport bodies to Hart Island, which is used as a potters field to bury the unidentified dead found in New York City.

About 1 p.m., Mr. Rhoads called Mr. Badillo, who was waiting at Barron's Boatyard, to tell him that he had found a body wearing a leather jacket. A small group of volunteers, including divers Matt Marzullo and Mr. Soto, went over by boat to assist Mr. Rhoads. They determined that the beached body was not likely to drift away, and they waited until the Harbor Patrol boat arrived at the ferry dock. Police then took the boy's body to the Fordham Street dock, where it was removed by ambulance to the medical examiner's office. It was identified the next day as the body of Andrew Melnikov, 16, of Manhattan.

Families and friends prayed, on behalf of Henry Badillo's parents, that the last boy would be found quickly. They had to wait

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Photos by RICK DeWITT and Courtesy of Captain Mike's Dive Shop

The body of Islander Carlo Wertenbaker was discovered by a fisherman off Hart Island on Sunday, May 4, 2003, and brought to the Fordham Street ferry dock (top photo). Many people have been involved in the recovery effort since Carlo and three other boys disappeared on Jan. 24, the Port Authority Police Department, and divers from Captain Mike's on City Island, who have been searching with specially-trained canines from a company called Western New York Search Dogs (bottom photo).



MARITIME WINNERS SAIL INTO THE SUNSET

By KAREN NANI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The sixth annual Maritime Heritage Awards were presented aboard the yacht *Cloud 9*, which set sail from the Consolidated yacht yard on May 30, 2003. More than 100 Islanders and guests enjoyed the evening cruise to the Statue of Liberty and applauded the dedicated award winners. Shown above are the honorees and presenters (l. to r.): Patricia Hennessy, Karen Nani, Julia DiMaio, Susan Strazzera, Father Robert Moore, Deborah McManus, Michael Rauh, Frances Carrollo, Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Angela Adler, Barbara Dolensek, Philip Dolensek and Rose Rodstrom. Not shown, Jimmy Heekin representing Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman.

The 2003 Fleet Weekend Maritime Heritage awards were fittingly presented aboard the yacht *Cloud 9* as it sailed from Consolidated Marina on City Island down the East River on May 30. The first floating Fleet Weekend dinner honored three longtime residents, Barbara Dolensek, Michael Rauh and Susan Strazzera, and three off-Islanders, Angela Adler, Frances Carrollo, Adolfo Carrion Jr., all of whom have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Island children and adults.

The gala evening was hosted by IDEA (Innovative Directions, An Educational Alliance), whose co-founders, Rose Rodstrom and Patricia Hennessy, began the festivities by introducing some of the community leaders and politicians who had come aboard to pay homage to the honorees. Various presenters, including Julia DiMaio and Deborah McManus of P.S. 175, Father Robert Moore of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Jimmy Heekin representing Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman, and Karen Nani of *The Island Current*, then highlighted the accomplishments of each.

Barbara Dolensek

Maritime Heritage Award

Barbara Burn Dolensek moved to City Island in 1976 with her husband, Dr. Emil Dolensek, who was chief veterinarian at the Bronx Zoo until his death in 1990. Barbara grew up in Weston, Massachusetts, and graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in art history. For more than 40 years, she worked as an art book editor, including 18 years at The Viking Press and 15 years at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also the author of 12 books. In 2002 she retired from Harry N. Abrams, Inc., as director of art and museum publishing.

Barbara has been active in the City Island community for many years, starting with the Parents' Association at P. S. 175, when her 21-year-old son, Philip, was a student there in the mid-1980s. She has been copy editor and a writer for *The Island Current* since 1985, recording secretary of the City Island

Civic Association since 1992 and secretary of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum since 1995. She is also a member of the City Island Garden Club and the Bronx Council on Environmental Quality and is on the advisory board of the City Island Theater Group. She worked closely with the Department of City Planning in its preparation of the City Island Maritime Heritage Preservation study. In her spare time, which is rare considering how much she devotes to community service, Barbara enjoys riding horseback, working on her landmark Victorian house and gardening.

Michael Rauh

Keeper of the Harbor Award

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1947, Michael Martin Rauh is a lifelong resident of New York City. He received his primary and secondary education in Queens and earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees from SUNY Empire State College. In 1967 he joined the Army and served as an infantry sergeant with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam. When he returned home from the service, Mike met clam digger Judith Wright. They were married in 1971, and Mike has lived on City Island ever since. Judy and Mike have two daughters, Elizabeth and Susan.

For the past 18 years, Mike has volunteered with the P.S. 175 annual environmental studies program at Camp Greenkill, where he draws on his knowledge of orienteering, environmental studies, and expert-level cross-country skiing to give the children a memorable experience. He is known affectionately as "Mr. Greenkill" by a generation of students. He is a firm supporter of IDEA, where he helps with planning. Many people recognize him as "that guy they always see running," and he co-directs, with his wife, Judy, the annual City Island 5K Road Race and Half-mile Youth Run on Fleet Weekend. Mike is a parishioner of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church,

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BRIEFLY...

GARDEN TOUR AND ANNUAL LUNCHEON: The City Island Garden Club is sponsoring a garden tour on Saturday, June 7, 2003, from 1 to 4 p.m. The tour starts at 21 Tier Street, where you will receive a tour map. Suggested donation: \$5. The Garden Club's Annual Luncheon will be on Thursday, June 19, at the City Island Yacht Club. Tickets are \$25; please call 718-885-1361 or 718-885-0521 for reservations.

ORGANIC VEGETABLE TIME: Join the City Island Community Sponsored Agriculture for its second season. Pay only \$390 for 24 weeks of organic vegetables. And \$175 for 20 weeks of "low spray" fruit. Pick up a membership form at Exotiga, 280 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090, or call Carolyn Dean at 718-885-1104. The deadline for joining is June 10. The first food pick-up is June 17 at 65 Buckley Street.

FREE SUMMER THEATER: Fort Hill Players' 5th Annual Summer Theater in the Parks program presents "The Adventures of Stuart Little," based on the story by E. B. White, the author of *Charlotte's Web*, directed by David I. L. Poole. Join in Stuart's lively adventures. Help create an ending for the show. All performances begin at 7 p.m. Outdoor performances in White Plains Parks (Come early. Bring a picnic!) July 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18. For directions call 914-422-1336. Indoor performances at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor Street, Irvington, on Tuesday, July 22. For directions call 914-591-7840. Please see forthillplayers.com for detailed information on White Plains Park sites and up-to-date production information. Call 914-946-5143.

FAMILY FUN AT BARTOW-PELL'S JUNE FAIR: Enjoy an exciting afternoon at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park on Sunday, June 8, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Hearken back to America's great age of sail with hearty maritime songs performed by Stout, a folk trio noted for their rich vocal harmony and versatility with the guitar and banjo. Young and not-so-young alike will be entertained by the historic storytelling of Jonathan Kruk, noted for his "Legend of Sleepy Hollow Stories." Additional activities will include 19th-century games, children's pony rides and tours of the mansion, carriage house and other historic features of the site. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Join us rain or shine for this fun, family event at 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, visit bartowpelled@aol.com or call 718-885-1461.

VIN ETCHING PROGRAM: The 45th Precinct will hold a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching program for cars and bikes on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the American Legion parking lot on City Island Avenue and Cross Street. This valuable program helps police track and recover stolen bicycles and cars. For more information, call Police Officer Lorenzano at 718-822-5449.

THE MET IN THE PARKS series of free outdoor concert performances by the Metropolitan Opera returns to Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx for two performances in June. The Met performs Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" on Friday, June 20, and Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot" on Saturday, June 21. Both concerts are at 8 p.m. and no tickets are required. Performances will be held on the field near the tennis courts and track; enter off Middletown Road and the Bruckner Expressway. For directions to performance sites, rain dates or additional information concerning the Met in the Parks concert series, call the Metropolitan Opera at 212-362-6000. Information concerning the concert series can also be found at the Metropolitan Opera's website at www.metopera.org.

CITY ISLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL: The first annual City Island Jazz Festival will be held on Thursday, June 26, at 8 p.m. on the dock at Trader John's Boatyard on Bridge Street. The festival will feature the David Amran Trio. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and those under 21 (see ad this issue).

FIREWORKS CELEBRATION: Senator Guy J. Velella presents a "Celebration of the American Spirit" on July 1, 2003, at 7 p.m. at Orchard Beach, with performances by Alive-n-Kickin and Freddie Lando and a fireworks display by Bay Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Bronx Salutes America Inc. at 718-823-7704.

PRETTY ISLAND: Last year volunteers painted the front of the New Way Market, and this year the Civic Association project will take place on June 8 with a rain date of June 9. Volunteers are asked to meet in Hawkins Street Park at 10 a.m. to do some fence painting along City Island Avenue. Bring work gloves, pruning shears or clippers, and paint rollers and brushes if they have them. Children and adults are welcome. Please call 718-885-2109 for information, to have a fence painted or to volunteer.

BOOK PARTY AT CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM: To celebrate the publication of "As Time Goes By," a collection of Debby Kall's columns published in *The Island Current* from 1988 to 1996, the City Island Nautical Museum is having an open house on Sunday, June 15, between 1 and 5 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for sale at \$10; refreshments will be served; everyone is welcome.

DOT STUDY OF CITY ISLAND TRAFFIC

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

In response to many complaints about safety issues, parking problems and traffic congestion, the City Island Civic Association last year asked the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) to evaluate the traffic situation on the Island. In January 2003, DOT began its study, which is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2004.

The objectives of the study are:

- To assess travel demand generated by the commercial and recreational land uses in the Study Area," which includes City Island, Orchard Beach and Pelham Bay Park, under both summer and non-summer conditions.
- To examine traffic operations
- To evaluate existing parking supply and demand
- To evaluate the possibility of providing new ferry service to and from City Island
- To examine and promote alternative modes of transportation in order to alleviate congestion
- To improve overall safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

In addition to evaluating population demographics and land use, DOT will

review the volume and circulation of vehicular traffic, parking activities (including illegal parking), the use of trucks for delivery of goods, pedestrian and bicycle activity, local and seasonal buses and the types and frequency of accidents at critical locations.

The study will be conducted during both midweek and on weekends and the data will include types and numbers of vehicles, travel time for peak periods, "street geometry" (number of lanes, lane widths, street directions, crosswalks, etc.), traffic controls, parking facilities, recreational facilities and activities, bus ridership and so on.

Data collection began in March and will continue through the summer, at which point an analysis will be made of future conditions. Two public forums will be held, and a final report will be completed in late spring of 2004.

In the meantime, residents or business owners who have particular complaints, questions or suggestions are asked to submit them in writing to Bob Simons, the head of the Civic Association's Traffic Committee, whose address is 360 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during April 2003. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

APRIL

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF (to a vehicle)
- 1 - PETIT LARCENY (commercial)
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 5 - HARASSMENT
- 2 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY (Auto)
- 2 - ROBBERY
- 1 - CRIMINAL CONTEMPT OF A COURT ORDER
- 1 - DOA

Police report the following arrests and incidents for the month of April:

4/12 - Police arrested a male, 29, at 2:30 a.m. at the corner of Winters Street and City Island Avenue and charged him with DWI after observing the vehicle moving in an

erratic manner.

4/16 - At 7:45 p.m. at City Island Road and the Shore Road, police arrested a male, 30, for robbery. The defendant allegedly displayed a knife and demanded money from the complainant.

4/18 - A male, 32, was arrested and charged with assault at 11:30 p.m. at 1 City Island Avenue.

4/23 - One person is sought for questioning regarding a harassment complaint at 30 Pilot Street at 4 p.m. According to police, a dispute arose over the feeding of pigeons.

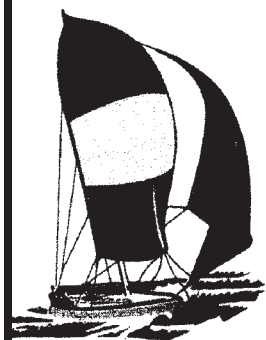
4/25 - The body of an unidentified male surfaced near the High Island Bridge off the northeast point of City Island at 6:30 p.m. The body was later identified as that of Max Guarino, 17, of Manhattan (see story in May *Current*).

4/28 - A male is wanted by police for questioning in regard to an assault in front of 209 Schofield Street at 5:30 p.m. The defendant allegedly punched the victim in the face, causing minor injuries.

4/29 - Five males are being sought by police for allegedly approaching another male and demanding money at the rear of 200 City Island Avenue at 10 p.m.

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Remembering Carlo Wertenbaker

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK

A little more than one week after the discovery of Max Guarino, the body of Islander Carlo Wertenbaker was spotted by a fisherman off Hart Island on May 4, 2003. Carlo, Max and two other boys had been missing since Jan. 24, after reportedly setting off in a small rowboat for either Hart or High Island on a bitter cold Friday evening.

On May 4, harbor police responded to the northeast side of Hart Island after receiving a 911 call from an off-Island fisherman in the early afternoon. They retrieved the body and for the second time in ten days returned to the Fordham Street ferry dock to the waiting crowd of family, friends and media.

The medical examiner confirmed Carlo's identity the next day. After helping the Guarino family mourn the passing of their son, Max, City Island Avenue residents Dolphi and Chris Wertenbaker now mourned the loss of their own son.

A wake was held for Carlo on Sunday, May 11, at the Redden Funeral Home in lower Manhattan. Family members, Islanders and other friends traveled on Mother's Day to pay their respects and support the Wertenbaker family, including Carlo's sister, Elena. Island friends of Carlo's, including Luke Vivian and Samantha Sykes, attended the wake along with their parents.

Young musicians sat outside the funeral home playing guitars and sadly singing songs such as "Stairway to Heaven" and "Sweet Child of Mine." Carlo loved to play the guitar, and his own instruments surrounded the plain pine box that held his body. Many mourners were devastated over the loss of Carlo, but they hoped the discovery of his body after so many months could bring some comfort and sense of closure to the Werten-



Photo courtesy of the Wertenbaker Family
A wake was held for Carlo Wertenbaker (above) on Mother's Day, May 11, 2003.

baker family.

The previous week, Dolphi Wertenbaker had accompanied Max Guarino's parents to the northeast end of City Island to reflect on the spot near the High Island Bridge where the body of their son had been discovered. She arranged for the Guarinos to meet and talk with Islanders who had witnessed the recovery.

Even after their son was found, the Wertenbakers continued to support and assist the families of the two boys who were still missing at the time of Carlo's wake. Mrs. Wertenbaker told *The Current* then that she hoped the families of Henry Badillo and Andrew Melnikov would soon find peace. Within two weeks, their prayers were answered.

Islanders as "Ducky," could hear sirens approaching. The police responded very quickly, he told *The Current*. An officer from the 45th Precinct reached them first, and then the Harbor Patrol boat arrived and docked in a slip at Consolidated. The police launched a Boston Whaler off the larger boat, and two officers motored over to recover the body, which was drifting toward the sea wall in front of Pilot Cove Manor.

The following day, the medical examiner identified it as that of Henry Badillo, the boy who had made the 911 call on the night the four teens drowned.

The finding of Henry's body brought solace to the boy's mother, Virginia Badillo. She called the Rauhausers the next day and said, "I want to thank you for bringing my son home." Mrs. Badillo had been on City Island every week since her son's disappearance. According to Ms. Koschak, "Virginia always brought coffee and doughnuts for the divers who were looking for the boys. She was so grateful to those who volunteered their time."

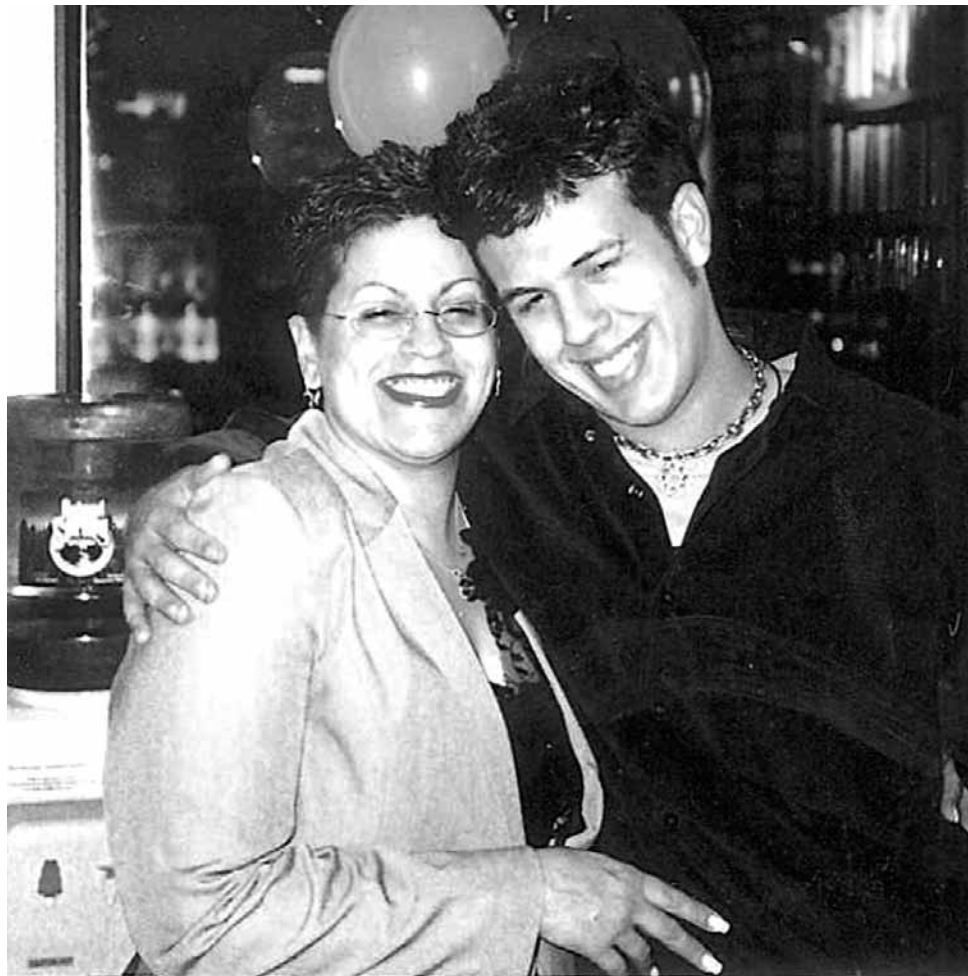
Henry Badillo was buried at St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx on Saturday, May 24, after a funeral at Holy Family Church.

On Wednesday, May 28, Mrs. Badillo and her sister, Margaret Ruiz, returned to Consolidated Shipyard to meet the Rauhausers and to visit the spot where Henry was found. In a moving scene, the boy's mother conveyed how much it meant to her that he was recovered. "I didn't want him to be the only one not found. The day between the discovery of Andrew and Henry was the hardest for me."

Mrs. Badillo told the Rauhausers how helpful many City Islanders had been to her and her family, especially John and Jason Barron. "They were wonderful. They let us stay each day at the boatyard while the divers were out there and they loaned out boats to teams of searchers. Mrs. Ruiz, who had also been on City Island every week since the boys disappeared, commended the efforts of the divers from Captain Mike's and New York City firefighter and Terrace Street resident Richard Patterson.

Families Continue To Work For 911 Improvements

By KAREN NANI



Virginia Badillo has lobbied for changes to the 911 emergency system since her son called 911 last January when he and three other teenagers disappeared in Long Island Sound.

The families of the four boys who perished on Jan. 14, 2003, are determined to make something positive come out of this tragedy. They have lobbied Albany to ensure that 911 systems around the New York State area are upgraded to include technology that will make it possible for emergency calls to be located from cell phones.

According to Virginia Badillo, the mother of Henry Badillo, the families began to work on this issue in February, while the search for their sons was still going on. They were haunted by the fact that the city's emergency telephone system had not produced a response from the police department.

Her son had made a cell-phone call to 911 indicating that he was in a boat on Long Island Sound and that it was taking on water. The operator heard "Long Island Sound" but did not alert the Harbor Patrol, according to procedure, so the police search did not begin until late the following morning, after the families reported the boys missing.

The loss of the four boys awakened the public to the fact that the 911 system was to have included a Global Positioning System (GPS) enabling 911 operators to determine the exact location of cell phone calls by the end of the year 2001. Although hundreds of thousands of dollars have been collected by New York State from cell-phone subscribers for the purpose of improving the emergency system, most of this money was not returned to New York City and the GPS enhancement was rescheduled to the end of 2005.

Mrs. Badillo told *The Current* that, after learning this, the families joined forces with upstate Assemblyman David Koon, whose daughter died 10 years ago after her call to 911 could not be traced. Together the families and Assemblyman Koon visited and lobbied the state legislators in Albany and sponsored a bill entitled "Life 911."

The bill was passed and \$100 million was allocated in the state budget to install the necessary technology in each county of the state. Although Governor George Pataki vetoed the entire state budget in

May, his veto was overridden and the monies have been secured.

"It's not over yet," said Mrs. Badillo. "We will continue to work and notify all the counties to request the funds and begin the technology upgrade." The families are united in this cause. Dolphi Wertenbaker, the mother of Islander Carlo Wertenbaker, whose body was also found in May (see article this issue), pointed out that this technology is necessary to cover a wide variety of emergencies, not just people in distress at sea.

"Many people use cell phones as their primary phones these days," she and Mrs. Badillo explained. "You could have an emergency in your apartment and dial 911 on your cell. They should be able to trace the call if you are unable to give the address." They also pointed out that people walking in parks or in remote areas often carry their cell phones with them in case of emergency. Only systems with GPS technology are able to pinpoint the location of a caller from these areas where there are no street addresses, however, and New York City does not yet have this technology.

Because the case of the missing teens evoked so much public and political pressure, the New York City Police Department announced in February that an interim solution pinpointing the latitude and longitude of a caller would be in place by the end of 2003.

The efforts by the families of the four boys are in addition to the notice they filed on April 21 that they planned to sue New York City for the wrongful death of their sons, claiming, according to the *New York Times*, "that the city was negligent in failing to respond quickly to the call made to the emergency telephone system."

It is ironic that Henry Badillo's body, the last to be recovered, was called in to the city's 911 system by a cell phone carried by Arthur Rauhauser, whose wife had discovered the body. This time the system worked quickly, because the location of the boatyard on east Pilot Street was accessible by computer, and the police appeared on the scene while Mr. Rauhauser was still on the telephone.

Recovery of Boys

Continued from page 1

only one more day.

At 2 p.m. on Monday, May 19, Mr. and Mrs. Rauhauser were walking down the main dock at Consolidated Yachts toward their sailboat, *Whisper*, which had been recently launched for the summer. As they approached a bend in the dock, Mrs. Rauhauser looked over the rail and said to her husband, "There's a body down there."

An incredulous Mr. Rauhauser told his wife that it wasn't a body, but a doll floating in the water near the dock. Mrs. Rauhauser, however, was convinced it was a body because "the arms were stretched out like a baby's." They called over Earl Whyte, a worker at Consolidated, and he confirmed their fears.

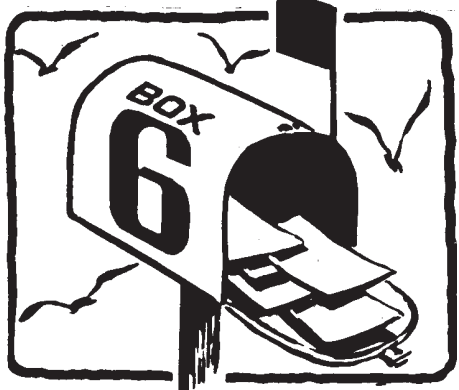
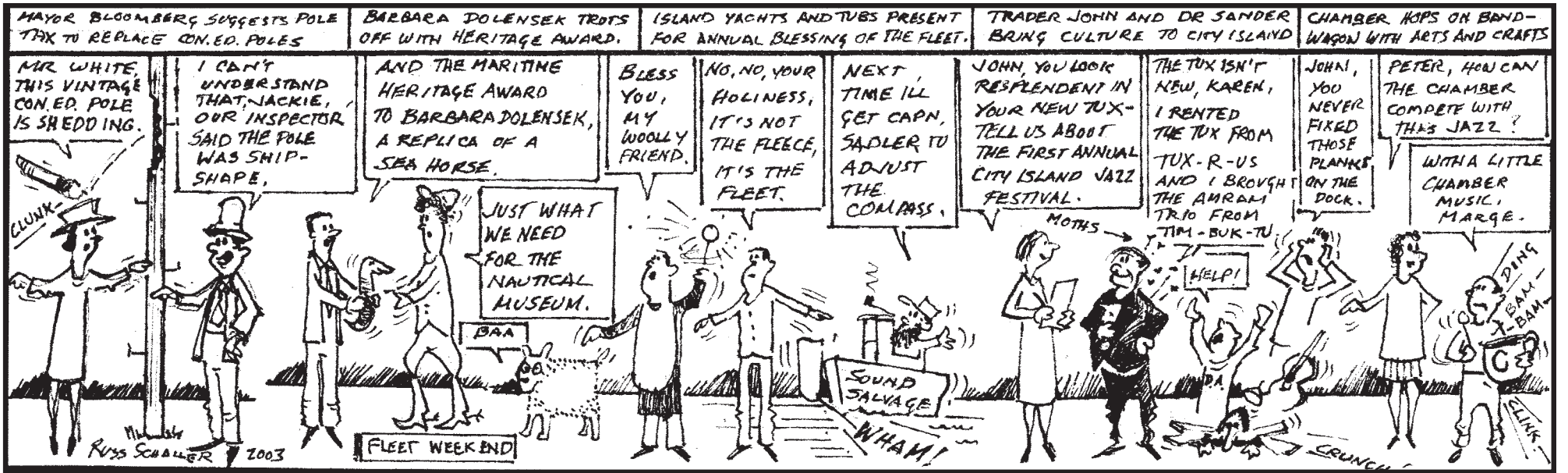
Mr. Rauhauser dialed 911 for the first time in his life using his little-used cell phone. The 911 operator quickly conferenced the call with three other parties, including the 45th Precinct, Emergency Medical Services and a marine operator.

While he was still on the phone with police, Mr. Rauhauser, known to many



Photo by KAREN NANI

Virginia Badillo (center) visited the spot where the body of her son, Henry Badillo, was found near the main dock of Consolidated yacht yard. She was comforted by Islanders Dolphi Wertenbaker (left), whose son Carlo also perished with Henry, and Lorraine Rauhauser, who first spotted the boy's body on May 19, 2003.



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

IDEA Proposal

(A copy of the following letter to Senator Guy Velella was received by The Current.)

Dear Senator Velella:

Five years ago when we came to your Williamsbridge Road office to meet with you, we shared with you our vision for developing a marine wildlife ecology program at the City Island School. You listened to our plan to bring the children out to a backyard classroom at the water's edge, teach them about fragile and diverse ecosystems and to help them to appreciate and ultimately, to protect their natural environment. We spoke of how children grow up on this Island and yet many do not know what an estuary is or a salt marsh, or what types of animals and plants live in our native waters. Many do not understand what life was like on this Island in years past. We told you of our long-term goal to build an educational center on the parkland behind the school. You were amazed at the potential of the project and you encouraged us to research and document our progress.

Later, after we had formed IDEA (Innovative Directions, an Educational Alliance), a non-profit organization with 501c(3) status, we developed partnerships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the NYC Parks Department and the NYC Department of Design and Construction, and we began to actively seek capital funding. You suggested we write a grant so that you could solicit state funding for our project. In 1998, it was through your efforts that the NYS Department of Education granted IDEA the sum of \$100,000 to purchase equipment and supplies for the proposed Learning Center

to be housed on the site of the famed Nevins' Boatyard, birthplace to many of the America's Cup contenders and defenders. This \$100,000 funding was placed at the NYC Board of Education, District 11 office awaiting the construction of the Learning Center.

Due to the recent reorganization of the NYC Board of Education, we were notified on March 30, 2003, that the \$100,000 grant you assisted us in obtaining would have to be spent by the end of May or these funds would revert back to the state. With the assistance of the faculty and administration of P.S. 175, we quickly went to work on a plan to establish a science lab on the second floor of the City Island School. Within days, we had ordered \$100,000 worth of equipment and supplies, including lab stations, desks, 24 laptop computers, 2 desktop computers, projection equipment, microscopes, probes, slides, a weather station, a physics station, a growing station, a host of dissection kits and even lab coats for our budding scientists.

As the past five years unfolded, IDEA was successful in obtaining \$500,000 in capital funding for this project through the valiant efforts of NYC Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano. This past year Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrión Jr., generously granted IDEA another \$100,000 in capital funding. Today, this \$600,000 sits in the budget of NYC Parks Department awaiting matching funds so that a \$1.5 million center can be constructed. As city, state and federal budgets have been dramatically cut in recent years, the process of obtaining matching funds has become exceedingly difficult. It is now our immediate goal to utilize this \$600,000 at the Parks Department and not wait for additional funding. We would rather build a modified version of the original design than to forfeit these funds.

After speaking with other groups on the island, we realized the need to build a structure on the waterfront site that can be utilized by all of City Island. Our goal is to design and construct a multipurpose building so that students during the school day can use the building for marine science studies, while in the evening and on weekends, all of the organizations on City Island will have a place to convene. We invite you, our local public officials and all the organizations on City Island to discuss this plan at a general meeting at the City Island Nautical Museum and Historical Society on Tuesday, June 17, at 7:30

p.m.

It is with great pride and gratitude that we thank you for granting us that first meeting, listening to our ambitious plans, and most of all, believing in the notion that each of us has the ability to make a difference.

You have made all the difference in the world to our children at the City Island School.

Patricia Hennessy
Rose Rodstrom
Co-Directors, IDEA

Peace Is Patriotic

In April, either someone agreed with the sentiment on my lawn sign ("Peace Is Patriotic") so fervently that they had to have it for their own, or else they thought an act of cowardice and theft under cover of darkness was a better example of patriotism. And mine wasn't the only sign taken.

Sign stealing can't change what the evidence clearly shows to anyone who looks beyond the rhetoric of false patriotism: War Is Not the Answer. Peace Is Patriotic.

Lucille Rivin

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A BRIDGE FOR THE FUTURE OR A FUTURE FOR THE BRIDGE?

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The fate of the 102-year-old City Island Bridge continues to hang in the balance, as city officials, politicians and residents wrestle with various alternatives that have been suggested to remedy structural and maintenance problems that affect the aging structure.

New York City's Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioned Gandhi Engineering Inc. to undertake a study of the bridge in 1998. The firm presented its final report in March 2003, indicating that the present bridge is in poor to fair condition and proposing that it be either rehabilitated or replaced with one of six alternate designs. Their recommendation to DOT was that the present bridge be demolished and replaced with a cable-stayed bridge, which would have no piers in the water and thus require lower maintenance in the future.

DOT presented this recommendation to Community Planning Board 10 in May 2002, to the City Island Civic Association in October 2002, to the Borough President in January 2003 and to several elected officials in May 2003.

Objections were raised at the first meeting by representatives of the community, who felt that a cable-stayed bridge with a 400-foot tower in Pelham Bay Park was inappropriate for City Island. By the time of the Civic Association meeting in October, DOT had changed its recommended bridge to a cable-stayed design with a 240-foot tower.

In January 2003, the Civic Association presented a formal written response to the DOT recommendations, asking that the present bridge be rehabilitated and listing various reasons why a cable-stayed bridge was

not acceptable to the community. A request was made for a copy of the Gandhi report in order to understand why the bridge had to be replaced rather than rehabilitated.

DOT finally made a copy of the report available in May 2003 but otherwise has not responded to the Civic Association's objections to the cable-stayed bridge, which many in the community believe is inconsistent with City Island's historic character and zoning regulations restricting the height of new buildings to three stories or 35 feet.

In its response, the Civic Association informed DOT that the City Island Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, because of its historic importance and aesthetic quality as one of the earliest steel bridges built in New York City.

The New York Landmarks Commission, however, refused to designate the bridge a city landmark, because the chief of DOT's Division of Bridges, Henry Perahia, would not support the designation, declaring that the bridge had "reached the end of its useful life" and that "granting this bridge landmark status will require NYCDOT to replace the bridge with a design that is not appropriate for its current and future use."

If DOT is not willing to build a replica of the present bridge, what about rehabilitation? New York City has recently undertaken to rehabilitate a number of bridges that are as old as or older than the City Island Bridge, including the Brooklyn Bridge, the Queensboro Bridge and the Macombs Dam Bridge. Why not the City Island Bridge?

DOT claims that rehabilitation will cost nearly as much as a new bridge, will require

considerable maintenance because of its piers in the water and will not last nearly as long. The Civic Association has learned, however, that the Sunshine Skyway over Tampa Bay in Florida, a cable-stayed bridge completed in 1987 and designed to last 100 years, was found to have severe corrosion problems as early as 2001, and that bridge engineers throughout the country immediately increased their inspections of bridges of this type as a result. It is likely, in fact, that no bridge near salt water is likely to remain free of maintenance problems whether it has piers in the water or not.

Herb Rothman, an engineer who has done a considerable number of bridge rehabilitations for the city, shed some light on the DOT attitude toward rehabilitation in an interview published in *Progressive Engineer* in February 2002. He was quoted as saying that "We've been doing so much rehabilitating, I'd like to get back to doing new bridges. New bridges are easier. . . . With the old bridges, your main function is to not change the appearance. With new ones, you have a lot of control over it. It's a lot more fun."

At the meeting in January, the Borough President suggested that revisions in the cable-stayed bridge design might make it more aesthetically appropriate for City Island and the Civic Association agreed to review these with the community before making a final response to the bridge proposal. However, DOT has never shown revised designs to the community, which continues to object to the cable-stayed alternative. Petitions calling for the rehabilitation of the present bridge have been circulating, and hundreds of signatures have been collected.

The DOT Commissioner, Iris Weinshall, told Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. at the January meeting that if the community did not want to accept the cable-stayed design, the department would back away from the project, although she assured representatives of the Civic Association that DOT would continue to maintain the bridge to make it safe. Mr. Perahia pointed out, however, that it might be necessary to impose load limits on the bridge in the future.

In response to Civic Association requests, Council Member Madeline Provenzano, State Senator Guy Velella and Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman voiced objections to the

DOT proposal and met with DOT on May 9. They will discuss the matter with representatives of the community in June, after which time there will be another meeting with DOT.

At a media meeting with Mayor Michael Bloomberg on April 30, 2003, *The Current* asked him why, in light of the budget crisis, the city wanted to build a new bridge that the community did not like. He said, "Oh, I didn't know that. What's wrong with the old bridge? I love that bridge."

Although the Gandhi report clearly indicates that DOT has selected the cable-stayed bridge for City Island, it notes that DOT is required to obtain approvals and permits from a number of city agencies, including Community Board 10, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Department of State, the United States Coast Guard, the U.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New York City Department of City Planning and the Arts Commission.

The environmental impact on the park and the tidal wetlands has not been studied, but clearly there will be a considerable impact on both. A rehabilitation project or the construction of a bridge in any location other than that of the present bridge would not require the construction of a temporary bridge. In order to construct any bridge in the same location as the present bridge, a temporary bridge would have to be built, and Gandhi recommends that it be built to the west of the present bridge. Although the impact of a temporary bridge could be remediated after its removal, the cable-stayed bridge with its large tower would involve the creation of a permanent structure on park land.

The Civic Association plans to monitor the situation closely, according to president Frank Fitts. "We will meet with our elected officials in June to find out where we go from here," he told *The Current*. "In the meantime, we welcome the input of all Islanders, whether or not they are members of the Civic, and we plan to discuss the issue at our meeting on May 27."

"All we can hope is that DOT is prepared to listen to the community," he went on. "After all, their engineers aren't the ones who will have to live with our bridge every day."

JIMMY'S COMES TO CITY ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although City Islanders aren't usually considered part of the "in" crowd, which may include such celebrities as former President Bill Clinton, Jennifer Lopez and Derek Jeter, the "in" crowd may become part of City Island when its newest restaurant venture—Jimmy's City Island—opens toward the end of June.

The proprietor, Jimmy Rodriguez, runs an upscale group of restaurants in the Bronx and Manhattan: Jimmy's Bronx Café on Fordham Road near Yankee Stadium, Jimmy's Uptown in Harlem and Jimmy's Downtown on East 57th Street. Highly regarded for their food, décor and lively atmosphere, these restaurants have become very popular, and Mr. Rodriguez, who prefers to be called Jimmy, hopes that his latest project will follow suit.

Jimmy was born in Puerto Rico, but he grew up in the Bronx and has actually spent a great deal of time on City Island over the past six years, having rented apartments at the Sailmaker and the Boatyard before his recent purchase of a condominium at the Sailmaker. He is also a good friend of Rod Rodriguez of the Northwind Museum and has donated a fish tank and other nautical objects from the King Lobster Restaurant, which he is renovating to create Jimmy's City Island.

Ilan Waisbrod, who has designed many award-winning restaurants in Manhattan, including Bond Street, Republic and Michael Jordan's Steak House and his restaurants at the Mohegan Sun, as well as



Photo by RENA HANSEN

A new restaurant, Jimmy's City Island, will open later this month where King Lobster once ruled.

Jimmy's Uptown and Downtown, plans a sophisticated, minimalist décor, with an open façade and carefully arranged interiors. In addition to a principal dining room, there will also be private rooms for parties and a separate bar serving tapas. The capacity of the restaurant will be about 300.

The chef, Robert Pagan, is trained in fusion cuisine and prepares contemporary Latin dishes at Jimmy's Downtown, but on City Island he plans to offer what he calls "New York-style" cuisine, specializing in seafood, including Jimmy's signature paella. He and his sous-chef, Christine Imperiale, intend to live on City Island as soon as the restaurant opens.

Jimmy plans several openings for the restaurant, the first for City Islanders to get an advance taste of his menu. He also invites residents to drop by to see what he and his crew are doing. He understands the concerns of Islanders about traffic, but he doesn't expect that his restaurant will make it worse than it has been.

One of his partners is the hip hop star Fat Joe, but Jimmy dismisses rumors that his restaurant will be a magnet for rap stars. "They've been eating on City Island for years!" he says.

For information about the opening, call 718-885-2222.

Happy 100th To Clam Digger

On June 2, 2003, Louise Kapp Callahan, who was born and raised on City Island and lived here for 55 years, celebrated her 100th birthday.

Lou graduated from Public School 17 in 1916 and attended Cathedral High School and Grace Institute. She was raised on Centre Street and spent most of her married life on Bay Street. She worked in midtown Manhattan and retired from Tracealarm, Inc., at the age of 70.

When Lou moved to Westchester County with her husband, Jack, and her two sons, she still considered herself a clam digger and spent her leisure time on City Island visiting her sisters, Katherine Seibert and Maria Maffia, attending St.

Mary Star of the Sea Church and AARP meetings.

In 1988 she moved to Chicago to be near her son Jack and his family, but she keeps in touch with City Island through her niece Dolores Robinson and her good friend Joyce Maloney. Lou's other son, Bob, lives with his family in Brampton, Ontario. She has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Her family is honoring her birthday with a party on June 7 in Chicago. She currently lives at the United Methodist Home, 1415 Foster Avenue, Chicago IL 60640 and would welcome hearing from her old friends.

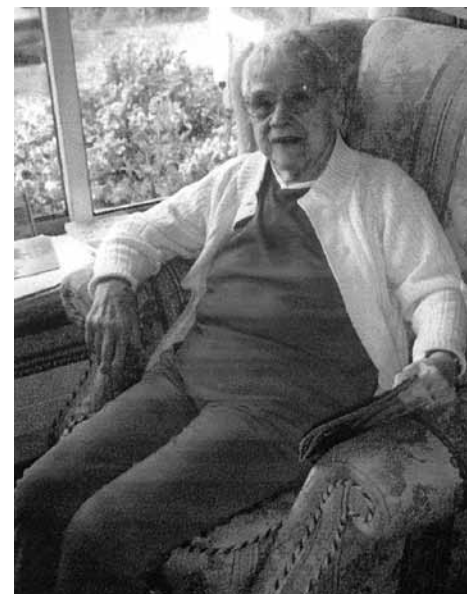


Photo Courtesy of DOLORES ROBINSON
Louise Callahan, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 2, 2003, still loves to travel. This photograph was taken two years ago in Ireland at her son Jack's second home.



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What's Going On In There?
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.

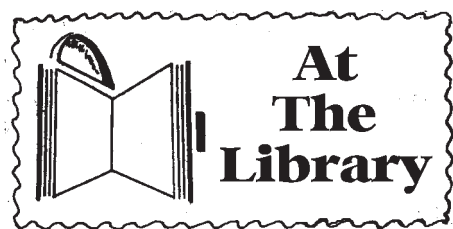
During the month of June, the **Kathlyn Moses Gallery**, 327 City Island Avenue, will present the work of the talented husband-and-wife team, Glenn and Nadiya Goldstein, who will exhibit their photographs and paintings of scenes around City Island.

On June 6, from 7:30 to 10 p.m., the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will hold an opening reception for an exhibition of the work of Terry McElroy. The exhibition will remain on view until June 29. For examples of Terry McElroy's work, visit www.focalpoint-gallery.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
Tier Street	11/21/02	\$632,500	New Lot
504 Minneford Ave.	12/05/02	\$477,500	1 Family
688 Bridge Street	3/04/03	\$350,000	1 Family
480 Minneford Ave.	3/14/03	\$428,000	1 Family

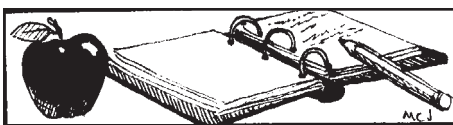


Adult Program

In celebration of Bronx week, the City Island Library will be hosting several programs in June:

An Internet Workshop for Adults, Tuesday, June 10, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert, Monday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m., P. J. Laughran will be performing.



Children's Room

Chess Club: Wednesday, June 4, 11, 18, 25 (advanced) and Friday, June 6, 13, 20 (beginners).

Father's Day Arts and Crafts: Wednesday, June 11, at 4 p.m.

Millennium Babies: Come join us for stories and songs Thursday, June 12, at 1 p.m. All babies are welcome.

Parent Internet Workshop: Tuesday, June 17, and Thursday, June 19, at 10:30 a.m. K-8 parents are welcome.

"Stories and Tales from Around the World": Wednesday, June 18, at 4 p.m. Stories told by Getchie Argetsinger for ages 5 to 12.

"Mighty Action Racket Theater Workshop": Monday, June 23, at 4 p.m. Young actors are guided on a unique theatrical path, paved with their own questions, wishes and desires. Ages 5 to 12.

For further information call the City Island Library at 718-885-1703.

Evelyn Gerges

YOUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

One of the great treasures of City Island is our branch of the New York Public Library—a resource for kids after school and for people without their own computer access to the Internet, a no-cost club for those who want to rent a movie, an audio cassette or CD and a haven for anyone who just wants to find a quiet spot to read a magazine. The library even has books!

One of the treasures of the City Island Library is Evelyn Gerges, who was named supervising branch librarian on March 17, after 10 years as our children's librarian and 25 years in the system. She is looking forward to working with Islanders and has several programs planned for all ages.

For instance, during Bronx Week, the library will offer an Internet workshop on Tuesday, June 17, and on Wednesday, June 18, at 10:30 a.m. Those who attend will learn how to operate e-mail and access the vast wealth of information available on line.

However, the activities of the library, as well as its hours, are in danger of being seriously reduced because of proposed state and city budget cuts. It is possible that library service may be reduced to four days a week, the first time this has happened since the fiscal crisis of the 1970s.

The New York Public Library faces cuts of up to \$15.4 million, which means loss of staff, fewer book purchases, fewer adults and children reached by library programs and reduced levels of technology. Many children who rely on the City Island Library as a place to study after school and to access the Internet will be affected.

Ms. Gerges hopes that Islanders will write letters to the elected state and city officials to tell them how important it is that these library services be maintained.

The restoration of \$9.6 million in cuts could help keep the libraries open five days a week, continue summer reading programs, and prevent further reductions in the book budget.



The City Island Library staff can provide sample letters, as well as envelopes and stamps for anyone willing to support the library by writing to the officials who can restore this money to the library budget.

Evelyn Gerges is eager to revive the Friends of the Library group, which was founded a few years ago to help rebuild the new building. Used-book sales and other projects are very effective methods of raising money and also awareness of the library's needs and its programs. Anyone interested in joining may call Ms. Gerges directly at 718-885-1703.

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Maritime Winners

Continued from page 1

where he has served on the Parish Council for several years and is currently the council president. He has been a member of the American Legion Post 156 on City Island for 12 years and served as vice commander for three years. Mike and Judy are among the volunteers who hang the American flags on the Avenue on holidays and for special events. Mike worked for NYNEX for 31 years, where he patented inventions and won awards for quality and scientific achievement. He currently works for MCI.

Susan Strazzera Keeper of the Harbor Award

Susan Henning Strazzera has lived on City Island for nearly her whole life. The daughter of the late Ben and Elsie Henning of Minneford Avenue, Sue is a third-generation City Islander, her paternal grandparents having moved here in the 1920s. She graduated from St. Mary Star of the Sea School and Cathedral High School. She has been married for 44 years and is the mother of three adult children, Susannah Strazzera Horn and Frank Strazzera of City Island and Liz Keschl of Bayville, New York, and six grandchildren.

Sue became interested in civic work in the 1970s, when she witnessed the death of the beautiful elm trees that once lined City Island Avenue, as they succumbed one by one to Dutch elm disease. She joined the Garden Club in 1980 because she wanted to join forces with the group to persuade the city of New York to replant all the trees that were cut down and to help beautify City Island.

She has been the treasurer of the Garden Club for many years, and for the past few years she has been the Beautification Chairman. She is very proud of the fact that, in working with the Parks Department, she has managed to have about 850 trees planted both on City Island Avenue and on the side streets. Sue also prepares the fund-drive letter, supervises the cleanup crew, and each spring and fall she coordinates the planting and grooming of the Island's parks. Last fall, with the help of volunteers, hundreds of daffodils were planted in various locations around the Island.

Adolfo Carrión Jr. Keeper of the Harbor Award

Adolfo Carrión, the 12th chief executive of the Bronx since it was incorporated into the city of New York in 1898, was born in lower Manhattan and moved with his family to the Baychester section of the northeast Bronx when he was in fourth grade. The son of a Protestant minister and a mother who gave him a daily dose of the golden rule, he graduated from Kings College, then located in Westchester County. He served as an associate pastor at a Bronx church and later as a public school teacher in the west Bronx. After earning a master's degree in urban planning from Hunter College, he worked for the Bronx office of the Department of City Planning.

He then became the district manager for Community Board 5 in the Bronx and later joined Promesa, a community development organization, as vice president of human services and community outreach. In 1997, he was elected to the City Council, representing the 14th Council District, and he sat on the Economic Development, Education, Higher Education, Environmental Protection, Governmental Operations and Land Use committees. He also served as chairman of the special subcommittee on the 2000 Census.

Adolfo Carrión was elected Bronx Borough President in November 2001. At his inauguration, he committed his administration to the leadership principles he stressed during his campaign: a promise to work for improved schools and housing, more jobs at a living wage and safer streets for Bronx families. Believing that leadership and accountability go hand in hand, he has challenged himself and Bronx residents to look for outcomes and not just promises in assessing the progress and growth essential to the future of the borough's 1.3 million people.

He is married to Linda Baldwin, an attorney. They have three daughters, Raquel, Sara, and Olivia, and a son, Adolfo James, known as A.J. He lives with his family in the Kingsbridge Heights section of the Bronx.

Frances Carrollo City Island School Hall of Fame

Frances Carrollo grew up in Queens; her family moved to the Bronx when she was six. An only child, she had close relatives nearby, including her cousin Frances Matura, who still lives on City Island. Fran Carrollo graduated from Preston High School, St. John's University and City College. Inspired by another cousin, she was drawn to teaching as a career, and she began student teaching at P.S. 97, where she also had her first substitute job. She was sent to a conference at P.S. 17 on City Island, and she fell in love with the community.

When her substitute job ended, she went to the District 11 office for job placement, and there was an opening on City Island. She couldn't believe how lucky she was, and she feels the same way to this day. She has always loved the community, the children, the parents and the other teachers in the school. She was delighted to watch the children grow during their first year in school, and the traditions they established together, such as the Night Before Christmas, the Halloween parade and the kindergarten graduation, became special memories.

Fran Carrollo realized that it was time to retire when she found herself teaching the children of children who were in her class. Although she will miss City Island and the special things she loves about the school, she is looking forward to a new home in Westchester and having time to do all the things she never had time for while she was working.

Angela Adler

City Island School Hall of Fame

Angela Bochicchio Adler graduated in June 1969 from Hunter College in the Bronx with a major in history and a minor in education. She first got to know some of the children of City Island that summer, when she worked in the NYC Board of Education Vacation Day Camp program. She also met Lucretia Fusco, who was then principal of P.S. 17 on City Island. Mrs. Fusco asked if Angela would be interested in working at the school, and she has taught on City Island ever since.

She taught several of the elementary school grades at P. S. 17 and then at P. S. 175, and she has spent the last 15 years teaching second grade with her close friend and teammate Deborah McManus. She has also served as P.S. 175's early childhood consultant since 1998.

Angela Adler's philosophy has been to have the children learn by doing and to show them how what they learn in school applies to real life. She also believes strongly in remaining current with advances in educational theory and practice. Her ongoing professional education has included numerous summer workshops at Teacher's College of Columbia University (reading and writing), Lincoln Center (aesthetic education) and other settings.

She feels fortunate to have been able to pursue her life's dream teaching here on City Island among extraordinary veteran teachers and a supportive administration, headed by Ena Ellwanger. After her retirement, she hopes to spend more relaxing time with her husband, Irving Adler, and her son, Matthew, and to pursue other interests, such as reading all the books on her night table, knitting, painting, yoga and trying out new recipes.

FLEET WEEKEND PART 1



Photos by RICK DeWITT and RENA HANSEN

Because of the inclement weather (rain yet again), some of the 2003 Fleet Weekend festivities were postponed until July. The Chamber of Commerce Arts and Crafts Fair (above) went on as scheduled on May 31 and June 1, with juried exhibits and vendors lining City Island Avenue between Bay and Schofield Streets. The rain did hold off long enough to start the Fleet Weekend adult and youth fun races (below), and the runners stayed just ahead of the raindrops. All other events, including the scuba-diving demonstration, the Children's Talent Show, a model-boat building workshop, a dinosaur exhibit and the children's carnival will be held on July 12. For more information, call 718-885-3781.



Photos by KAREN NANI

The 4th Annual City Island 5-K and Youth Run took place on May 31, 2003, as part of Fleet Weekend. Sammy's Fish Box was once again the major sponsor, with added support being given by IDEA, City Island IGA, Connie's Market, and the American Legion Post 156. The adult race attracted a field of 73 runners. The half-mile fun run brought in 11 kids, seen at the starting line. The rainy weather held off for the morning, giving the runners a chance to enjoy City Island. Race Directors Mike and Judy Rauh were joined by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who helped make the race run smoothly.

City Island veteran marathoner Marje Kos signaled the start of the kids' run, and at the finish line they were greeted by Public School 175's principal and assistant principal Milagros Lopez and Jeannette Vargas. Dr. Norbert Sander, director of the Medical Group of City Island, president of the Armory Track and Field Foundation, and 1974 winner of the N.Y.C. Marathon, sounded the horn for the start of the 5-K. Holding the tape at the 5-K finish line were Rose Rodstrom and Patricia Hennessy, co-founders of IDEA, the organization responsible for Fleet Weekend.

John McGovern of Scarsdale was the overall winner of the 5-K, with a course record of 16 minutes 38 seconds for the 3.1 miles. Terri Sonenclar of Mamaroneck, defending her 2002 title, was the women's winner in 20:59. Winners of the age-group trophies were: (age 29 and under): Carlos Gracia, Klass Vries, Keith Kreig, Caroline Henneman and Kara Graves; (30-39): Russel Cruz, Rafael Alsina, Chris Ekstrom, Patricia Dunn, Ginny Rust and Katina Rojas Nazario; (40-49): Gregg Rubin, Nicholas Mitchell, Dan Schleyer, Kathy Gribbon, Kerry Murphy and Joan Baldassarri; (50-59): Anibal Barrero, Geoffrey Stein, Michael Leiman, Karen Anoronico, Kathy Lonergan and Elsa Rubin; (60 and over): Robert Furphy, Denis Daly and Hector Santiago. There were no women in the 60 and over age group.

Participating in the youth run from City Island were John Devlin, Anthony Daddario, Sarah and Catherine Graves, and Michael Jaffe-Zertuche. Islanders running the 5-K were Russell Comport, James Doyle, Andrea Gaines, Kara Graves, Keith Kreig, Kathleen Lonergan, Kerry Murphy, Brenda Prohaska, Joanne Rooney, and Tracy Vincent.

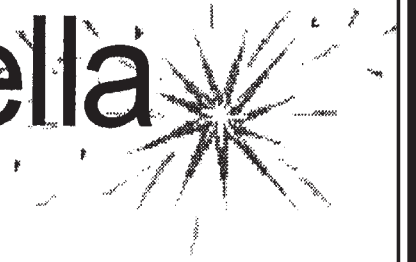
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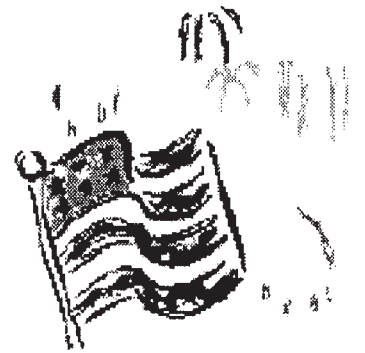
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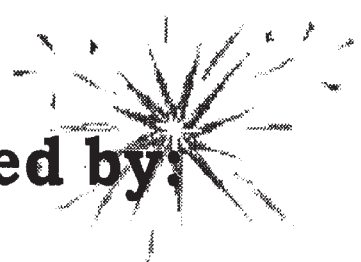


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BE PREPARED: FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

Disaster can come in the form of a blizzard, a hurricane, a fire, an earthquake or a terrorist attack, and it can come without warning. On Wednesday, May 14, the American Red Cross presented at Trinity Methodist Church its family disaster plan, which is designed to help people cope in the event they are forced to evacuate the neighborhood or remain confined at home without basic services, such as water, gas, electricity or telephone.

The best way to minimize problems in a disaster is to be prepared in advance, and the first step in preparing yourself is to obtain as much information as possible. The Red Cross recommends that the following steps be taken:

Discuss with your family the importance of preparing for disaster, and explain to children the dangers of fire, severe weather and so on. Pick two places to meet, one just outside the house in case of a sudden emergency and the other outside the neighborhood in case you can't return home. Be sure everyone in the family has the address and the telephone number of that place. Figure out how to evacuate your house safely in an emergency.

Ask an out-of-state-friend to be your family contact. It may be easier to call long distance than locally after a disaster, and members of the family will be able to keep in touch with everyone else through the contact. Be sure everyone has that telephone number.

If you have pets, plan how to take care of them. Many emergency shelters cannot, for health reasons, take in animals.

Post emergency telephone numbers near the telephone, and teach your children how and when to call 911. Teach everyone in the family how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches, and be sure that you have working fire extinguishers on each floor in the house, as well as function-

ing smoke detectors.

Stock emergency supplies and assemble a disaster supplies kit, containing the following items:

Water: Store a three-day supply of water for every member of the family (three gallons).

Food: Ready-to-eat canned food, juices, milk and soup, as well as staples (salt, sugar, pepper); high-energy foods, vitamins, infant food or food for anyone on a special diet and comfort foods (cookies, instant coffee, tea bags).

First aid kit: Bandages, scissors, tweezers, needle, antiseptic, thermometer, petroleum jelly, latex gloves, sunscreen, etc., plus non-prescription drugs such as aspirin, antacid, etc.

Tools: Keep in an accessible place such important items as flashlights, candles, paper, pencils, matches, pliers, tape, cash or travelers checks, batteries, battery-operated radio, needle and thread, medicine dropper, wrench and pliers, whistle, plastic sheeting, can opener, etc.

Special items: Important family documents, prescription drugs, games and books.

The Red Cross advises that a kit containing these items be stored in a convenient place in a plastic garbage bin or a camping backpack, with a smaller version in the trunk of the car. Items should be wrapped in air-tight plastic bags, and the water and food rotated every six months. It might also be useful to learn simple first aid and CPR.

For more information on how to get ready for disaster and to be safe when disaster strikes, visit www.redcross.org or www.fema.org, or call the local offices of the American Red Cross (212-875-2309) or of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (212-680-3600).

section of the north end of the Island will be rezoned R2, which calls for larger house lots and one-family houses.

Commercial developers will be encouraged to maintain the "village" aspect of City Island, with shops in the central part of the Island along the avenue. All other aspects of the City Island Special District Zoning will continue to be in effect.

According to Amanda Burden, director of City Planning, "This proposal will preserve the maritime heritage of City Island by protecting it from inappropriate development while at the same time strengthening the community's connection to the waterfront."

The City Island Civic Association has been working with the Bronx office of City Planning on the project since the contextual rezoning idea was first proposed by the department in 2001 as part of its Maritime Heritage Preservation Study.

Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, told *The Current* that "City Island is under siege from developers who want to use up every square inch for high-density housing."

"It's important that we keep our historic character," he said, "but it's even more important that we prevent our infrastructure from collapsing under the pressure. Our school is overcrowded, our utilities are stressed, our sanitary and storm sewers need replacing and the parking problems are immense. As a small island, we simply can't get any bigger than we are now."

Memorial Day Spirit Survives Downpour



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Islanders donned slickers and marchers broke out the regulation raingear to participate in the 2003 Memorial Day parade on May 26. Parade organizers from the American Legion Post 156 on City Island remembered those from past wars and recognized troops still on active duty in the Middle East. Marchers were joined by a Marine unit from the *USS Shreveport*, a contingent of sailors from the *USS Stephen W. Groves*, soldiers from the 237th Maintenance Company, a U.S. Army band and Boy Scouts from Troop 211.

Contextual Zoning Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The long-awaited contextual rezoning proposal for City Island was certified by the Department of City Planning on May 19, 2003, and will now proceed through the Uniform Land Review Use Process (ULURP) on its way to being implemented.

Community Board 10 will review and vote on the proposal before it goes to the borough president for his review and then back to City Planning, which will then pass it along to the City Council for a vote. Community Board 10 plans to hold a public hearing on the rezoning proposal on June 10.

The new proposal would change the zoning in a 23-block area from R3-2, which allows for attached housing, to R3A, which allows only one- and two-family houses. A

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JUNE

Thurs., June 7, **Garden Club Garden Tour**, 1 to 4 p.m. Tour starts at 21 Tier Street.

Sun., June 8, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

Thurs., June 19, **Garden Club Annual Luncheon**, 12 noon. City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street.

Thurs., June 19, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., P.S./I.S. 194 (tentative), Waterbury and Zerega Avenues, Bronx. Call 718-892-1161 for exact location.

Fri., June 20 and Sat. June 21, **Met in the Parks**, Pelham Bay Park, 8 p.m. Performances of **Lucia di Lamermoor** and *Turandot* on the lawn near the tennis courts. Enter off Middletown Road.

Tues., June 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., June 28, **POTS Program**. St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chef's salad (lettuce, tomato, cucumber, cubes of cheese, ham, turkey, etc.).

JULY

Tues., July 1, **Bronx Fireworks Celebration**, Orchard Beach, 9:30 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

We are pleased to welcome Constance Cooper as our new organist and pianist. She brings many years of musical experience to the Sunday worship service and will soon receive her doctorate in music composition from Princeton University. The congregation invites you to come and enjoy her musical expertise during our services.

Budget Corner will be open every Saturday from May 3 to June 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in addition to the usual Tuesday hours. Hope to see you there. Come and get your end-of-the-season bargains before we close down for the summer.

Budget will be closed for the summer vacation from June 15 to mid-September. Please do not leave any items during this time! There will be no one available to go through them and bring them inside. Thank you one and all for making Budget a success this year.

Donna LaValle

Chapter 3303 AARP

The New York State AARP office has asked our members to continue to ask our state senators and assemblymen to support the "Nursing Home Quality" bill now under consideration. There are 676 nursing homes operating in the state, whose nursing home population is among the frailest in the nation. The quality of care and the quality of life for these residents is a priority for AARP in New York State. Recent trends in nursing home oversight by the NYS Department of Health raise questions that must be addressed regarding quality of care. The effect of bill A8022 is to require the Department of Health to produce a clear and concise nursing home profile system informing the public about the quality of care in New York's nursing homes.

On Thursday, June 26, 2003, the chapter celebrates its 22nd annual dinner/dance and raffle at the elegant Davenport Beach Club in New Rochelle. It will include a cocktail hour, open bar, dinner, dancing and entertainment.

Reservations are being accepted for an exciting five-day vacation trip to Virginia

Beach and North Carolina from Sept. 8 to 12. Every day we will be touring the famous sights in both states. Day tours will be to the Outer Banks in North Carolina, Wright Brothers Memorial, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Norfolk Naval Base, Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel and much more. The trip will include first-class accommodations, all meals, deluxe motor coach transportation with a professional tour manager and time to enjoy the beach or the pool.

Prices and more details for these events will be discussed at our meetings or you may call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Chapter 318 AARP

Our end-of-the-season luncheon is on Friday, June 13, at Marina Del Rey. We will have a cocktail hour, wonderful food, an open bar all afternoon and music by Johnny and Geri Dill. Please come and enjoy a great afternoon. See Florence Quinn or Gloria Salacan for reservations.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, June 10; the bus leaves at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. Please call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844 for reservations.

Marie Tirelli

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (480 City Island Avenue), an all-inclusive egalitarian congregation, conducts services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m.

On Thursday, June 5, an open board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Friday, June 6: Shavuot celebration and Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Wiener, plus the installation of our new officers.

The Garden Club of Temple Beth-El is open to members and friends of the Jewish community. Our goal is to create a distinctive garden in the area of open space next to the synagogue. It will also be an opportunity to learn more about the connection between Judaism, nature and the environment. Please contact us at 718-885-2231.

In our adult education program, a program on the basics of ballroom dancing will be conducted by Elaine Belasco, from fox trot to tango (and more?). Classes will begin on Wednesday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. and will continue each Wednesday through July 9th, culminating with a summer dance by the water on Thursday, July 17. Please call 718-885-2154 for information and registration.

Visit our Web site at www.yourshul-bythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Civic Association

Important announcements made at our May meeting included the following:

The Orchard Beach/City Island traffic detail began on Mother's Day, and traffic was well controlled. City Island traffic will be handled by officers drawn from various precincts in the borough and will be supervised by Captain Capaldo of the 45th Precinct.

At the request of the Civic Association, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is doing a major study of City Island traffic patterns (see article this issue). The final report will be completed by summer 2004.

The 45th Precinct will hold a VIN etching program for cars and bicycles on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to noon in



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Constance Cooper, the new organist and pianist at Trinity Methodist Church

the American Legion parking lot. For information, call Officer Lorenzano at 718-822-5449.

Senator Guy Velella will sponsor another fireworks celebration at Orchard Beach, to be held this year on July 1.

In response to Civic Association requests, our elected officials—Council Member Madeline Provenzano, State Senator Guy Velella and Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman met with DOT on May 9 to review the DOT's plans for the new bridge they propose to replace the current bridge (see article this issue).

The officials will meet with representatives of the Civic in June; in the meantime, everyone who wishes to voice an opinion about the bridge is encouraged to leave a message at the Civic's number 718-885-3823 or to email civici@yahoo.com.

The Civic Association voted unanimously to inform Community Board 10 of its support of the contextual zoning plan recently certified by the Department of City Planning and will write a letter to the board requesting that developers be informed by City Planning and the Buildings Department of the zoning changes that will take effect after the proposal completes the ULURP process (see article this issue).

The "Pretty Island" program will complete the painting at Connie's Market and spruce up needy fences along City Island Avenue on June 8 or 9, weather permitting. If you would like to volunteer, call Susan Bellinson at 718-885-2109.

Barbara Dolensek

City Island Historical Society

At our annual meeting in May, the terms of the current officers were renewed: Tom Nye, president; Russell Schaller and Ed Sadler, vice presidents; Carol Stewart, treasurer; Barbara Dolensek, secretary.

Our big event this month will be a party on Sunday, June 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. in honor of the publication of Debby Kall's *Island Current* essays from her column "As Time Goes By." Books will be on sale for \$10, and Debby's mother, Jackie Kall, will be on hand to sign copies. Proceeds will go to the Historical Society and to the P.T.A. of Public School 175.

We are happy to announce that our beautiful sign, made by Len Smith, is attracting many new visitors to the Nauti-

cal Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday afternoons. Ed Sadler and Russell Schaller persuaded the City Island Diner to allow us to hang the sign on their flower box every Sunday, and the effort has already paid off.

Those who have not yet seen the Mark Whitcombe etching series on the America's Cup or the new exhibits in the Nautical Room are invited to come in any Sunday to take a look. Anyone interested in volunteering may visit on Sunday or call 718-885-0507.

Barbara Dolensek

Garden Club

On Saturday, June 7, the club will sponsor a walking tour of some lovely homes and gardens on City Island. The tour will take place between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., starting at 21 Tier Street, where you will obtain a map with the location of all the homes on the tour. We are asking for a donation of \$5, to be used for the additional beautification of City Island. Refreshments will be served at the last house on the tour.

The Garden Club will also be having our annual luncheon on Thursday, June 19, at the City Island Yacht Club. Tickets are \$25. Our raffles will have some great surprise prizes this year. All are welcome, so come and join us. For reservations, please call Ruth at 718-885-1361 or Phyllis at 718-885-0521.

Gardening hint: Before you head for the garden store—or the backyard—know exactly what you want. A well-thought-out plan will save you wasted work and frustration. Do you want a garden to attract birds and butterflies? What about one with lots of heady fragrances? You can also select plants according to which types will give you the best flowers for cutting.

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If you wish to submit, for inclusion in this column, information regarding events and activities at the City Island Community Center, please call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202 no later than the 15th of each month, except December and July. Leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

Senior Nutrition Program: Held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All senior citizens are welcome; the cost is only \$1.00 per meal. Call 718-885-0727 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for your monthly calendar with daily lunch menus and schedule of visits to shopping centers.

Pre K-Second-grade Dance and Movement: Taught by Natasha Adler, who has eight years of experience dancing and performing. Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. Call 718-885-9660 for more information or to sign up for six-week session.

Pre K Art and Crafts: Taught by Jessica Donahue, B.F.A. Wednesday, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 718-885-1419 for more information or to sign up for six-week session. Note: these classes are not babysitting; a parent or childcare provider must accompany child.

Dance classes Preballet, jazz and tap for kids Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m.; adult ballroom, Fridays at 8 p.m. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576-5515.

Belly Dancing Classes: Tuesdays, 8 p.m., and Sundays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Hip scarves are provided! Call Nadia at 718-885-9660.

Muy Thai Kick Boxing: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Call James and Kathy Criveau at 718-885-1137.

Kundalini Yoga: Tuesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. Call Ann Ward at 718-885-1478.

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-885-2011.

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

Step Aerobics Classes: Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10:30 a.m., and Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Yoga: Basic level Hatha Yoga classes include yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing practices, and stress management for peace of mind and physical well-being. Call Annette at 718-885-0724 for further information.

Millennium Babies: A Moms and Babies Playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Laury Hopkins

City Island Chamber Music

Le Refuge Inn has a particularly interesting and varied series of Sunday concerts to offer this month. On June 6, exceptional violinist Colin Jacobsen and his brother, cellist Eric Jacobsen, with pianist Steven Beck will present a unique program of pieces by Ravel, Bach, Handel and others.

Don't miss the City Island debut of the Aurelia Trio on June 15. Three superb artists, pianist Craig Ketter, violinist Kelly Hall-Tompkins and cellist Eric Bartlett will perform two masterpieces—Beethoven's Opus 70, no. 1 ("Ghost") and Brahms's Opus 8 in B major.

June 22 will offer for the first time a musical and literary event. Mae Barizo, a pianist, violinist and poet, will take you on an eloquent journey through works by Schubert, Leclair, Barizo and others, along with violinist Shira Natif.

A special treat will be the City Island debut of amazing guitarist Oren Fader, who will appear on June 29 with violinists John Andersen and Jessica Troy and cellist Wolfram Koessel, among others, performing pieces by Bach, Vivaldi, Boccherini and others.

All concerts are held at Le Refuge Inn, 620 City Island Avenue, at 12:30 on Sundays, with receptions following each concert; admission is \$16. For more information, call 212-724-4474.

Wolfram Koessel

Legion News

Memorial Day is a special day. It gives us the opportunity to pay homage to those of all conflicts who made the supreme sacrifice. Today it is the veterans' organizations that perpetuate the honoring of the departed by visiting memorials and cemeteries and sponsoring parades. It is a custom begun after the Civil War when local groups decorated veterans' graves.

Memorial Day on City Island is celebrated with the annual parade, which follows a circuitous route from Belden Point to the WWII monument at the bridge. This year's parade was abbreviated by eliminating the ceremony at Pelham Cemetery. It was agreed by the parade committee that subjecting the WWII members to the ravages of a nor'easter could be detrimental to their health. After placing the wreaths and reading prayers at the memorial, Commander Hecker led the troops, at double time, back to the Post, where refreshments befitting the occasion were served.

On Monday, May 12, Messrs. Richard O'Keefe, William Clancy and Ed Shipp took part in the rededication ceremony at the WWI memorial in Pelham Bay Park. Funds for this worthy endeavor were provided by Council Member Madeline Provenzano. The restoration cost of \$872,000 was provided from her budget.

The Post memorial service was held on Sunday, May 18, at the Trinity Methodist Church. The names of departed members were read as part of the service. Refreshments were served after the service by the good ladies of the church.

The annual spring dance was held at the Morris Yacht Club on Saturday, May 24, and as always was a social success.

The blessing of the fleet will be at Fenton's Marina at 1 p.m. on Sunday June 8, postponed from June 1.

The Bronx County Convention will be held at the Sam Young Post on Friday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Libation is on the house.

At the May 19 regular meeting, the nomination and the election of officers were held. A roster of those elected will appear in our next newsletter.

On a somber note, we mourn the passing of comrade Michael Scotto, who departed this life on May 16. He will be missed, since as a member of the executive board Mike was very involved in Post activities. The post has lost 16 members since October 2002. Veterans' deaths total 1,849 each month; 1,100 of those are WWII veterans.

Flags are being displayed on the avenue through Fleet Weekend until Flag Day, June 14. I wish to personally thank our flag crew for their continued dedication. I want to thank Ed Shipp as well for spending a morning checking and replac-

ing missing brackets. Without his help, I'd still be out on the avenue.

Some of our servicemen are on the move. First Sergeant Edward Joslin has relocated from Kuwait to Iraq. Edward extends his thanks for the package sent by the Auxiliary. First Lieutenant Greg Clancy is back in the good old U.S.A. Some of you might have seen Greg on television; he wrote an interesting letter to the Post about some of his exploits, and he thanks the Auxiliary for the package sent to him.

All are invited to pay homage to outgoing Bronx County Commander Joseph Goonan, C.W.O., still on active duty in Washington, D.C. A dinner will be held at the Tree House Restaurant on Thursday, June 5, at 7 p.m.

The commander reports that the cap-puchino machine donated by Thomas McMahon is still not in operation because of technical problems.

Comrade Richard Eberhart is recuperating at Westchester Square Hospital. His prognosis is good, and we expect him home soon.

As you know, the weather put a crimp in the Memorial Day parade. Plaudits are in order for those units that braved the weather to march: from the *USS Shreveport* a U.S. marine unit, from the *USS Stephen W. Groves* a contingent of sailors, soldiers from the 237th Maintenance Company, a U.S. Army band and Boy Scouts from Troop 211. Some of you might have observed a young girl on crutches who marched with the Maintenance Company. She was the daughter of one of the soldiers. Thanks, too, to Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Carman, who did a free lube job on the muskets used by the color guard.

Meetings for June are as follows: regular meetings Monday, June 2 and 16; executive board meeting Monday, June 9. All meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m.

And for you WWII buffs, scuttlebutt, the Navy term for rumor, was originally the word for a drinking fountain aboard ship where rumors originated and were spread.

At ease, until next month.

Russell Schaller

Legion Auxiliary News


On April 9, Post 156 members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion met at the Legion and put together more than 60 boxes to be sent to our young men serving their country in Kuwait and Iraq, who will in turn hand them out to their troops.

A week earlier, a list of supplies needed by the troops was distributed at the various houses of worship on City Island. Thanks to the generosity of the City Islanders who donated supplies and money, we were able to send all these packages immediately. The response was tremendous.

The men of the American Legion (who paid the postage for the packages) took the packages to the Post Office the next day. The Post Office did a wonderful job in mailing them out quickly.

Thanks to all on City Island who participated. Everyone did a wonderful job. God bless you all!


Peggy Eberhart



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More Than and Now

Last month, I reviewed reality-based films in which the action took place in two different time periods within the same movie. This month I turn to fantasy and science-fiction films with the same theme. **Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home** (1986) is my personal favorite of the series. The crew of the Enterprise must travel back to the earth of our time to obtain a pre-extinct whale, because they are the only creatures capable of communicating with a being from the future that is destroying everything in its path. When whale scientist Gillian (Catherine Hicks) says to Captain Kirk (William Shatner) "Don't tell me you're from outer space," his response is, "No I'm from Iowa. I only work in outer space." Directed by Spock himself (Leonard Nimoy), this funny film is fine for the entire family.

The best of the **Back to the Future** series is the original (1985), starring Michael J. Fox as Marty, a 1980s small-town teenager whose Doc (Christopher Lloyd) is an eccentric scientist. Marty tries out Doc's time-travel car and winds up back in 1955, where he meets his parents (Lea Thompson and Crispin Glover), who are teenagers themselves. As Marty struggles to return to the future, he must be careful not to change the past so that his own existence isn't put in jeopardy.

Forever Young (1992) is the story of Captain Daniel McCormick (Mel Gibson), a 1940s fighter pilot, who is in such despair over the loss of the love of his life that he allows his best friend, Harry (George Wendt), to test his cryogenic machine on him. When Daniel is accidentally unfrozen 50 years later by Nat Cooper (Elijah Wood), the boy and his mother, Claire (Jamie Lee Curtis), befriend him, while he struggles to find anyone from his past life as he absorbs in amazement the advances of the future. There is a particularly charming scene in this wonderful family film in which Daniel gives Nat a flying lesson in his tree house.

While in pursuit of Simon Phoenix, an ultra-violent criminal (Wesley Snipes), police officer John Spartan (Sylvester Stallone), finds himself framed for a crime he did not commit in **Demolition Man** (1993). Both men are put into cryogenic prison in 1996, and the chase resumes when they are thawed in the 21st century. There John meets Lenina Huxley (Sandra Bullock), a futuristic cop who is enthralled with anything having to do with the previous century. The people of the future have virtual sex because the idea of touching disgusts them. This movie is like a comic book in which droll humor is intermingled with the violence.

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In **Frequency** (2000), when the aurora borealis appears in the sky over New York City in 1969, ham radio operator Frank Sullivan (Dennis Quaid) starts a conversation with a fellow Brooklynite named John (Jim Caviezel), who turns out to be his very own son, living in 1999. Paradoxes abound as firefighter father and policeman son work together to solve a crime and in so doing change the future and the past. This is a marvelous film filled with twists and turns and surprises, with wonderful acting as well.

We turn to romance with the Lerner and Lowe musical **Brigadoon** (1954), which stars Gene Kelly as Tommy and Van Johnson as Jeff, two New York City business tycoons on vacation in the Scottish Highlands. They discover a tiny town vastly different from 1950s New York City, where they live. Brigadoon is a quiet village in which people go to sleep at night and awaken the next morning 100 years later. When Tommy falls in love with Fiona Campbell (Cyd Charisse), only a miracle can keep them together in this glorious musical.

Somewhere in Time (1980), stars Christopher Reeve as Richard Collier, a 1970s Chicago playwright who is obsessed with the portrait of an actress, Elise McKenna (Jane Seymour). He uses self-hypnosis to travel backward in time to 1912, when he meets her and they fall in love, much to the consternation of her manager (Christopher Plummer). Will their love survive the test of time?

In **The Love Letter** (1998 version), Scotty Corrigan (Campbell Scott) a 20th-century computer-game designer buys an antique Civil War-era desk. Inside it he discovers a secret compartment containing a letter written by its original owner, a poet named Elizabeth Whitcomb (Jennifer Jason Leigh). Scotty writes and mails her a letter, which is magically delivered, starting up a romance that transcends time.

Kate and Leopold (2001) is a charming romantic comedy that makes the suspension of disbelief a thoroughly enjoyable task. When Stuart (Liev Schreiber) discovers that Leopold, the third Duke of Albany (Hugh Jackman), has followed him back through time from 1876 to his 2001 New York City apartment, he cannot bring himself to tell his ex-girlfriend Kate (Meg Ryan) where Leopold is from because of course, she would not believe him. Kate, a market researcher for a big advertising agency, is a very independent woman who is captivated by the gallant duke, who cannot help but win her heart.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade graduates, who will be attending the following high schools in September: **Academy of Mount St. Ursula:** Katurah John-Sandy, Amelia Nieves, Rai-Lani Rodriguez, Keianna Simon. **Cardinal Spellman:** Frank Javier, Diane Toro, Leroy Vice, Danielle Wood. **Cathedral:** Shea Arthur. **Fordham Preparatory:** Jared Moret, Ocasha Musah. **High School of American Studies:** Steven Johnson. **Loyola:** John Lizarazo. **Mount St. Michael:** Michael Burgos, Christopher Ford, Hoay Smith. **Pelham Memorial:** Danielle Wilborne. **Preston:** Jamila Francis, Victoria Namanworth. **Rice:** Rodney Bailey, Brandon Chavers. **St. Barnabas:** Jessica Lirio, Jessica Mercado, Shanequa Walston. **St. Catharine's:** Stacy Ayala, Felyce Starr. **Salesian:** Timothy Castro, Mason Milito.

In addition, Steven Johnson received the following yearly scholarships: \$1,000 to Iona, \$1,700 to Salesian and \$2,500 to Mount St. Michael. John Lizarazo received a \$7,000 yearly scholarship to Loyola and a \$750 scholarship to Mount St. Michael. Jared Moret received a \$1,500 scholarship to Iona and a full scholarship to Mount St. Michael. Congratulations and good luck to all!

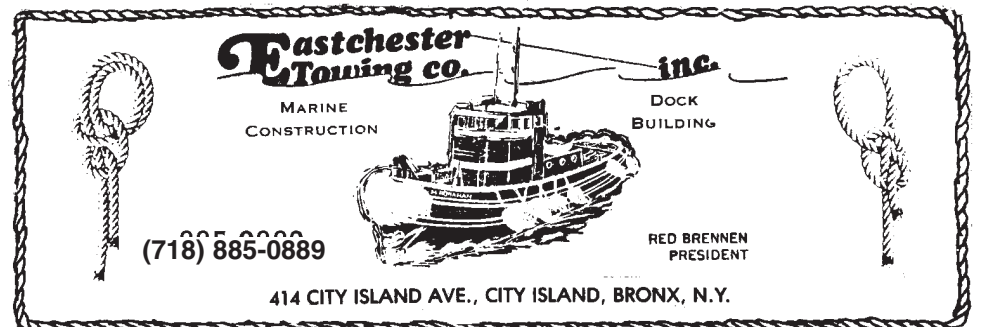
Public School 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade graduates, who will be attending the following high schools in September: **Academy of Mount St. Ursula:** Norma Garcia. **Archbishop Stepinac:** John Burke, William Cavinee, Paul Louis Condoluci, John Euvino, Adam Russo, Eugene Valesio. **Blessed Sacrament/St.**

Gabriel: Alessandra Civetta, Sergei Denecko, Samantha Emerick, Gary Gunzl, Michael Pagliaro, Lisa Marie Somereve. **Bronx High School for Law, Government and Justice:** Kevin Aaron Rines. **Bronx High School of Business:** Demetrius Jordan. **Bronx High School of Science:** Nicole Henning. **Camden Catholic:** Batikan Yilmaz. **Cardinal Hayes:** Joseph Gonzalez, Xavier Barnett. **Cardinal Spellman:** Sarah Anderson, Dani Tocci. **DeWitt Clinton:** Ashley Simmons. **Dodge:** Christina Tola. **Fordham Leadership Academy:** Augustina Robinson. **Fordham Preparatory:** John McGowan. **Gompers:** Samuel Doctor. **Iona Preparatory:** Aidan Byrne, Stephen Lott, John Plantikow. **Jane Addams:** Ronald Randolph. **Lehman:** Adriana Beqiraj, Evan Berent, Yaralee Marie Cepero, Giancarlo DiLaura, Amer Mohammad Mahmud, Vladisla Olkhovetsky, Angel Luis Pagan, Amanda Previdi, Arabia Sanders. **Maria Regina:** Valerie Dellacerra. **Mount St. Michael:** Keith Kreig. **New Rochelle:** Barbara Delgiudice. **Pelham Preparatory:** Christopher Figueroa. **Preston:** Victoria Klimowich, Fabiola Miria, Caitlin Schlottman. **St. Barnabas:** Violet Aga, Vanessa Swanagan. **St. Raymond's:** Marco Morrone. **Talent Unlimited:** Alaura Imperioli, Kimberly Nye. **The Ursuline School:** Jillian Lotrionte, Alexandra Sowa (\$3000 a year scholarship). **Truman:** Journee Argyle, Kendall Coleman, Michael Payne, Lamont Ross. **Walton:** Jenielle Rowe.

The students who are still undecided are Ersan Bajramoski, Margo DeSantis, Stafen Andre Faiella, Samuel Fisher, and Autumn Headen.

Victoria Klimowich received a \$1,000 scholarship to Preston; Nicole Henning received a \$1,000 Holy Name Society scholarship, a full scholarship to Preston, a \$5,000 scholarship to the Ursuline School and a \$1,000 scholarship to Cardinal Spellman. Alexandra Sowa received a \$3,000 scholarship to Ursuline and a full scholarship to Preston. Dani Tocci was accepted to Fiorello La Guardia High School. Congratulations and good luck to everyone in September!



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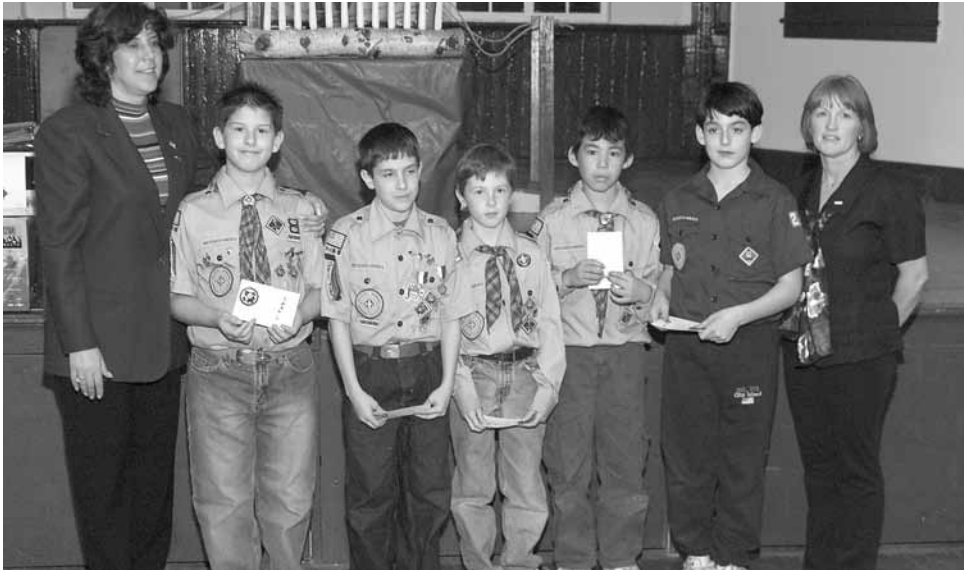
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Scout Accomplishments Recognized At Blue and Gold Ceremony



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The 2003 Cub Scout Pack 211 Blue and Gold dinner was held on Friday, March 28, at Trinity Methodist Church. This annual event features special awards and the Arrow of Light ceremony, in which Webelos advance to Boy Scouts by passing certain required skills to the satisfaction of City Island Scoutmaster Ed Esposito. Displaying their Arrow of Light certificates are the second-year Webelos (l. to r.): Michael Zapata, Alex Skokas, Liam Flynn, Ryan Clarke and Michael Sowa. Proud leaders are Doreen Zapata and Laura Flynn. Not shown, Michael Sowa.



Leaders Mervete Lajqi and Regina Kreig proudly presented the scouts who completed their requirements to receive the Wolf badge (l. to r.): Andrew Clark, Joseph Fusco, Kyle Kreig, Robert Pirraglia, Haxhi Lajqi, Anthony Luciano and Kevin DeCuffa. Not pictured: Jonathan Inglesius.



Flanked by their leaders Angelo Bellochio and Peter Green are the Tiger Cubs who earned their badges after completing the necessary requirements. The newest Cub Scouts are (l. to r.) Danny Pirraglia, Luke Kitagawa, Nicholas Bellochio, Benjamin Cuomo, Daniel Green and Andrew Simoncek. Not shown: Daniel Clancy.



The first year Webelos showed off their badges (l. to r.): Joseph Amoroso, David Anderson, Salvatore Kulka, Mark Lischinsky and leader Karin Duwel. Not pictured: Rupert Deese and Jose Inglesius.

AS TIME GOES BY

Beginning in 1988, Debby Kall wrote the first of what would eventually add up 50 columns for The Island Current. These were personal essays but they spoke for an entire generation. Debby died three years ago in March, and to honor her memory, Debby's family is republishing her essays in book form. Everyone who knew Debby (and even those who didn't) will be delighted to have them available in a permanent format. The book's publication will be celebrated at an open house at the City Island Nautical Museum on Sunday, June 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. The following is Cindy Conley's preface to the book:

The collected work of Debby Kall follows in the tradition of women storytellers like Isak Dinesen and Laura Ingalls Wilder, women who tell stories about what they know best, their homes and families, at the same time tinting the picture with shades of their own personalities. These writers infuse into a seemingly straightfor-

ward narrative their joy, their sorrow, their compassion, and their strength. Women who chronicle their lives often tell us things we don't want to know about ourselves and our community. It is just this kind of exposure that makes Debby's collection of essays so powerful. The Island Current has been our local newspaper for 30 years, most of the time reporting events on City Island. Debby's column was very different.

Debby Kall was born on Aug. 30, 1950, and except for her college years, she lived her entire life on City Island. Her parents, Robert and Jacqueline Kyle Kall, are life-long residents of City Island. Growing up with her brothers, Christopher and Jeffrey, Debby had a unique perspective, to say the least, of life in this special community. Her marriage to John Salacan and the birth of her sons, Nicholas and Matthew, gave her writing breadth and scope. Her long struggle with breast cancer lent a veracity to her perspective that cannot be denied.

I think that, had Debby lived, her writing would have continued to mature, but as it is we are left with a considerable body of work demonstrating an unusual understanding of a place and of the people who live here.



Cub Scouts who received their Bear badges are (l. to r.) Mitchell Santiago, Paul DiNome, Kevin Whelan, Nicholas Ruggiero, Justin Conahan and leader Tina Ruggiero. Not shown: Steven Owens and leader Wendy DiNome.

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A WW II REMEMBRANCE: The 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

My last three articles on Islanders in the military have focused on individuals, including Jack Flynn, Frank Urban and Bob Branizza, who were shot down during World War II. This article is about the men in a WW II air corps squadron who developed friendships that have lasted for 60 years.

The squadron has had 16 reunions; the latest one, in October 2002, was held in New Orleans. Time has taken its toll, for only 11 answered roll call this time, but the ranks were augmented by widows, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends, so about 40 people in all attended.

My roommate at the reunion was Colonel Floyd McRae (ret.). He and I had joined the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron (PRS) in January 1944 at Gainsville, Texas, where several squadrons were filling their rosters in preparation for overseas duty. Ed Fordham, a former Islander who also arrived at Gainsville about this time, was assigned to the 32nd PRS. As it turned out, Floyd and I were fortunate to be assigned to the 33rd, because the 32nd squad would never reach its destination.

Floyd and I became good friends despite our diverse backgrounds. He was the scion of an aristocratic Southern family and I was (and am) a damn Yankee from, of all places, New York. We shared quarters, in most cases a tent, for the next 18 months. And we have stayed in touch through the years, over the telephone or by mail.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you a little about our celebrated unit, whose lifespan was three years, seven months and seven days. The squadron grew from a core of 22 members of the 24th Observation Squadron in Meridian, Mississippi, to a formidable unit of 349 officers and men from 45 of the 48 states, the District of Columbia and Canada.

Our overseas odyssey began at Camp Shanks, New York, in April 1944. After a brief stay, we left by train and ferry to New York City, where we boarded the *New Amsterdam*. The ship accommodated 1,246 passengers in peacetime, but as a troop ship, her headcount was about 8,000. The 33rd PRS enlisted men were assigned to Deck B aft, one cut above the bilge.

The food was awful, but the 33rd was given the task of moving the food from the hold to the kitchen, which afforded them the opportunity to exercise their ingenuity. Crates were dropped or opened and the contents distributed among the famished. We survived not only the

poor food but the ravages of seasickness as well. Men on this detail were known as the 40 thieves.

We arrived in Gourrock, Scotland, where we entrained for UK Station 465 Chalgrove, England, a sleepy little hamlet of thatched roof cottages and a church. Rumors spread that our sister squad, the 32nd PRS, had been wiped out. They had been 12 days ahead of us on the Liberty ship *S.S. Paul Hamilton*, and sources reported that on April 20, at 2100 hours, German Luftwaffe planes came through the dusk at very low altitude. The *Paul Hamilton* was hit by a torpedo. The ship and all aboard had been blown to bits, a column of water and debris rising skyward some 300 feet. It is believed that not a single body was found intact because the ship was carrying high explosives as well as military personnel.

Ed Fordham wasn't the only Islander aboard that ship. Russell Wade, a Navy gunners mate, was also lost. The Wade family donated a beautiful stained-glass window to the Trinity Methodist Church in Russell's memory. Should you have occasion to be in the church, look above the altar at the rose window and say a prayer for both Ed and Russ, who were parishioners.

The 33rd PRS was soon flying missions over the French coast. On June 5, 1944, the sky became alive with planes of every description, all headed for the French coast. June 6 was D-Day, and most of the missions flown that day were by the veteran 30th PRS. Our squadron concentrated on bomb-damage assessment, railroads, marshaling yards and bridges along the Seine River.

On June 16 an airstrip, A-9, was constructed in the fields of Normandy at Le Mary. This would be our home until Aug. 27. We lived in G-man tents, and our tent was pitched next to a hedgerow in a sheep field. Occasionally an errant sheep would find refuge in our tent, leaving an unpleasant odor.

Our daily fare was either K or C rations, but one day fresh beef stew appeared on the menu. It would be 33 years later, at Reunion #4, that the secret would be revealed. Each day a British supply convoy would pass the airstrip, and with it a refrigerated lorry hauling fresh meat. Three of the pilots singled out this treasure-laden vehicle and pulled a log across the road. The driver left the cab and three masked bandits, er, pilots, relieved the driver

THEN AND NOW



Photos courtesy of RUSSELL SCHALLER

Pilots of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in Holland on the German border



Eleven veterans of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at their 16th reunion in October 2002. Islander Russell Schaller is second from right in the back row; Floyd McRae is at the right.

of enough beef to feed the squadron.

Paris fell on Aug. 23, and the German army abandoned the city, leaving the French in control. By Aug. 26, General Charles DeGaulle had relit the eternal flame at the tomb of the unknown soldier, followed by a march down the Champs Elysées.

The next day, the advance echelon of the 33rd PRS moved to A-11 at Dreux, just west of Paris, but unfortunately the 100 men ended up in the wrong field. A jeep appeared, and the driver asked "What kind of outfit is this?" When he learned this was the Air Corps, the driver exploded: "Hell! The infantry hasn't been through here yet!" The 33rd was 18 miles from its intended field, so the men ended up being regarded as liberators of the area. The French primed them with wine and sent them on foot to A-46 at Toussus-le-Noble, their original destination.

After the liberation of Paris, one of our pilots, Luther (Peaches) Killingsworth, a man known for his aerial prowess, made history. A truck driver for Red Ball Express, a supply unit, told Peaches he had never been in a plane, and soon the two were airborne over the city of Paris. The L-4 swooped under the arch of the Eiffel Tower, an event reported in *Stars and Stripes* a few weeks later.

When the Germans attacked in the Ardennes on Dec. 16, the 33rd PRS was, unfortunately, in the line of fire. Happily, the German army ran out of fuel and the weather cleared, allowing the air offensive against them to resume. The couriers delivering photographs to the Army's advance headquarters were fired upon by Germans in American uniforms. The driver was killed, but Private Hensen of the 33rd rolled out of the jeep and dispatched the enemy with his submachine gun.

On Feb. 22, the 33rd PRS would undertake and successfully complete the biggest photo mission of the war when it photographed the

Ruhr Valley, the most vicious flak belt in the world. As our 13 men reached the Rhine River at 20,000 feet, they activated the cameras and photographed a run 20 miles wide and 60 miles long, chased by many German planes.

When the squadron moved to Y-55 in Holland on March 12, the runways were actually on the German side of the border. The 33rd thus became the first Air Corps unit to operate from German soil. In their haste to escape, the Germans left behind a hoard of wine, more than 400 gallons. After sampling this largess, our wine connoisseurs deemed it unfit for consumption. Enter Sergeant Woodrow Granger (dec.), moonshine master from Loris, South Carolina, who requisitioned some distilling equipment and boiled the green wine until it became fit to drink, according to the squadron's physician. Because it was 190 proof, however, the good doctor suggested that moderation be exercised.

Another first for the 33rd was downing an enemy aircraft, a ME-109 fighter. After completing their photo runs, John Austin and James (Junior) Foster were being chased, and the German pilot lost control of his plane and bailed out. The next day Capt. Austin was shot down; his nephew, Kent Austin Ramsey, is an active member of our organization and the organizer of our last reunion and this year's as well.

The 33rd earned battle stars in five campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, and it was the only American photo unit to be awarded the order of the Belgian Fourragère and the Presidential Unit Citation.

For more information, read Thomas Gordon's *Thirty Seconds Over Berlin* or J. B. Woodson Jr.'s *Straight and Level: The Story of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in World War II*. Or you can visit the Web site www.33rdprs.org.

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The Park Turns Over a New Leaf

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Ever since the storm of '92, trees have leaned precariously over the walkways along the road to the City Island Bridge, and broken trees have provided a sad reminder of the violent storms that periodically buffet the area.

This unpleasant sight was aggravated during the past winter by terrible road conditions, but suddenly everything is starting to look better. Not only are the healthy trees leafing out on schedule, but the dead and dying trees have been removed, the underbrush has been cleared back some 15 feet from the road and grass seed is being planted.

The arrival of spring can be credited with some of this improvement, but so can a newcomer to City Island and to the city's Department of Parks & Recreation: Eileen Boyle, the new administrator of Pelham Bay Park and Van Cortlandt Park and a new resident of Bridge Street.

When Eileen accepted her appointment about four months ago, she knew that she would be required to live in New York City. Since she grew up in New Rochelle and had been visiting City Island since childhood, she was eager for the chance to move here.

Eileen has nothing but compliments for her predecessor, but she has a slightly different focus, which is to concentrate on park ecology and horticulture rather than on events. With her master's degree in forestry and over three years of experience as director of horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, Eileen is well prepared to undertake the task of putting the parks on an ecologically sound track.

"My goal is to reclaim the forest and practice good forest ecology here," she told *The Current*. "You can't leave a forest alone; you have to manage it." She also plans to put her horticultural background to good purpose by planting perennials rather than relying on annual flowers that must be replanted every year.

"I have also been a college professor," she says, "and with my experience in education, I am hoping to train Parks person-

nel to take excellent care of the plantings and the trees and to learn good ecological practices."

Because the Parks Department budget is severely restricted, thanks to recent budget cuts, Eileen is hoping to form a strong partnership with the community in order to realize some of her projects. She would like very much to enlist volunteers in clean-ups and other programs, as well as to approach corporations for sponsorship and grant money to stretch the budget. Those who are interested in volunteering their time should call 718-430-1890.

Eileen Boyle has been in the job for only four months, and a few recently completed projects were in the works for years before her arrival. These include the rededication of the World War I memorial on Crimi Road and the completion of the first phase of the bridle path renovation, which involved regrading, resurfacing and widening the path from the Bartow Circle up along the Hutchinson River Parkway to Route 95.

But she plans to continue existing projects and to implement many new ideas of her own. Happily for City Island, that includes keeping a close eye on the events and concerts taking place this summer at Orchard Beach, a facility she would like very much to see upgraded. However, it is in the ecological realm that her administrative abilities will be put to the best use, and all of us will be able to reap the rewards in a healthier and more beautiful park.

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Butterfly Magic

While you are at the nursery looking at all those beautiful flowering plants, why not think about adding a few that will attract butterflies to the sunny areas of your garden? Butterflies can be an added benefit of maintaining a flower bed, and there are a lot of "high nectar" flowers available in our area.

The most common and widely available is the butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*). The plant comes in quite a few colors, and all will attract butterflies, but the white-flowered kinds seem to work best. Remember to cut the branches back fairly hard in early spring for best flower production. Butterfly bushes can get tall, from 6 to 10 feet or more, so this is a plant for the back of the sunny border.

A more moderate-sized perennial is the Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), which with dead heading is an almost continuous flower producer that attracts many varieties of butterflies. Interestingly, there are white varieties of the coneflower ("White Swan" is one), but I have not noticed that butterflies prefer one over another as they do with butterfly bushes.

Other readily available plants that provide a variety of heights and bloom times are: yarrow (*Achillea*, many cultivars); New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), a late-blooming native that is good for fall migrants including monarchs; butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), one of the best with a long bloom period if dead headed; tickweed (*Coreopsis*, numerous species), which is easy to grow, blooms for a long time and attracts a wide variety of butterflies; blanket flower (*Gaillardia*, numerous species), easy with a long bloom period and some salt tolerance; sunflowers (*Helianthus*, numerous species), which attract a wide variety of chickadees

as well as butterflies"; blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), an eastern U.S. native that is easy to grow and comes in white, pink and purple; phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), another eastern U.S. native that provides a long bloom period in late summer when not much else is going on; black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), a North American native that tolerates poor soil and attracts many varieties of butterflies; goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), a favorite of monarchs with a long, late summer bloom time.

Reminder: Provide an area for water, because butterflies need nutrients in addition to those found in nectar. Ground puddles, which provide mineral nutrients from the soil, are ideal for the butterflies but not always practical for the home gardener. A shallow bird bath makes a useful alternative. It is also very important that the butterfly gardener not use pesticides or herbicides, for obvious reasons.

Once your plants get going, you may also find that the same nectar-rich plants that attract butterflies may also bring a few hummingbirds to your garden! And for those of you who would really like to learn more, consult a worthwhile organization called the North American Butterfly Association at www.naba.org.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Savings Time)

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

Tide chart by Tom Smith

JUNE 2003

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0025	7.7	0714	0.3	1307	6.9	1850	1.0	Sun 01
02 Mon	0052	7.8	0736	0.3	1332	7.0	1928	1.0	Mon 02
03 Tue	0129	7.9	0808	0.4	1407	7.1	2011	1.0	Tue 03
04 Wed	0211	7.9	0848	0.4	1449	7.2	2058	1.1	Wed 04
05 Thu	0257	7.8	0933	0.5	1536	7.3	2149	1.1	Thu 05
06 Fri	0348	7.7	1022	0.5	1628	7.4	2245	1.0	Fri 06
07 Sat	0445	7.5	1116	0.5	1725	7.5	2348	0.9	Sat 07
08 Sun	0546	7.3	1213	0.5	1825	7.7			Sun 08
09 Mon	0058	0.7	0651	7.2	1315	0.4	1927	8.0	Mon 09
10 Tue	0218	0.3	0801	7.2	1420	0.3	2029	8.2	Tue 10
11 Wed	0331	-0.1	0909	7.3	1525	0.1	2129	8.5	Wed 11
12 Thu	0434	-0.6	1014	7.4	1628	-0.1	2227	8.9	Thu 12
13 Fri	0532	-0.9	1114	7.4	1726	-0.1	2322	8.7	Fri 13
14 Sat	0627	-1.0	1210	7.5	1823	-0.1			Sat 14
15 Sun	0017	8.7	0721	-1.0	1306	7.5	1919	0.0	Sun 15
16 Mon	0112	8.5	0813	-0.8	1402	7.5	2016	0.2	Mon 16
17 Tue	0209	8.2	0906	-0.5	1459	7.4	2114	0.5	Tue 17
18 Wed	0310	7.9	1000	-0.1	1558	7.3	2215	0.7	Wed 18
19 Thu	0414	7.5	1054	0.3	1657	7.3	2316	0.9	Thu 19
20 Fri	0519	7.2	1149	0.7	1755	7.2			Fri 20
21 Sat	0017	1.1	0621	7.0	1243	0.9	1852	7.3	Sat 21
22 Sun	0116	1.1	0719	6.8	1336	1.1	1946	7.3	Sun 22
23 Mon	0212	1.0	0814	6.8	1426	1.2	2036	7.4	Mon 23
24 Tue	0304	0.9	0906	6.8	1513	1.2	2124	7.5	Tue 24
25 Wed	0353	0.7	0954	6.8	1556	1.2	2208	7.6	Wed 25
26 Thu	0438	0.6	1040	6.8	1635	1.2	2248	7.6	Thu 26
27 Fri	0519	0.5	1121	6.9	1708	1.2	2320	7.6	Fri 27
28 Sat	0556	0.4	1159	6.9	1732	1.1	2341	7.7	Sat 28
29 Sun	0629	0.3	1228	7.0	1759	1.1			Sun 29
30 Mon	0000	7.8	0655	0.3	1246	7.1	1833	0.9	Mon 30

JULY 2003

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Tue	0032	8.0	0721	0.2	1312	7.2	1912	0.8	Tue 01
02 Wed	0110	8.1	0753	0.1	1347	7.4	1956	0.7	Wed 02
03 Thu	0153	8.1	0831	0.1	1429	7.6	2043	0.7	Thu 03
04 Fri	0239	8.0	0913	0.1	1515	7.7	2133	0.6	Fri 04
05 Sat	0330	7.8	1000	0.2	1605	7.8	2228	0.6	Sat 05



The Moses Effect

For much of the 20th century, the things that got built in and around New York City—things such as the Triborough Bridge, the West Side Highway, the Cross Bronx Expressway, Jones Beach, even Orchard Beach—got built because one man said they should be. That man was Robert Moses.

No figure on the political stage of New York City or New York State, no mayor, no governor, not even Governor (soon to be president) Roosevelt, seemed to wield as much power at that time than Robert Moses. How a man who started his career working for a parks commission became responsible for such sweeping transformations is a story masterfully retold in Robert Caro's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *The Power Broker*. We recommend it highly.

Many City Islanders are not aware that Orchard Beach as we know it today did not exist until Robert Moses got around to it in 1934 (construction was not completed until 1938). The beach was much smaller then, more like a private camping ground than a public beach. Moses' idea was to fill the narrow waterways between Rodman's Neck and Hunter and Twin Islands and keep on filling them until the three separate entities became one.

In this way the beach was extended around the shoreline in the shape of a crescent moon so that thousands rather than hundreds of bathers could be accommodated at one time. (Incidentally, some of the old bungalows that lined the old beach area in what was called Tent City were hauled over to City Island and turned into residences that still exist.)

Some wonderful, old, before-and-after pictures of the Orchard Beach project can be viewed at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. This is an appropriate place for

such photographs to be housed, we think, because the wide open view of Long Island Sound was lost forever to the residents of Bartow-Pell after the new (and improved?) Orchard Beach was completed.

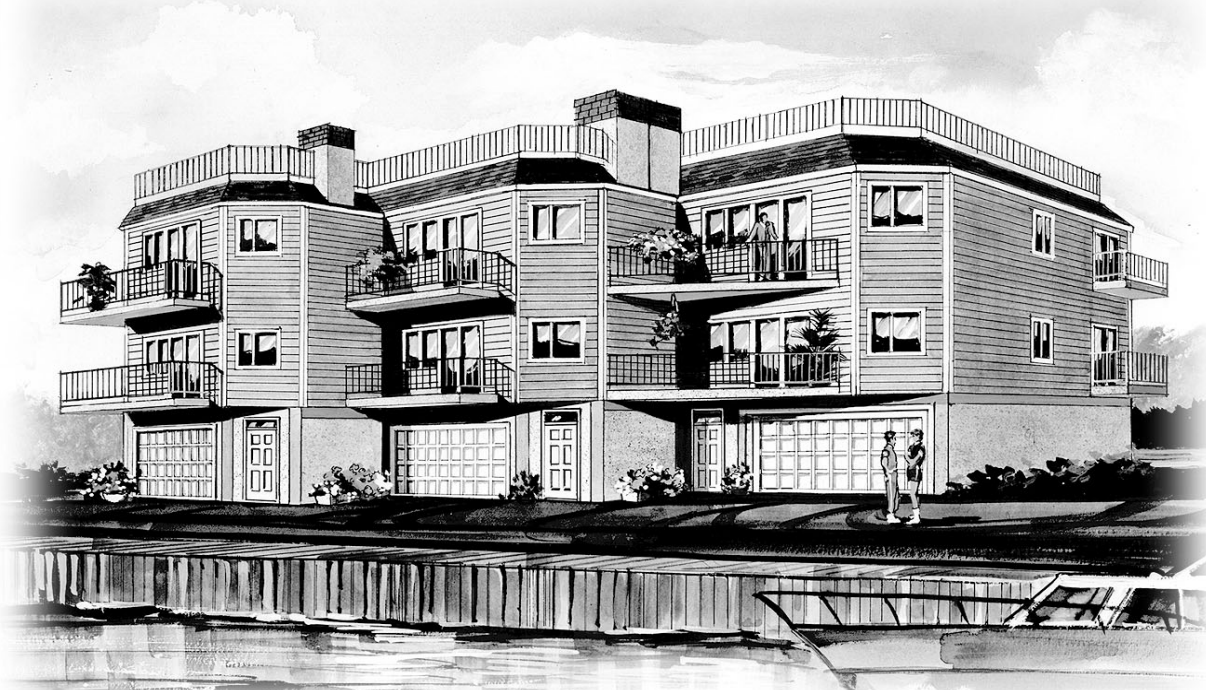
We can only imagine what else might have been lost after such a dramatic alteration to the landscape. The harp seal? Our neighbor Tom recently discovered the body of a harp seal at Orchard Beach. At one time, seals were regular visitors to our part of Long Island Sound. This was the first "sighting," Tom was told, in more than 50 years.

And is it possible that the glossy ibises so many of our readers have spotted feeding in the pond overflow by Glover's Rock have returned to us after all these years? Might they, too, have been regular visitors to the then-isolated islands of Hunter and Twin? The glossy ibis is a dark-colored wading bird with a maroon crown and breast; its legs are long and skinny and its beak is long and curved. We hope many more City Islanders got (or can still get) a chance to see the glossy ibis. By all accounts, they are exceptionally rare in our area.

So is the rooster in the woods behind the baseball field. No doubt this "fowl" is an escapee. Which reminds us that *c.i.heron* sent us an e-mail to follow up on an item from last month's column. He wrote that it is because the ring-necked pheasant does not roost in trees, like the wild turkey, that it has proven more vulnerable to park predators, such as stray dogs and the occasional fox and coyote. This would explain why the pheasant population seems to have been depleted over time while the turkeys are on the rise.

If you have something to say about this column or any of our others, please drop us an e-line at jdsstrat@earthlink.net.

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TREES FOR CITY ISLAND

By SUSAN STRAZZERA

Many City Islanders do not realize that the city of New York will plant a tree in front of their property at absolutely no cost or bother to themselves. The street-tree planting program is available to all property owners, and the city encourages residents to take advantage of it.

There are many advantages to having trees in front of your property. First, they help clear the air. Trees produce the oxygen we breathe and remove air pollution by lowering the air temperature through respiration and by retaining particulates.

Trees also cool the air, land and water by providing shade. Stand under a tree on a hot day, and you'll find that it is 10 to 15 degrees cooler there. A home or a business shaded by a tree can also cut down on the need for air-conditioning, which in turn saves the cost of energy and conserves the use of fossil fuel.

Trees are also beautiful and add to the quality of our lives. They mark the changing seasons and add grace and color to our neighborhoods. Streets that have no trees seem barren, empty and hot. Trees also

keep neighborhoods quieter by breaking the sound waves produced by traffic and other noise-producers.

A tree-lined street is very desirable from the point of view of real-estate value. Trees increase property value, as does landscaping and good property maintenance. Ask any realtor.

If you are interested in having a tree planted in front of your property, please call Susan Strazzera at 718-885-2350 or email suestraz@aol.com. She will take care of the paperwork and make the appropriate telephone calls on your behalf.

Those who have planted trees should remember that doing so has a significance that goes far beyond long-term beauty or increased property value. People who plant trees also make a contribution to their whole community and to the environment.

Obituaries

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

Amy Hunt Fredericks

Amy Patricia Hunt Fredericks died on April 28, 2003, at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. She was 59.

She was educated in the New York City school system and graduated from William Howard Taft High School. She worked at Mangels Clothing Store, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Chemical Bank and JPMorgan Chase. At the time of her death, she was working at the City Island bank branch.

Mrs. Fredericks is survived by her three children, Gina (John, Sr.), Jason and Derek; her two grandchildren, Daniel Blake and John Jr.; her children's father, Isborne Fredericks; her mother, Essie Hunt; her sister, Lorna Riddock (Rudy); her brother, John; her niece, Lori and nephew, Rudy III; her great aunt, Thelma Nixon; and a host of cousins, friends and co-workers at JP Morgan Chase.

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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Islanders Ed Shipp and Bill Clancy served as honor guard for the rededication of the World War I memorial in Pelham Bay Park on May 12, 2003. Past Post Commander Richard O'Keefe spoke at the ceremony, along with Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. and Council Member Madeline Provenzano, who worked with the Department of Parks & Recreation to restore the monument and landscape the grounds.

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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.

Belated happy birthday on May 30 to one of the nicest letter carriers around—Tommy Cleary—with best wishes from the gang at the Post Office and your friends along your route.

Congratulations to Pell Place's Kristy Bivona, who became engaged to Anthony LaVerde of Pelham on Easter Sunday. A May 2004 wedding is planned.

Happy 49th birthday greetings on June 23 to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from your family.

Best wishes for continued success to Fordham Street's Cathy Bollati, who received her masters in occupational therapy from Seton Hall University. Also, "Buona Fortuna" to Tommy Bollati, who earned his B.A. magna cum laude from New York University and will be returning to Florence, Italy in the fall as an NYU employee.

Happy June birthday wishes to Judy Rauh, John Wright and their mom, Vera Thompson, who's on the road again.

Happy birthday, Jillian. Love Mom,

Dad, Colin, Kerry, Trevor and Tyler, and Tommy.

Happy birthday on June 26 to Christoph Dierenfeld of the Laurels.

There's a new clam digger! Congratulations to Carroll Street residents Michael and Theresa Vitacco on the birth of their son Anthony Michael on April 10. Proud grandparents are Islanders Ben and Camille Lombardo.

Buckley Street resident and *Current* Tax Tips columnist Ed Heben was recently elected to positions of leadership in two professional organizations: the board of directors of the Estate Planning Council of Westchester County and president of the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Valuation Analysts. Many Islanders count on Ed for his tax advice, and it's nice to see the rest of the state recognize his contributions. Way to go, Ed!

A very happy Father's Day to all of our wonderful fathers and grandfathers.

Maria Swieciki



Photos by KAREN NANI

If rain brings good luck to a marriage, as the old saying goes, then Waldo Persteins and Sara Bleil will have buckets of it. They were married on April 26, 2003, out on the deck of Trader John's boatyard on Bridge Street. The bride arrived by boat, and she and her bridesmaids successfully navigated their way up the dock under umbrellas. The City Island Bridge provided the backdrop for the joyous ceremony (top photo). Afterward, everyone was all smiles, especially the bride and groom and the groom's parents, Dee and John Persteins (bottom photo). The newlyweds will reside on City Island.



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