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One Dollar

Gala Retirement Celebration Held for Virginia Gallagher

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT and BOB BERENT

Nearly 500 people gathered to honor Islander Virginia Gallagher at a gala retirement dinner at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle on Oct. 14, 2004. Mrs. Gallagher was escorted by her brother, Jack O'Donahue, and Father Robert Moore, pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church, through a receiving line of roses (above photo). She then received proclamations from several politicians, including the Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrión Jr. (photo below). Organizers presented her with a portrait and a painting of Pilot Cove Manor, both by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner (top right photo). Later, D. J. Ray Weis led the musical tribute with a rendition of "YMCA" by City Island's own "Village People" (bottom right photo).



Nearly 500 dignitaries, neighbors, friends and family members gathered to honor Islander Virginia Gallagher at a gala retirement dinner at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle on Oct. 14, 2004. She is retiring early next year as the manager of Pilot Cove Manor, City Island's senior citizen residence.

Father Robert Moore, pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church, escorted the guest of honor into the ballroom while the Tom Jones song "She's A Lady" played in the background. Mrs. Gallagher walked through a welcoming line formed by representatives from each guest table holding roses.

Organizers Tom McMahon and Dianne O'Sullivan began the festivities by introducing the many guest speakers who came to pay tribute to Mrs. Gallagher. The speakers told her life story and described her tireless efforts on behalf of City Island, the Bronx and the city of New York.

Mrs. Gallagher ("Ginger" to her close friends and family members) grew up on Long Island and moved to City Island more

than 40 years ago with her husband, Jack Gallagher, who died in 1972.

She has an undergraduate degree from Pace University and a degree in civil rights from Cornell. She was employed by the New York Daily News and was named the first affirmative action officer at the newspaper.

Mrs. Gallagher became active in the City Island community early on, serving as president of the Civic Association from 1962 to 1981. During this time, she worked with other Islanders to pressure the city to build a new school on the former site of Nevins Shipyard. P.S. 175 opened its doors in 1975. She was a founding member of the City Island Historical Society, the City Island Community Center and the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Off City Island, Mrs. Gallagher served as a vice-president of the Bronx County Historical Society, and in 1990 she received the society's William C. Beller Award for Excellence and Achievement. She was the first elected chairman of Community Planning Board 12 during the period when Co-op City was built. In 1977 she was appointed to Community Board 10, where she served four terms as a volunteer chairman and is currently head of the Parks Committee.

She also helped create the Thomas Pell Wildlife Refuge Sanctuary in Pelham Bay Park. Mrs. Gallagher also served as a New York City Tax Commissioner for eight years under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Mrs. Gallagher is probably best known on City Island today for her involvement in Pilot Cove Manor on Pilot Street. In 1979 she took over the presidency of the City Island Senior Citizens Residence, which had been trying to build senior citizen housing on City Island under the leadership of Reverend Richard Smith of Grace Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Gallagher worked to obtain federal funding of \$7.5 million and \$500,000 in state



funds to purchase the property next to Consolidated Shipyard, and Pilot Cove Manor became a reality in 1981. According to Mrs. Gallagher, who is well known for her prodigious memory, the certificate of occupancy was issued on Feb. 14, and the first tenant, Belle Newman of Centre Street, moved in on March 4. Later, the Pilot Cove Manor Board of Directors, which is responsible for hiring

management, voted Mrs. Gallagher, under her corporation, VMG Management, as the manager of Pilot Cove.

Many of the guest speakers at the dinner began by expressing tongue-in-cheek incredulity that the energetic Mrs. Gallagher is really retiring. "I don't believe Virginia is retiring," exclaimed Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano. "I'm sure she has other

Continued on page 7

CELL TOWERS RAISE CONCERN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2004, the usual traffic jam in front of Public School 175 was temporarily interrupted by the arrival of a giant crane that blocked City Island Avenue for at least half an hour as students attempted to get to school. To make matters worse, students and parents were allowed to walk along the sidewalks underneath the crane as large steel beams were unloaded and placed on top of the building at 205 City Island Avenue.

The beams were part of four cell towers being erected on the roof of the four-story apartment building, for which the building's owner had received permission from the city's Department of Buildings on Aug. 24, 2004. According to Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, no one, including Community Board 10, was notified of the installation, because the owner of the building was not required by law to seek community or planning board approval.

The telephone company that hired the crane, however, had applied for but not obtained permits to use the crane, and James Vacca, district manager, reported this to the Department of Transportation,

which issued a notice of violation. The company had not obtained a permit to store steel beams and other equipment on the roof of the building, and this was reported to the Buildings Department, which was to send an inspector to the site.

According to Dave Carman, of Carman's Service Station, which is next door to 205 City Island Avenue, engineers from AT&T had been walking around the site some days earlier. When he asked what they were doing, they told him that cell towers were being installed and that they did not need to get the community's approval to do so.

"I don't know how people can get away with this," Mr. Carman said, expressing the general concern of others in the community about the proximity of the towers to the school as well as to his own place of business. Scientists have not yet determined whether cell-phone towers have a negative effect on bystanders or not. Nevertheless, New York City law permits building owners to rent space to cell-phone companies without consulting the community, in spite of concerns expressed by neighbors.

BRIEFLY...

GRACE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FAIR: On Saturday, Dec. 4, Grace Episcopal Church will hold a Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale. Currently they are soliciting vendors; call Evyonne Baker at 914-712-3015 to reserve a booth.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS: The Chamber of Commerce will be lighting the Christmas Tree in Hawkins Park on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. with the help of Ken Farnum, the choir master at St. Mary's and his carolers. The menorah will be lighted on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., also in Hawkins Park.

AN AUTUMN DANCE PARTY will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue (off Ditmars Street) from 7 to 11 p.m. There will be a complimentary dance lesson at 7 p.m. Dress is casual. Hot and cold appetizers will be served, along with coffee and tea. A cash bar will be available. Advance tickets purchased by Nov. 8 are \$20 (at Exotica International or Midtown Antiques); \$25 at the door.

A COMMUNITY INFORMATION WORKSHOP will be held on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2004, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., by the Social Security Administration, in cooperation with Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr. The workshop, called "Government Working Together in Your Community," will take place at the Bronx County Courthouse, Veterans Memorial Hall, 851 Grand Concourse. Bronx residents will be able to get the information they need and apply for benefits from the following participating government programs: Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Medicare/Medicaid (including subsidized Part B premiums); Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemptions (SCRIE); Food Stamps; NYC Transit (MTA); IRS Tax Information; Housing Programs (HUD); Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS); and Veterans Benefits (VA). All Bronx residents are invited to attend. For more information, call 212-264-2500.

AMERICAN LEGION HOLIDAY PARTY: On Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004, the American Legion will sponsor two holiday parties for children. The first party, featuring a marionette puppet show, will begin at 11 a.m. for children 6 years and under. The second party, featuring D.J. Ray, will be for children 7 to 12 years of age. Admission to both of these parties is free, although reservations are required. For tickets and information, please call Kathy Seaman at 718-885-2515. Tickets are limited and must be presented at the door.

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, between 4 and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Nearly everyone from the ages of 17 to 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation. For more information, call Scott Meyer at 718-885-0374.

45 BLOTTER

Statistics were not available from the 45th Precinct for the months of September and October. The Blotter will be updated in the next issue of The Current.

Islander Charged by Grand Jury

On Aug. 27, 2004, a Bronx grand jury charged a King Avenue resident with vehicular manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide stemming from a traffic accident on July 17, according to the Bronx District Attorney's office.

Bowne Street resident Michael Vivian, 58, had previously been charged with leaving the scene of an accident and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol after he allegedly struck and killed a pedestrian on Jerome Avenue in the Bronx. The grand jury "voted a true bill of the charges" and amended the indictment to include manslaughter in the second degree and criminally negligent homicide, a spokesperson told The Current. Mr. Vivian pleaded not guilty to

these charges and is due back in court on Nov. 4, 2004.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vivian was arrested again on Sept. 23 at West 183rd Street and Jerome Avenue. According to the report from the 46th Precinct, he was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and ammunition, as well as operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Mr. Vivian was arraigned in Bronx County Criminal Court following his arrest and bail was set at \$50,000. A spokesperson for the District Attorney could not confirm whether bail had been posted for Mr. Vivian, but neighbors told The Current that they had not seen him in several weeks. Mr. Vivian has a Legal Aid attorney who could not be reached for comment.

City Island Tales of the Clam Diggers. brings alive three centuries of history about this colorful and little known island within New York City. Written by Alice Payne. Hard Cover - \$25.00 plus \$3.00 S&H-\$24. Soft Cover - \$15.00 plus \$3.00 S&H-\$19. To order, mail check or money order payable to: A. Payne, c/o Clam Digger, 557 Minnetonka Avenue, City Island, NY 10464. Call 718-885-2519. Email: cityista@cityislandclamdigger.com www.cityislandclamdigger.com

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: If you are an artist 18 years or older, participate in the 17th annual City Island art exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, now celebrating its 30th year. The deadline to get work to the gallery is Nov. 24. There is a \$15 hanging fee, and the gallery will accept only one piece of art from each artist (artist's choice), which should be ready to hang and reasonable in size. If the work sells, the gallery will take 30 percent of the price; works not for sale should be marked NFS. The gallery will not be responsible for shipping work back to the artists; all works must be picked up at the end of the exhibition. Last year 90 artists filled the gallery with paintings, etchings, drawings, photography, stained glass, sculpture, pottery, weaving and more. The exhibition will open Dec. 3, with a reception at 7:30 p.m., and close on Dec. 31. Call 718-885-1403 or stop by the gallery for further information. Space is limited so please be early.

REMEMBERING SKIPPY LANE: The City Island Historical Society is sponsoring an informal evening for friends of Skippy Lane to share their memories on Friday, Nov. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. Refreshments will be served. Everyone who knew (or wished they had known) Skippy is welcome to attend. Bring stories, mementoes, photographs, whatever you wish, and enjoy sharing them with others. For more information, call 718-885-0507.

CURRENT IMAGES will be opening on Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Rick DeWitt has been a resident of City Island since 1990 and has covered many events for The Island Current, including parades, dinners, holiday events and Little League games. If your picture has been in the paper, it may be in the show! Rick will also include photos of the City Island land(and sea)scapes in all kinds of weather. Stop in and enjoy some local color . . . in color, and in black and white too!

BASKETBALL OPEN HOUSE: St. Mary, Star of the Sea Basketball invites you to attend opening day on Sunday, Nov. 7, in the school gym. A full schedule from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with everything from Gidgets to Varsity games (grades 3 to 8) will be played. More than 100 students from both St. Mary's and P.S. 175 are participating in the 2004-2005 season. Drop in any time during the day and support the teams.

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REGULAR MENU ALSO AVAILABLE

Chamber Announces Gala Awards Evening

By KAREN NANI

The City Island Chamber of Commerce will recognize the musical, sports, culinary, educational and political contributions of six honorees at their awards dinner on Friday, Dec. 3, at the Lido Restaurant.

The board of directors selects the award winners for their contributions to the community, according to Chamber president, Peter LaScala. They are Joe Valenti of the City Island Restaurant Group, Ken and Elizabeth Farnum of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church choir, Nick Lotrionte of COLONY, Stephen Kaufman of the New York State Assembly and Theodore Karikas of Johnny's Reef Restaurant.

Joe Valenti, Jr. (Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award): Joe is the middle son of Jean Yarusso and Joe Valenti Sr. He was born and raised on City Island with his older brother, John, and younger brother, Michael. His family has lived here for many generations. Joe and his brothers attended P.S. 17, and then were among the first students to attend the newly erected elementary school P. S. 175. He later attended Christopher Columbus High School.

Joe serves on the mayor's newly established Community Education Council representing District 11. He is also the executive administrator of the City Island Restaurant Group and a member of the City Island Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He enjoys working in his present position as Sammy Chernin's executive administrator. He learned the restaurant business working part-time in high school and on weekends in his early years.

Having met the love of his life Julia Cuomo in 1990 when he worked for Health and Hospitals Corporation, the two were married in 1992 and have a son, Carmine Joseph.

Ken and Elizabeth Farnum (Service to Community Award): This gifted husband-and-wife team has graced many City Island events with their musical talents, especially St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church choir. Ken began his first church job during his college years. Taught on the piano by both mother and grandmother, his mother, Judith Farnum, initiated him on the organ, and in 1976 he assumed her position at Our Savior's Church in the Bronx. Ken accompanied dozens of popular local groups and singers during his time at Fordham Preparatory and Fordham University for various events, both secular and sacred. Almost a dozen years later he fortuitously met his wife-to-be, Elizabeth Henreckson, while music directing a Cole Porter revue.

Mr. Farnum spends most of his professional time tuning and repairing pianos for hundreds of customers and prestigious institutions. He also plays for more than a dozen local churches and schools. Ken loves to compose and arrange; he is organist and music director at St. Mary's and founder, arranger and music director for GIZMO, an electro-classical synth-keyboard trio based on City Island. When he finds some extra time, he runs a New York area foosball (table-soccer) tournament association named NYMetroFoosball.i8.com.

Like her husband, soprano Elizabeth Farnum acquired her first church position in college, where she studied musical theater at the Hartt School. After graduating with honors, she embarked on a career in musical theater, which eventually took her to New York City in November of 1986 (coincidentally on her future husband, Ken's, birthday!).

While performing as a musical theater artist, including a six-month engagement

aboard the *SS Rotterdam* and a run on Broadway in "Riverdance—the Show," Ms. Farnum also became one of the most sought-after contemporary music specialists in New York; her performances of both modern and early music have taken her throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. She has collaborated with many of today's prominent composers, and three of her recordings have been nominated for Grammys.

During her busy concert career, Ms. Farnum has continued her relationship with the church, singing with the choral groups of St. Bartholomew's, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Ms. Farnum serves as leader of song in many churches throughout the New York tri-state area, often accompanied by her husband. She is currently full-time cantor at Our Lady Of Grace.

Ken and Elizabeth have produced their first joint CD project entitled "Sail the Soul," which will be released by the end of this year. The nautical-themed title serves as a perfect expression of Elizabeth and Ken's love of nature, water and their beloved City Island community, which they have happily called home since 1988.

Nick Lotrionte (Catherine Scott Achievement Award): Nick Lotrionte was born and raised on City Island and is proud to be a clam digger. He attended St. Mary's Star of the Sea and graduated from St. Helena's High School. He obtained his bachelor of science degree from Queens College.

Today he is employed by Caruso and Sons Electric Company, which was established in 1979. All his life he has been involved in sports from City Island Little League to high school baseball, track and field, and a little college ball. Nick is an avid believer in youth athletics and how it can develop, shape and mold children into well-rounded young adults. This is followed through with his involvement during the past eight years with the youth of City Island through COLONY and the girls CYO softball program.

Today, he enjoys boating, skiing and golf. He is married to the former Nancy Schaum of Pelham Parkway, and together they have three wonderful daughters who are their pride and joy—Nicolette, 17; Jillian, 15; and Briana, 12.

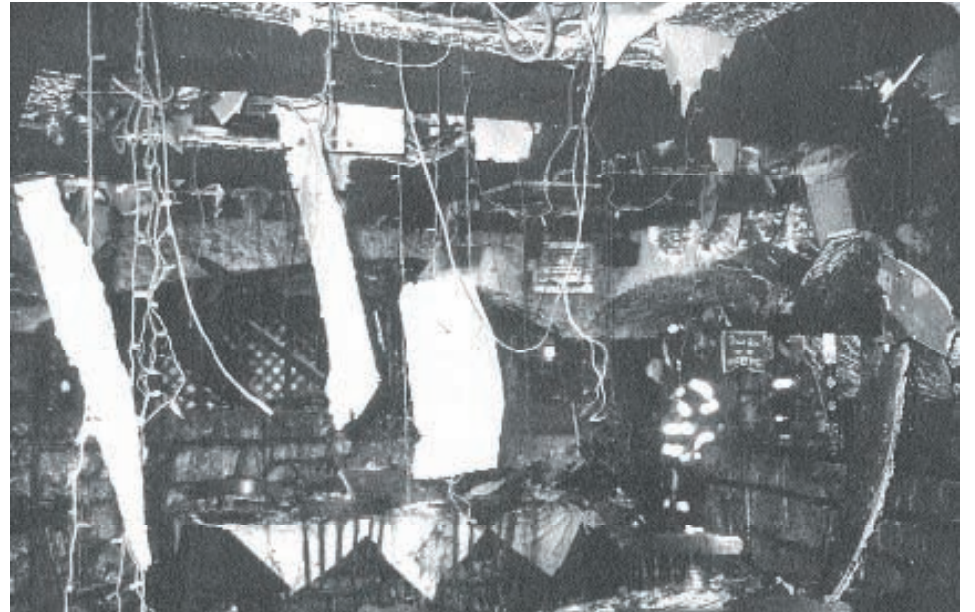
Nick's philosophy is that whether or not you are a good athlete, the involvement in athletic programs is an experience for a lifetime, in which one may grow socially, intellectually and emotionally.

Stephen B. Kaufman (Special Recognition of Exemplary Service to Community Award): Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman was born in the Bronx in 1944. He was educated at local public schools and received his bachelor's degree from Hunter College and his *juris doctor* in 1968 from Washington College of Law of American University. In 1969, he was awarded a master of law by New York University.

Mr. Kaufman has devoted his life to community service both as a citizen and as an elected public official. His deep commitment to improving the quality of life for children, the elderly, homeowners and tenants, the medically indigent, the needy and residents of the Bronx in general, is reflected in his record as a State Assemblyman, his nine-year tenure as a member of the New York City Council and two decades of public service.

A friend of City Island, Mr. Kaufman has stood by Islanders in their efforts to build playgrounds, clean up the garbage dump, reduce the noise from the firing range and minimize overdevelopment.

NEPTUNE'S FIRE



Photos by KAREN NANI

The early morning routine on Oct. 4, 2004, was interrupted by the sound of sirens as firefighters responded to a 911 report of smoke at the Neptune Restaurant at 35 City Island Avenue (top photo). The fire started inside the venerable Island restaurant in the middle of the dining area at about 7 a.m., according to Deputy Chief Lawrence Benson of the Fire Department. Ten companies responded, including City Island's Engine 70 and Ladder 53, which were first on the scene, and the fire was contained by 7:30 a.m. There were no injuries, but damage inside the restaurant was extensive (middle photo), especially to the ceiling. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Shown at the scene are firefighters from the City Island firehouse (bottom photo, l. to r.): Mick Ward, Kenrick Nisbett, Mick Oates, Joe Hoffmann, Bobby Brown and Kevin McNamara.

Mr. Kaufman is a practicing attorney with the firm of Alpert and Kaufman and maintains offices in the Bronx and in Manhattan. His main Assembly district office is at 2910 Bruckner Boulevard, and he resides in the Country Club neighborhood of the 82nd Assembly District.

Theodore Karikas (Tom Cerreta Accomplished Business Service Award): Theodore Karikas was born in Flushing, New York, and graduated from Quinnipiac College in 1992. His father, John Karikas, partnered with his brother, Jimmy, and brother-in-law, Peter Verouhis, to buy Johnny's Reef in 1973. Theodore Karikas took over his father's stake in the Reef 25 years later. Having worked at the restaurant on a part-time basis throughout high school and college, Ted learned from his father how to manage the restaurant through hard work and tenacity. After earning a degree in management, he

immediately went to work on a full-time basis.

Ted is married to Gabrielle, and they have just welcomed their third child into the family, William Louis, who is four months old. Their other children are Johnny, 6, and Tessa, 4. Ted enjoys activities with his family, including basketball and golf, and is proud of the continued success of Johnny's Reef Restaurant, which he considers a landmark in the Bronx for open-air enjoyment and fresh seafood.

Tickets for the gala Chamber awards dinner are \$60 per person. The Chamber is compiling a journal for the event and the deadline is Nov. 10 for ads. If you are interested in placing an ad in the journal, call the Chamber office at 718-885-9100. For tickets, contact the Chamber or visit their Web site at www.cityislandchamber.org.



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.

Gala Thanks

To the Editor:
Words cannot reflect my feelings when we came into the packed Greentree Country Club. The love and happiness that engulfed the massive room was overwhelming.

My deepest thanks to the very professional committee chaired by Dianne O'Sullivan and Tom McMahon. They accomplished an evening of happiness and fun that will be long remembered.

What a remarkable community City Island is! Within our island, only a mile long and half a mile wide, we have so much talent and so many individuals committed to the greater good. City Islanders are "there" when there is a need. Our camaraderie is outstanding.

May we thank all those who participated in the accomplishments mentioned in the journal. Each and every one of them benefited our beloved City Island.

My thanks to City Island for being the great community that it is.
Virginia M. Gallagher

Supporting the Cannon

To the Editor:
Although as both a mussel sucker and a landlubber, my opinion on the cannon sound from the Harlem Yacht Club may not be of value, I would like to go on record as one who wants to see (or rather hear) the custom returned.

I live within the sound of the cannon, and also the sound of the firing range. I admit that when I moved here five years ago and heard the cannon for the first time, I was startled. But having learned of what the sound is about, and that it has a long history, I was charmed. Unlike the rifle range, which is necessary but whose sound is varied in both duration and decibel level, the cannon shot, though perhaps unnecessary, comes at a set level and a set time.

I am occasionally in sight of the flagpole and can witness the lowering of the flag. Whenever that happens, I think of how lucky I am to have been born an American. And lucky, as well, to live here with the most stupendous sunsets. Before it was ended, the firing of the cannon would remind me of both. Though I might not go outside to check on the flag, I would at least look out my window to check on the sunset. It seems to me that something that can remind you of

your patriotic feelings and cause you to stop to wonder at the glories of God (or Mother Nature, if you prefer) should not be considered a nuisance.

Please count me in as one who would like to see the custom restored.
M-L P. Grose

Against the Cannon

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

To The New York Times:

Last month The Harlem Yacht Club brought suit in Bronx County Supreme Court against the City of New York for having violated the HYC's constitutional rights regarding their use of explosives as an expression of free speech.

The fact is that the Harlem Yacht Club is cheek to jowl with a congested residential neighborhood where daily cannon blasts are ridiculously inappropriate. To say they are 'annoying' is an understatement. In June of 2000 a petition signed by almost every adjoining household objecting to the daily blast was presented to the HYC. Contrary to the HYC's lawyer's assertions the blasts do disperse flocks of migratory birds in City Island's last remaining wetlands which share a small cove with the HYC. At least one neighbor complained of being tired of seeing his 3 year old "hit the ceiling every night when that thing went off." Still, the HYC never answered our letters and refused to meet with us. They also refused to reduce the decibel level of the daily blast. If this is such a necessary nautical tradition, why couldn't a less noisy 20 gauge cartridge be used? They refused to compromise on any level. It was at this point that the DEP was contacted.

The firing at the nearby police range is noisy and it is an issue that the community has been trying to do something about for

years. However, the NYPD functions for the greater public good and is not a private club. The HYC is a private club and the majority of it's membership does not reside on City Island. Residents have also complained about the airplane noise going into Laguardia for many years. Is adding to the already high noise barrage at an even

closer proximity really such a great idea?

Using "patriotism" to bully one's neighbors is not free speech. The quality of life of the nearby homeowners must be respected in such a congested situation
D. Straus

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THE SHOT NOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The miniature cannon at the Harlem Yacht Club, silenced for four years by New York City for excessive noise, dates to Memorial Day 1890.

When a major article about the Harlem Yacht Club and its now-silenced cannon was featured in the New York Times on Sept. 27, 2004, the club was surprised and pleased by the response from other clubs and from residents of City Island, according to the commodore of the club.

The Harlem Yacht Club, founded in 1856 and housed on Hunter Island since 1898, became the focus of complaints from its neighbors four years ago because of the noise caused by the firing of its miniature cannon every evening at sunset at the lowering of the flag.

The cannon salute, a tradition believed to have originated with the British Navy as a means of calling attention to the lowering of the flag, had occurred at the club for more than 100 years, from mid-May to mid-September each year. In June of 2000, a petition was presented to the club by neighbors who found the daily blasts "ridiculously inappropriate" in a congested residential neighborhood and a source of distress to flocks of migratory birds in a nearby wetlands area.

When the club did not stop using the cannon, a complaint was filed with New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. An inspector from the Environmental Control Board came to the club to measure the noise level caused by the cannon's 12-gauge shotgun shell and found that it did indeed exceed acceptable levels. The club was fined \$700 for two violations of the city's noise ordinance and the cannon was silenced. The club tested lesser-gauge cartridges, according to the yacht club's commodore, but the inspector ruled that they too were excessive.

Earlier this year, according to the New York Times, the club filed a lawsuit in Bronx County Supreme Court contending that the city had arbitrarily suppressed a patriotic expression of free speech by silencing the cannon. The judge has not yet ruled on this issue, but several residents of City Island wrote to *The Current* to express their support for the practice, which they feel is an integral part of City Island's nautical heritage.

Residents have complained for years about the noise emanating from the Police

Department's firing range at Rodman's Neck, which is allowed to operate every weekday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on occasional Saturdays. That noise has also been determined to exceed acceptable noise levels, but complaints to the city have gone unresolved, although the Police Department claims it is trying to design a noise buffer for the site.

Airplanes flying into LaGuardia Airport occasionally fly low over City Island, and many residents have complained to the Federal Aviation Administration over the past several years, to no effect.

The residents who have complained about the Harlem Yacht Club's cannon acknowledge that the Rodman's Neck noise is acceptable because the Police Department functions for the public good and is not a private club.

Those who support the Harlem Yacht Club believe that the cannon is a tradition that was in effect long before Rodman's Neck was established and long before the current residents moved next door to the club. One neighbor who does not mind the noise told *The Current*: "People move to City Island because it is a nautical community and then they complain about it. That makes no sense to me."

As the Harlem Yacht Club awaits the judge's decision, the officers are heartened by supportive messages from other clubs, some of them on City Island, that have managed to continue the practice of firing a sunset cannon and to live peacefully with their neighbors.

CORRECTIONS

Last month's *Current* ran an article about Fred (Skippy) Lane. The author of the article is Bill Barnum, who contributes frequently to nautical magazines, including *Nautical World*, and is a member of the City Island Historical Society.

The photographs of the Puppet Show (also in the October issue) were taken by Laury Hopkins, not Rick DeWitt.

Current Review

City Island's 'Cat' is Hot!

By KAREN NANI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Theater Group presented Tennessee Williams's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" for two weekends in October 2004 at Grace Episcopal Church. Shown (l. to r.) are Mario Catanzaro as Brick, Sharon Morrissey as Maggie, Patrick Mahoney (seated) as Big Daddy, Ellen Salzberg as Big Mama, Nicholas Perugini as Reverend Tooker, Liza Reid as Mae, Keith Trauceniek as Gooper, Julie White as Lacey and Michael Flanagan, the director. Seated in the front row are Annalise Vivolo as Trixie, Gwyn Hopkins as Dixie and Abigail Adams as Polly. .

Since our regular theater critic, Teresa Teto, was down with the flu, the job of reviewing the City Island Theater Group's latest production, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," fell to me. I procrastinated, hoping Terry would recover, but I finally decided to go ahead and attend the last performance of the show on Sunday, Oct. 24. I am so glad I did. The sold-out performance was wonderful, a real credit to Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

I prepared by reviewing the story synopsis in the October issue of *The Current*. "On the occasion of his 65th birthday, Big Daddy Pollitt's family gathers at his Southern mansion to stake their claims to his estate. Big Daddy's favorite son, Brick, has rejected his beautiful wife, Maggie, and seeks oblivion in alcohol, avoiding a truth that threatens his very existence."

This did not prepare me for the three powerful acts, all of which take place in Brick and Maggie's bedroom at the mansion. The play is rich in raw, sexy performances by a cast of Islanders and off-Islanders who had "great chemistry," as one audience member put it.

In the opening act, we meet the married but childless Maggie and Brick, played by Sharon Morrissey and Mario Catanzaro. In the first minute of Ms. Morrissey's portrayal of the vain, conspiring Southern belle, I realized I was watching an accomplished actress with serious talent.

Ms. Morrissey, who lives in Manhattan, studied with Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg. One night she came to City Island with her fiancé and future in-laws for dinner and saw the casting-call flyers for "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Since she had studied the role of Maggie ("the Cat") in acting school, she decided to audition, and the director, Michael Flanagan, knew she was the one.

Sharon Morrissey apparently recommended Mr. Catanzaro for the role of Brick, an excellent choice indeed. Their interpretation of the relationship between the two characters, revealed gradually as they desperately try to work through Brick's alcoholism, their sexless marriage and the meddling of other family members, is both edgy and riveting.

The beautiful Ms. Morrissey spends most of the first act in a skimpy slip, a costume made famous by Elizabeth Taylor in the film version of the play and by Jessica Lange (among others) on Broadway. Although she is a New Yorker, Ms. Morrissey delivers her dialogue in a Southern accent so convincing that it had

me questioning her roots.

The troubled marriage erupts into violence but is interrupted by the arrival of the first City Islander in the cast, Gwyn Hopkins, who plays one of three children in the show, along with Abigail Adams and Annalise Vivola. Tennessee Williams dubs them "no-neck monsters" and they provide some welcome comic relief.

In the second act, the dysfunctional family drama unfolds further, as we meet the larger-than-life Big Daddy, impressively played by Patrick Mahoney from Lehman College in the Bronx. Big Daddy is dying of cancer, but the terminal diagnosis is hidden from him by his son Gooper and his pregnant wife, Mae. Keith Trauceniek of the Bronx and Liza Reid of City Island portray the scheming couple with the appropriate amount of insincerity as they try unsuccessfully to win Big Daddy's favor.

The last main character we meet is Big Mama, Big Daddy's downtrodden wife, shrilly played by Ellen Salzberg. Although Ms. Salzberg makes her acting debut with a well-received performance of Big Mama, she has had a long association with the CITG. She wrote the book and lyrics for two original musicals, "Where We Belong" and "Zelda Inside Out," and is a member of the board of directors.

The rest of the excellent ensemble was rounded out by Nicolas Perugini as the ingratiating preacher, Reverend Tooker; Jason Fogarty (returning to the City Island stage) as the annoying Dr. Baugh; and Islander Julie White as the overworked maid.

The complex Tennessee Williams dialogue is caustic and even obscene at times, and there is an implied homosexual relationship between Brick and his late friend Skipper, a theme that was glossed over in the film version. The cast capably covers every human frailty and emotion: anger, hate, greed, love, lust, disgust and Big Daddy's favorite, "mendacity."

Bravos to Dorothy Muccio for the set design, which transformed the Grace Episcopal Church parish hall stage into a steamy Southern bedroom with views of the plantation outside. This is apparently the most expensive set the theater group has invested in to date, and it was well worth the cost. Kudos also to Norma Kerner and Carole Sullivan for the costumes, especially the famous slip worn by Maggie and the Colonel Sanders-style suit for Big Daddy.

And last but hardly least, a hearty

(Continued on page 6)



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.

November at the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) includes the Beatles and gypsy music, as well as the work of many artists. The City Island Jazz Trio kicks off the month of music with a performance on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 3 p.m. The following Saturday, Nov. 13, features the rock-folk trio Works in Progress, starting at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 20, jazz guitarist Lou Volpe is on stage from 8 p.m. That Saturday also debuts the art exhibit for November: a holiday group show featuring artists whose work graced the walls during the past year and in the past—with some new surprises; the Nov. 20 art reception will run from 3 to 6 p.m. Thanksgiving weekend includes a double dose of music: Port O' Monkeys, featuring City Island's own Dr. Christian Wertenbaker, performs on Friday, Nov. 26, at 8 p.m.; the following day, Saturday, Nov. 27, a Beatles tribute band, Rubber Soul, makes its debut at 8 p.m. Always "on the menu" at Starving Artist are the hand-made jewelry creations by Elliott Glick, fine art / craft by various artists, and coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso and treats, including Jen's Sweets, the pastries that are works of art.

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** (327 City Island Avenue) will present a group show through November. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 12, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Timeless Sweets, 269 City Island Avenue, invites you and your family to start a new tradition with us. We will begin our first annual gingerbread house-decorating activity starting Friday, Nov. 26, and running through Dec. 23. (Our hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays; 11 a.m. to 10

p.m. on weekends.) All you need to bring is your imagination (and your children), since everything will be done for you. We bake enough gingerbread so that everyone may take home a 10 x 10-inch house, and we will put it together, make the icing, provide the candy, wrap it after you decorate it so you can get it home safely and clean up the mess afterwards! So come in and create a masterpiece that will dazzle your friends and family. For those of you who don't have the time, we will be happy to create an original gingerbread or chocolate house for you. Prices will vary with the complexity of the project. For more information or to make reservations, call 718-885-2522.

The annual holiday open house hosted by Island artist/potter **Toby Z. Liederman** will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the artist's home, 30 Pilot St. Apt. 6K, across from the City Island Yacht Club. A select group of new terra-cotta vessels and bowls will be on view, as well as a limited collection of new porcelain earrings and pendants created in Liederman's signature spiral design. All original one-of-a-kind works and limited editions, the exhibit includes ceramic Hanukah menorahs inspired by the Western Wall in Jerusalem and "Shalom" wall plaques in porcelain and stoneware. Table and wall sculptures, including sea imagery, goddess figures and goddess plaques, will be on display as well. A recipient of the BRIO Award in Sculpture from the Bronx Council on the Arts, the artist has exhibited her work throughout the United States and in Moscow. Look for her work also at the Focal Point Gallery's annual City Island Artists Exhibition, at the Kathlyn Moses Gallery (327 City Island Avenue) and the Temple Beth-el gift shop (480 City Island Avenue). Refreshments, including her famous hot cider, will be served at the open house event. For individual appointments or additional hours, call the artist at 718-885-3423.



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
6 Deepwater Way	6/21/04	\$535,000	Condo
92 Rochelle Street	7/2/04	\$530,000	1 Family
23 Schofield Street	7/16/04	\$267,500	1 Family + Lot
73 Bay Street	7/30/04	\$390,000	1 Family
54 Reynolds Street	8/6/04	\$540,000	1 Family
9 Landing Way	8/10/04	\$579,000	Condo
238 Bowne Street	8/18/04	\$455,286	Condo
102 Carroll Street	8/20/04	\$285,000	1 Family
35 Earley Street	8/30/04	\$480,000	1 Family
16 Deepwater Way	9/2/04	\$495,000	Condo

"CAT" A HIT

(continued from page 5)

round of applause to director Michael Flanagan, whose past experience directing Tennessee Williams's "The Rose Tattoo" was put to good use here. To quote another satisfied member of the audience: "This is one of the finest community theater productions I have seen. The CITG continues to challenge itself by presenting quality performances. The director did a fantastic job leading a group of talented actors."

The staff of *The Current* looks forward to the recuperation of Mrs. Teto in time for her to review the CITG's upcoming productions, "Private Lives" in February and "Cabaret" in the spring. Watch "Organization News" in future issues for more information, or contact the current president (and production manager for "Cat"), Nicholas Sala, at 718-885-3066.

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Sewer Project Postponed New Schedule Proposed

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The major water main and sanitary sewer project that was to have begun in September 2004 has now been tentatively rescheduled to begin in February 2005, according to the latest issue of the "Reconstruction Newsletter," published by New York City's Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

Safety issues are being investigated because of the extensive overhead power lines throughout City Island, and guidelines must be put in place before the project commences. DDC is waiting for a letter from Consolidated Edison that will stipulate how the work will proceed.

The extent of the project over the next three or four years was the subject of discussion at the October meeting of the City

Island Civic Association, where a change of schedule was proposed. Although Community Board 10 has insisted that DDC put a summer moratorium on work because of likely disruption to Island businesses, a number of individuals at the meeting suggested that an accelerated work schedule, including double shifts and work at night, could shorten the project by as much as a year or 18 months.

Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, said that these suggestions would be discussed with Island businesses, including the restaurants, within the next few weeks and at a task force meeting to be held by DDC during the month of November.

Gallagher's Gala

(Continued from page 1)

plans and we wish her well."

Community Board 10 district manager, James Vacca, spoke about the honor of working with Mrs. Gallagher on the board, and he too affectionately predicted that "Virginia will never really retire. I hope in the future I have her energy."

One of City Island's newest residents, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., said, "Virginia Gallagher is a great Bronxite—a giving person who thought first of the community. Her resume is impressive, and I congratulate her on behalf of the 1.4 million people who call the Bronx their home."

Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman reminisced humorously about meeting Virginia. "It was love at first sight! And now I will reveal our secret—we have been going steady for years."

The City Island Civic Association president, Frank Fitts, also spoke of the unique way he was introduced to Mrs. Gallagher. "It was May 17, 1970, the day of my marriage at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. I heard a lovely voice singing in the choir, and I later found out it was Virginia. After the wedding, we were introduced and she told me to get involved in the community."

The keynote speaker was Frank Sena, who described Mrs. Gallagher's renowned memory in recounting the history of New York City in general and City Island in particular. "During our first meeting," he said, "she told me about the history of the native Americans on City Island."

Proclamations recognizing Mrs. Galla-

gher's accomplishments were read from President George W. Bush, Senator Charles Schumer, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Governor George Pataki.

After the speeches, it was time for gifts. Dianne O'Sullivan, Kathy Seaman, Maureen Grogan, Betty Carman, Ann Marie Rogers and Regina Murphy unveiled a beautiful portrait of Mrs. Gallagher and a painting of Pilot Cove Manor, both by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. They also presented her with a handmade wooden cuckoo clock from Germany and several other gifts of appreciation.

Mrs. O'Sullivan explained that because this was one of the largest events ever held for the City Island community, it had to be located off City Island. "Unfortunately, there was no yacht club or restaurant on City Island large enough to hold this enthusiastic crowd."

After dinner, Mrs. Gallagher expressed her deepest appreciation to the organizers and guests. She spoke of her devoted love for City Island, which has made it easy for her to accomplish everything that she has done for the community, especially at Pilot Cove.

For many of the senior residents, Virginia Gallagher will be a hard act to follow at Pilot Cove. Mr. McMahon, who has been assisting her at Pilot Cove for the past three years, is hoping to "assume day-to-day operations when Virginia is comfortable."

According to members of the board of directors, it has not voted for a new manager, because Mrs. Gallagher has not as yet formally submitted her resignation.

USS Belleau Wood Flag Flies at P.S. 175

By KAREN NANI



Photos by EMILY LENI

On Oct. 15, 2004, Public School 175 PTA co-president Eva Randazzo, along with her daughters Olivia and Mia, presented a flag that flew above the naval ship USS Belleau Wood (top photo). The special flag and plaque (bottom photo) were made possible by Annemarie Randazzo, who served aboard the Navy vessel.



ered and delivered to her. The general also arranged to have enlisted sailors aboard pose for a picture and sign their names for the plaque accompanying the flag.

The flag comes with a fascinating history. The USS Belleau Wood is the second ship to bear that name in honor of the United States marines who lost their lives during World War I at the battle of Belleau Wood in France, according to the commanding officer, Captain E. L. Gay.

Although it was one of the costliest battles in terms of casualties, the marines who fought there gained the respect of the American allies and even the admiration of the enemy. German soldiers referred to the U.S. Marines as *Teufelhunden* (devil dogs) because of their fierceness in battle.

The 4th Marine Brigade was awarded the French citation à l'Ordre de l'Armée, and the forest where the battle was fought was officially named Bois del Brigade Marine. A U.S. flag is flown every day at a monument in Belleau Wood in honor of those marines.

The PTA presented this prestigious flag during morning exercises at the school. The flag will be on display, along with a plaque of the men and women of the USS Belleau Wood. Principal Milagros Efre-Lopez is planning to invite members of the City Island American Legion in June 2005 to a flag ceremony that will install the flag permanently in the school's display case.

The importance of being an American was celebrated on Oct. 12, 2004, when Public School 175 received a flag that had flown above the naval ship USS Belleau Wood. The flag is raised in honor of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and the "sacrifices that they have made to ensure our nation's peace."

This special presentation was made possible by a relative of two P.S. 175 students who worked aboard the USS Belleau Wood. Annemarie Randazzo is the sister-in-law of PTA co-president Eva Randazzo and the aunt of students Olivia (second grade) and Mia (kindergarten). Annemarie was a civilian consultant aboard the amphibious assault ship, which was in the northern Arabian Gulf off the coast of Iraq during the summer of 2004.

Annemarie approached the Navy about obtaining a flag for the school. Brigadier General Joseph Medina arranged to have this flag, which was flown above the ship from the time it left Pearl Harbor in Hawaii to the time it arrived in the Gulf, to be low-

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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

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 9, **Bronx Masons Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Thurs., Nov. 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 8 p.m., Hebrew Hospital Home, 801 Co-op City Blvd. in the Bronx.

Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs. Nov. 25, **Thanksgiving Dinner**, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 1 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice.

Sat., Nov. 27, **Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Tues., Nov. 30, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 4, **Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m.

Tues. Dec. 7, **Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church will again host Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m. All are invited to join us in sharing Thanksgiving dinner or in helping out. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, please call Reverend Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

On Nov. 28, we are having our annual men's communion breakfast. Communion will be celebrated during our 10 a.m. service, followed by breakfast. The guest preacher will be the Reverend Patricia Alexander from Grace Episcopal Church.

The Sunday school has completed the unit on the Creation story. During the month of November, the children will learn about how God provides for us in the unit called "A Season of Hope." The Sunday school meets every Sunday during our 10 a.m. service.

George Cavalieri is continuing his bible study course on the Book of Revelations. This takes place after our services.

Anne Sill

Chapter 3303 AARP

The Minneford Chapter 3303 of the AARP held its annual fair in October. It proved to be another successful fair in both attendance and participation by the members. We want to publicly thank everyone who helped make this fair a huge success. Special thanks to the various chairpersons and their committees for the wonderful job they all did. Funds derived from this fair will be donated to charitable, religious, education, health and youth organizations in and around our community. Thanks also to the many City Islanders, members and the friends of the chapter for attending the fair and helping us realize our goal.

At this particular time of the year, the chapter urges all its members and elderly person to get their flu shots as early as possible before the flu season begins. Remember, Medicare will cover the cost of the flu shot.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, the chapter will go to the Westbury Music Fair for a spectacular show starring the famous Carol Lawrence and a guest comedian. After the

show, we will have dinner at the beautiful Swan Club in Roslyn, Long Island. Departure time is 12 noon.

On Thursday, Dec. 16, the chapter will have its annual Christmas celebration at the beautiful Davenport Beach Club in New Rochelle. Complete details will be forthcoming.

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 next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Nov. 9. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street on City Island. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Our Penny Auction is on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 113 Bay Street. Admission is \$4, which includes lunch and a sheet of tickets. Please join us and help make the auction a success.

Our Christmas luncheon is on Friday, Dec. 3, at the Marina del Rey. There will be an open bar, cocktail hour and music by Johnny Dell. Please see Gloria Salacan or Florence Quinn for reservations.

Flo Bonicoro has scheduled many nice day trips for 2005. In February we are going overnight to the Hilton. In March we will go to Westbury to see Ray Monti and Andy Clooney. We are planning to go to Ace in the Hole in April. May will bring us to the Polkafest in Pennsylvania. For prices and more information, please attend our next meeting and see Flo Bonicoro or Marie Tirelli.

We will endeavor to have a notary available before and after each meeting to notarize any documents free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacone.

Blood pressure readings will be taken the first Wednesday of each month at 12 noon.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Marie Tirelli

Temple Beth-El

Your Shul by the Sea conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue (between Beach and Bowne Streets).

Rabbi Shohama will lead the services on Nov. 5 and 19, and our Torah study group continues on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Rabbinical students Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper will lead the group on Nov. 6 and 20, respectively. (Daniel will start his group with a short Spirituality Service.)

A Special Musical Shabbat celebrating the 350th anniversary of Jews in America will be led by Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine on Friday evening, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. The program will highlight Jewish music by American composers, including our very own Cantor Elaine. Please join us and bring your music-loving friends of any religious persuasion. It will be an especially inspiring evening.

Learn to Read Hebrew classes (sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program) will be conducted on each Tuesday in November and December at 7:30 p.m. The course and materials are free and should have you reading comfortably by Hanukah.

Ballroom dance classes led by Elaine Belasco continue on Wednesdays through Nov. 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Beginners and intermediate students are welcome; fees



Photo by JOE NIXON

A Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis was held on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2004, at Grace Episcopal Church. Pictured here (l. to r.) are Mother Patty, Peter and Joan Klopfer with their new cat, Jerry and Joyce Sloboda with their dog Tara, and Gracia and Morgan Halpin.

are \$5 per session for members; \$10 per session for non-members.

An autumn dance party will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue (off Ditmars Street) from 7 to 11 p.m. There will be a complimentary dance lesson at 7 p.m. Casual dress. Hot and cold appetizers and coffee and tea will be served. A cash bar will be available. Advance tickets purchased by Nov. 8 are \$20 (at Exotiq International or Midtown Antiques); \$25 at the door.

SHOHAM classes led by Rabbi Wiener provide Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind and will be conducted on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The classes offer a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the priests of biblical Israel. On Nov. 15, we will have a return visit from Student Rabbi Bonny Grosz, who has unusual clairvoyant abilities. (Free for members; \$15 per class for non-members.)

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available. Visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent



Garden Club News

At our Nov. 1 meeting, we assembled fall and holiday arrangements for the residents of Providence Rest.

We wish to thank the following members and volunteers who helped with the cleanup and planting of spring bulbs at Hawkins Park: Ruth Collins, Susan Strazzera, Joan Lyons, Phyllis Goodman, Barbara Hoffman, Lily Bryant, Jean Conte, Violet Ederle, Julia Gleeson, Jane Protzman, Monica Murphy and Steven Schmitz.

Gardening Hint: Don't mulch your perennials too soon. Wait until the ground starts to freeze, but mulch before the first snowfall. The best mulch materials are leaves, pine needles, bark or straw. Apply a layer about three or four inches deep around the base of each plant, carefully pulling it away from trucks and stems to give the plants room to breathe.

Phyllis Goodman

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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.

Martial Arts Class: Ba Gua Zhang Dragon Style, with an exceptional instructor. Saturdays 6 to 7:30 p.m., for ages 16 and up. For more information, call Florence at 718-885-3551

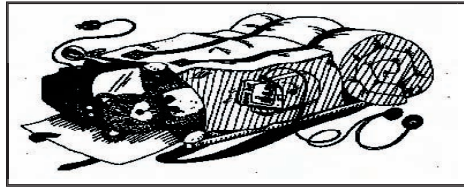
Dance Classes: Preballet, jazz and tap for kids. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

Art Classes: "Experiments with Paper and Paint" for kindergarten through fourth grade will be held from Nov. 9 to Dec. 21, on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. These classes are funded in part by a grant from the Bronx Council on the Arts. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

Art and Playgroup: Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon or 12:30 to 2 p.m. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

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

Irish Dance: Call Deirdre O'Mara at 201-947-8535.



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.; Mondays and Wednesdays 7 to 8:00 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.

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

Legion News

November is a busy month for the Post. Myriad events have been planned, the most important one being those associated with Veteran's Day. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War I, a.k.a. the Great War, ended and the event for many years would be known as Armistice Day. Thirty-six years later, in 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veteran's Day to pay homage to all veterans.

The following are several events taking place in our borough in which you might want to participate:

On Sunday, Nov. 7, the annual Throggs Neck parade will be held on Tremont Avenue. Marchers will step off at 12 noon. Those wishing to participate should meet at the Post at 10:30 a.m. On Thursday, Nov. 11, the troops will again muster at 10 a.m. for the annual pilgrimage to Pelham Bay Park Veteran's Gove. A brief ceremony organized by the county will be held.

The Bronx County Military Ball will be held at the Greentree in New Rochelle on Friday, Nov. 19. Tickets for this gala event will be \$60. A cocktail hour will be held from 7 to 8 p.m.

Our own Servicemen's Dance will be held at the Post on Saturday, Nov. 20 starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are only \$28 for a full course dinner. Drinks and dessert are included and D.J. Ray will provide music. Call General Bob Mennona, ret., at extension 2595 for tickets.

I've been told that the annual pumpkin sale was a financial success. Thanks to all who helped and to the residents and business people who supported the sale.

A reminder: the flags should go up Wednesday, Nov. 10, for Veteran's Day and come down Friday, Nov. 12. I'll be contacting the new volunteers early in November.

On Dec. 4, the Post will hold the annual Pearl Harbor service at the World War II memorial at the City Island Bridge. The 17 young men from City Island killed during WWII will be honored as they are each year.

Comrade Treat reminded us at the last meeting that dues for 2005 are due.

A bus trip to West Point is planned for Saturday, Dec. 6. For further information, see James Livingston. Army will be playing the Air Force Academy, and Bill Clancy has arranged that we will be seated next to the cadet corps.

It seems that each month brings some unpleasant news. Michael Hecker, a Marine veteran and brother of past Commander Vincent Hecker died suddenly last week. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Vincent chose this date for the memorial since it is the Marine Corps birthday. Ann Costello, who served as a nurse in the European theatre of operations during WWII, is ill. Please remember both in your prayers.

Meetings for November: Monday, Nov. 1 and 15, regular meetings; Monday, Nov. 8, executive board meeting.

Unfortunately I could not attend Virginia's retirement party as I attended my WWII squadron's reunion. The ranks have grown thin over the years as all of us have passed the big 80. I'm told that the Post was well represented at the retirement gala. Past commander Thomas McMahon, resplendent in a tuxedo, complete with cummerbund, acted as master-of-ceremonies.

On my journey home from the reunion, I stopped at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. At sundown, my family and I were recruited to help lower the flag. The flag is the same size as the one flown on Sept. 13, 1814, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner.

And for you WWII buffs, one of General Eisenhower's favorite words was blivet. A blivet is a one-pound bag filled with two pounds of horse manure.

Until next month, at ease.

Russell Schaller

City Island Historical Society

We've had a busy summer with visitors from all over, even City Island! Our community room is being renovated and will soon reopen with a new display case generously donated by Roger Roberge's family.

There will be a general meeting on Friday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. Anyone who is interested in what we do and in helping us out is welcome to attend.

On Friday, Nov. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. we are going to host an evening dedicated to the memory of Skippy Lane, our past president and one of City Island's most renowned clam diggers. People are invited to bring their stories about Skippy, mementoes and photographs or whatever they would like to share with other Skippy friends.

We are also pleased to host a new exhibition of images in the Walsh Room—this time it will be wonderful photographs by Jane Protzman with the theme of "Water Water Everywhere."

It is membership renewal time. A newsletter will be going to members reminding them that we will be looking for your dues and donations in the mail, but we are also looking for new members to help support our programs. Donations are tax-deductible. Dues for regular members is \$20; for families \$25; for seniors and juniors \$10. Make out checks to the City Island Historical Society and send them to P.O. Box 82, City Island NY 10464. Or drop by the museum on any Sunday afternoon between 1 and 5 p.m. We would love to show you around!

Barbara Dolensek

Grace Episcopal Church

The Grace Church family gathers for the Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10 a.m. and you are invited! If you do not have a church home or have been away from church for a while, we encourage you to visit this warm, inclusive, growing group of seekers and pilgrims. In addition to our Sunday celebration, we offer a brief (15 minutes) service of said Evening Prayer in the church on Mondays at 7 p.m. Come and see!

Please note these important upcoming dates in the life of Grace Church and plan on attending. Contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@gracecityisland.dioceseny.org for more information:

Saturday, Nov. 6: "Murder, Medium Rare," a Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser to be held in the Grace Parish Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 28: Joint service of Holy Communion with Trinity United Methodist Church, 10 a.m. (at Trinity), followed by breakfast in the Trinity Parish Hall.

Saturday, Dec. 4: Christmas Craft Fair. Currently we are soliciting vendors; call Evyonne Baker at 914-712-3015 to reserve a booth.

Saturday, Dec. 11: The installation of Mother Patty Alexander as priest-in-charge of Grace Church, 10 a.m. This will be an historic day in the life of our parish, and the entire City Island community is invited. Details to follow.

Joe Nixon

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

St. Mary's Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. with George Wyman, Elizabeth Farnum and the St. Mary's Concert Choir.

The seventh annual Hawkins Park Tree Lighting with carols by St. Mary's Concert Choir will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m.

A memorial service will be held for Michael Hecker at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m.

Ken Farnum

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POTUS

With election fever in the air this year, it seems fitting to use this month to look at Hollywood's portrayal of the President of the United States (POTUS). Totally charming and enjoyable is **Dave** (1993), starring Kevin Kline as Dave Kovic, a presidential look-alike, hired to impersonate President Bill Mitchell during a presidential assignation and kept on after Mitchell suffers a stroke. Mrs. Mitchell (Sigourney Weaver) hates her philandering husband, so the charade succeeds. Much to the outrage of White House chief of staff Bob Alexander (Frank Langella), Dave decides to try to do some good for the country. With the help of his CPA friend, Murray Blum (Charles Grodin), in the best scene in the movie, Dave succeeds. Ving Rhames is wonderful as the president's bodyguard, as is Ben Kingsley as the Vice President, and Kevin Dunn as a presidential advisor.

Anthony Hopkins fans will probably want to give **Nixon** (1995) a look, for his Oscar-nominated performance. The film boasts an exceptional cast that includes Joan Allen, Powers Booth, Ed Harris, Bob Hoskins, David Paymer, David Hyde Pierce, Paul Sorvino, Mary Steenburgen, James Woods, Madeline Kahn, Edward Hermann and more. Unfortunately, Oliver Stone's epic lasts over three hours. The first time I saw the film, I fell asleep when Nixon went to China (and I never fall asleep at the movies). The second time I tried to watch it, zzz. . . .

My favorite selection is **An American President** (1995), starring Michael Doug-

las in the title role of President Andrew Shepherd, a widower with one teenage daughter (Shawna Waldron). When he starts dating environmental lobbyist Sydney Ellen Wade (a sparkling Annette Bening), the repercussions shake the foundations of his administration. President Shepherd's staff includes Martin Sheen (chief of staff), Michael J. Fox (chief domestic adviser), Anna Deveare Smith (press secretary), David Paymer (pollster) and Samantha Mathis (secretary). His chief adversary is Richard Dreyfuss as Senator Bob Rumson. John Mahoney is on hand as Sydney's humorless boss. The terrific script, written by Aaron Sorkin (creator of "The West Wing"), was brought to the screen brilliantly by producer-director Rob Reiner. This film is a feel-good fairy-tale, which can easily be watched more than once.

Written by Elaine May and produced and directed by Mike Nichols, **Primary Colors** (1998) is an intriguing portrayal of presidential candidate Governor Jack Stanton (John Travolta) and his wife, Susan (Emma Thompson). What this film manages to do is give the viewer insight into an incredibly complex and sometimes self-destructive man, who is both a philanderer and a charismatic icon with an amazing knack for communing with the common folk. The campaign staff includes Richard Jemmons (Billy Bob Thornton) as the strategist; Henry Burton (Adrian Lester), the black grandson of a civil rights leader, and through whose eyes the story is seen; Daisy (Maura Tierney), the pretty scheduler; and Libby Holden (Kathy Bates), who steals the film as a foul-mouthed idealist who deals in digging up dirt. The Clintonesque comparisons cannot be denied. This is a mature film with depth and complexity in every character.

Barry Levinson's **Wag the Dog** (1998) is a biting satire about the extreme lengths to which a campaign will go to get a candidate re-elected. When the current president (Michael Belson) is caught in a sex scandal two weeks before the election, a

diversion is needed. His top advisors, Conrad Brean (Robert DeNiro) and Winifred Ames (Anne Heche), hire a top Hollywood producer, Stanley Motss (Dustin Hoffman), to fabricate an international crisis in Albania. Singer Johnny Green (Willie Nelson) writes a song, "Good Old Shoe," about a fabricated hero, Sergeant William Schumann (Woody Harrelson). Kirsten Dunst is on hand as a fictional Albanian girl fleeing with her kitten (actually a bag of chips). This is a witty, over-the-top satire with teeth.

On a more serious note, we have **The Contender** (2000), a film about the possibility that a woman, Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen), could be appointed to replace

a deceased vice president by President Jackson Evans (Jeff Bridges). At first Governor Jack Hathaway (William Petersen) seems to be a shoe-in for the appointment, but he becomes entangled in an accident that generates some negative publicity. Nevertheless, Hathaway's bid for the position is supported by GOP Representative Sheldon Runyon (Gary Oldman), who embarks on a campaign to ruin Senator Hanson's reputation. To everyone's consternation, she refuses to defend herself. This is a thought-provoking, surprising film about treachery and integrity in the political process.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .







St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The kindergarten is looking beautiful. The school's environment specialist, Mrs. Angela Mueller, has been working with the kindergarten staff to create a vibrant, practical learning environment. The classroom has been divided into learning centers, new furniture and learning tools have been purchased and delivered, and the walls have been painted. Watch for a fall open house date. If you have a child born in 2000 and would be interested in visiting the kindergarten, please call Mrs. Dennehy at 718-885-1527. She would be happy to hear from you.

Students have received their five-week progress reports. Nov. 12 ends the first marking period, to be followed by report cards and teacher conferences.

The students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 visited the Green Meadow Pumpkin Farm and Animal Center during October. Much preparation and many follow-up activities were done in connection with the trip.

St. Mary's participated in Bronx Catholic School Day at the Bronx Zoo on Oct. 22.

Halloween was the theme of the morning learning activities on Oct. 29. Many of the parents graciously volunteered to help during the parade and the costume party that followed. There was music, games, food, a Halloween door-decorating contest, prizes for students and teachers alike, and fun, fun, fun.

The writing process is being revisited at St. Mary's with great gusto, as it is a focus of the New York State Education Department and a dominant theme for the 2004-2005 New York Archdiocesan academic year.

The entire staff recently attended an excellent workshop in mathematics. The theme was the integration of the writing process and the speaking component of E.L.A. Standards into mathematics. The use of manipulatives, a math journal and creative math expression was stressed. Following the math workshop, the staff took part in a mandatory safe-environment program. Both workshops proved extremely valuable.

Public School 175

The kindergartners are all settled into their classes. They have made new friends and are looking forward to the busy year ahead. The children are improving their phonics and skills in reading, writing and math. Counting, measuring and reading graphs are their specialty. They will also discuss the history and meaning of Thanksgiving and look forward to the celebration of this special feast with their families.

The children have adjusted nicely to

the daily routines of the first grade. Mrs. Cambria and Mrs. Stevelman are working closely with their classes to make sure all students will meet the demands of the new school year.

The second graders will visit the New York Botanical Garden to study and observe signs of fall and seasonal changes in plants and trees around us. There will be some hands-on activities for the children. This program correlates to the Grade 2 science curriculum.

The third grade has reviewed place value, telling time, solving number problems and finding differences in math. They are busy reading and writing during literacy workshops each day. In addition, children are happy to have marine wildlife, computers and physical education in their weekly program.

Grade 4 recently went to historic St. Paul's to take part in a re-enactment of the Battle of Pell's Point. In November they will visit the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum to learn more about the first Bronx natives.

The students in Grade 5 are about to begin their study of Canada, our neighbor to the north. They will soon take the New York State exam in social studies. Good luck!

The reading and writing workshops have been successfully launched in the sixth-grade language arts classes under the direction of Ms. Loscalzo. The students have enjoyed listening to literature from various genres and selecting personal books for independent reading. They will learn to see the world as writers do and are busily engaged in writing entries in their notebooks on ideas selected from their personal menu of topics. Archaeology has been a focus of great interest in social studies, and students are fascinated by the discovery of the Ice Man. A few creative students were even inspired to write pre-historic "fiction" about the exploits of the Ice Man.

The seventh grade has gotten off to a great start reading books and sharing stories. They have also designed and personalized their "writer's notebooks" and look forward to sharing what they have written. Who knows, maybe one will find its way into *The Current*?

The children in grades 1 through 8 have been scheduled for an intensive year of computers. They have been introduced to Microsoft Office and other computer programs that will enhance their academic performance. There will be great emphasis placed this year on information and computer literacy. P.S. 175 is determined to prepare its students for the technological challenges of the new millennium. In addition, it is imperative that all students sign up for a New York City Public Library card. Children will be required to use their library card for future assignments.

Mr. Weis began his American Sign Language Club in mid-October. It meets during the children's lunch period and is open to grades 3 through 6. This year Mr. Weis looks forward to developing a video pal program with some children who attend JHS 47 in Manhattan.

Save the date! The P.T.A. is planning the first Art Auction fund-raiser for Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, at the Morris Yacht Club. More details will follow in the next issue of *The Current*.

BRIGHT LIGHTS, CITY ISLAND NIGHTS!



Photo by PAUL KLEIN

The Chamber of Commerce is lighting up City Island Avenue in the spirit of the seasons starting with Halloween. Christopher McGowan is shown above putting orange lights on one of a dozen trees along the avenue. These will stay up through Thanksgiving, when they will be changed to white lights celebrating the Hanukah and Christmas holidays.

Social Security Can Help Domestic Violence Victims

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

In October 2003, President Bush noted that "across our country, domestic violence traumatizes victims, endangers children, harms families and threatens communities. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we renew our nation's commitment to ... bring hope and healing to those affected by it." Government agencies and private organizations across the country are working to help victims of family violence. Social Security is among those doing its part in this effort. Here's how we can help.

Sometimes the best way to evade an abuser and reduce the risk of further violence may be to relocate and establish a new identity—including a new Social Security number.

Although Social Security does not routinely assign new numbers, we will do so when evidence shows that an individual is being harassed or abused or that a life is endangered. Social Security requires only that victims provide a written affirmation of the abuse, supported by documentation from sources such as police, medical professionals or locally recognized battered women's shelters.

Social Security will even help victims obtain evidence of abuse from an official source, such as police or hospital

records. However, if no official source of evidence exists, our agency now accepts evidence such as letters or statements from the individual's family and friends who have firsthand knowledge of the abuse or harassment.

Over the past six years, Social Security has issued more than 2,600 new Social Security numbers to victims of harassment, abuse and life endangerment. When there are children involved in a case, they generally also get new numbers. For example, over the same time period about 1,500 new Social Security numbers were assigned to children of adult victims.

If you apply for a new Social Security number, you also will need to present:

- Your current Social Security number;
- Original documents establishing your age, identity and United States citizenship or lawful non-citizen status, such as a birth certificate and a driver's license;
- One or more documents identifying you by both your old and new names if you have changed your name (as the Department of Justice recommends);
- Evidence showing you have custody of children for whom you are requesting new numbers.

For more information, visit our Website at www.socialsecurity.gov or call toll-free 1-800-772-1213 (for the deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778). We can answer specific questions and provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. And, of course, we treat all calls confidentially.

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Obituaries

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

John McNamara

Longtime friend of City Island, historian John McNamara of Throggs Neck died on Oct. 15, 2004, at the age of 92.

John McNamara was as familiar with City Island as any clam digger. His earliest visits there were by canoe in the 1920s when he was about 12 years old. He walked every street of the Island, including some no longer around, such as the old Banta Lane, and he gave regular walking tours of the island. He donated the large map of City Island to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum. In short, he loved City Island and enjoyed showing it off whenever visitors from near or afar came to New York.

John was born on Dec. 22, 1912 on East 156th Street in Melrose and attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School. His family obtained a summer bungalow in Edgewater Park in 1916 and John had the good fortune of growing up in two divergent areas of the Bronx.

It was while portaging a canoe over the small neck of land connecting Fort Schuyler to the mainland that John was approached by Captain Charles Ferreira, the lighthouse keeper, who told him how the Indians had done the same thing. This sparked his interest in the Indian history of the Bronx, and when street signs began going up in the early 1920s, his curiosity was further piqued. He began studying street names and eventually walked every street and byway in the borough and canoed or kayaked every waterway. He kept meticulous notes and in 1978 published his grand collection in a book entitled "History in Asphalt." Most historians now consider that book the most important contemporary work published on the Bronx.

John McNamara became one of the founding fathers of the Bronx County Historical Society, and in 1956 began writing Bronx history in the Bronx Press-Review and later in the Bronx Times Reporter. He published a collection of his columns in a book entitled "McNamara's Old Bronx." He has since co-authored two additional books with Bill Twomey, "Throggs Neck Memories" in 1994 and "Throggs Neck-Pelham Bay" in 1998. He continued to write Bronx history on the pages of the Bronx Times Reporter until December 2000.

John McNamara was also an international traveler who visited South Africa and the outback of Australia and walked over the Alps through Brenner's Pass. He also went to China, Russia and much of South America and Europe. He traveled extensively around the United States, often by riding the rails. He and a friend once took the inland water route from the south end of the Hutchinson River across Shore Road and the railroad tracks to duplicate the manner used by the Siwanoy 250 years earlier. He repeated this feat a week later with a reporter from the New York Times.

John married Pauline Ungerer of the Bronx, and they raised two children in Edgewater Park while he worked for the New York City Housing Authority. He fought with the 1st Army in the Philippines in World War II and served his community in numerous capacities, as a Cub Scout leader for seven years, a volunteer fireman, a United Nations tour guide and more. He was an active member of the Bronx Old Timers Association, the Bronx County Historical Society, the Kingsbridge Historical Society and the American Name Society. He was honored in many ways and served as Grand Marshal of the Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day parade in March 2000.

Mary Reville

Mary Reville, a longtime resident of City Island and a past president of the City Island Garden Club, died on Sept. 23, 2004, in Madison, Wisconsin. She was 84.

Born Mary Elizabeth Seubert in Brooklyn, New York in 1920, Mrs. Reville grew up in Woodhaven, Queens, and graduated from Julia Richmond High School. She moved to City Island in 1948 after marrying City Island native John Daly Reville of Beach Street. Mr. Reville died in 1992.


A passionate gardener, Mrs. Reville served the City Island Garden Club for many years in many capacities. In addition to her work with the Garden Club, Mrs. Reville volunteered for 15 years at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, where she served as a docent. Her knowledge of and interest in conservation issues led to her active support of environmental organizations such as the Jacques Cousteau Society, the Nature Conservancy and Greenpeace.

For many years, she and her husband were active participants in the Volunteers of the Shelter, an organization that paired homeless children with adult volunteers, who would take the children on weekend outings in the New York City area.

As a child, Mrs. Reville regularly attended baseball games at Ebbetts Field in Brooklyn, and she remained a lifelong fan of the game. The Reville family members were parishioners at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Mrs. Reville had been residing in Wisconsin since June near the home of her daughter, Linda Reville Eisenberg. In addition to her daughter, Mrs. Reville is survived by her son, Stephen, of Middleton, New York, and five grandchildren.

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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are local times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. time (e.g., 1335 - 1200 = 1:35 P.M.). Times less than 1300 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).
 HH = hours; MM = minutes.
 Tide chart by Tess Smith

NOVEMBER 2004

DAY	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0147	8.8	0719	1.2	1332	7.4	2010	0.9	Mon 01
02 Tue	0220	8.8	0757	1.4	1410	7.1	2042	1.2	Tue 02
03 Wed	0301	8.5	0843	1.7	1455	6.9	2127	1.4	Wed 03
04 Thu	0351	8.5	0936	1.8	1527	6.8	2219	1.5	Thu 04
05 Fri	0453	8.5	1035	1.9	1647	6.7	2316	1.6	Fri 05
06 Sat	0558	8.7	1142	1.8	1753	6.7			Sat 06
07 Sun	0018	1.4	0849	7.0	1253	1.4	1857	6.8	Sun 07
08 Mon	0112	1.1	0730	7.4	1383	0.9	1948	7.1	Mon 08
09 Tue	0200	0.7	0908	7.5	1444	0.3	2038	7.3	Tue 09
10 Wed	0243	0.3	0849	8.2	1531	-0.2	2120	7.5	Wed 10
11 Thu	0329	0.0	0831	8.5	1617	-0.6	2205	7.6	Thu 11
12 Fri	0413	-0.2	1016	8.8	1708	-0.9	2290	7.7	Fri 12
13 Sat	0458	-0.3	1100	8.8	1731	-0.9	2358	7.8	Sat 13
14 Sun	0548	-0.2	1149	8.8	1842	-0.8			Sun 14
15 Mon	0629	7.5	0837	8.0	1939	8.5	1838	-0.5	Mon 15
16 Tue	0125	7.2	0734	8.4	1934	8.1	2046	-0.2	Tue 16
17 Wed	0230	7.0	0844	8.8	1438	7.6	2202	0.2	Wed 17
18 Thu	0355	6.8	1019	1.0	1808	7.2	2315	0.4	Thu 18
19 Fri	0520	7.0	1144	0.9	1747	7.1			Fri 19
20 Sat	0022	0.4	0859	7.2	1253	0.6	1857	7.1	Sat 20
21 Sun	0122	0.3	0727	7.8	1364	0.2	1957	7.2	Sun 21
22 Mon	0217	0.1	0820	7.8	1449	-0.3	2050	7.3	Mon 22
23 Tue	0307	0.0	0908	8.0	1540	-0.5	2139	7.4	Tue 23
24 Wed	0353	0.0	0954	8.1	1628	-0.7	2224	7.3	Wed 24
25 Thu	0438	0.1	1036	8.1	1710	-0.7	2308	7.2	Thu 25
26 Fri	0514	0.3	1114	8.0	1750	-0.5	2348	7.1	Fri 26
27 Sat	0548	0.5	1145	7.8	1827	-0.2			Sat 27
28 Sun	0022	6.9	0812	0.7	1215	7.8	1858	0.1	Sun 28
29 Mon	0055	6.8	0826	0.9	1235	7.4	1921	0.4	Mon 29
30 Tue	0121	6.7	0853	1.0	1302	7.3	1937	0.8	Tue 30

DECEMBER 2004

DAY	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0145	8.7	0731	1.2	1337	7.2	2005	0.7	Wed 01
02 Thu	0219	8.7	0814	1.3	1419	7.1	2047	0.8	Thu 02
03 Fri	0300	8.7	0903	1.3	1508	6.9	2133	0.9	Fri 03
04 Sat	0348	8.8	0956	1.3	1558	6.8	2222	0.8	Sat 04



THAT PUMPKIN

If you have ever tried to grow your own pumpkins, you understand why throwing a pumpkin away after Halloween or letting it sit out there on the stoop, to be smashed sooner or later by mischievous Island youth, is not as easy as it might be for those who simply plunk down a few extra dollars at the market or the Legion a week or two before the 31st.

Growing your own pumpkins is a true labor of love. They grow on vines, which can be quite invasive if you're not careful. So you have to get out there and train the thing—that is, make it grow where you want, not where it wants. You've got to prune it, too. Trimming away those extra shoots has the effect of concentrating the plant's energy where you want it most: the fruit! For the same reason, some growers will select the pumpkins they want along a given vine and then cut away the rest. They do this when the pumpkins are about the size of a small grapefruit.

Once your sights have been set on a particular pumpkin, you can help ensure its proper shape by rotating it on the ground every few days. This will also help keep your pumpkin clean and smooth-skinned. Another technique for good pumpkin hygiene is to place a board between the developing pumpkin and the ground. Do it gently, though, as those root hairs can be oh so sensitive.

Your pumpkin's life on this planet need not end in the trash the day after Halloween. Or ignominiously beneath the swat of

someone's baseball bat. This year bring that pumpkin inside and try something new. How about a homemade pumpkin pie? Or roasted pumpkin soup? For those who would rather start small, pumpkin bread may be the recipe for you.

Whatever you decide, the first order of business is always the same: you have to roast your pumpkin. To do this, halve your pumpkin, remove all the seeds and then place the halves face down in a roasting pan with one cup of water. Roast them at 350 degrees for about one hour and a half. After that, the skin peels right off, like a wet t-shirt. Puree the rest in a food processor, and you're ready for action.

For a delicious pumpkin soup that's sure to wow them this Thanksgiving, melt three tablespoons of butter in a pot. Next, add three onions and let them caramelize. Just before they do, add four cloves of smashed garlic and one diced stalk of celery. Then add a cup of white wine, two cups of your very own roasted pumpkin, one and one half quarts of chicken stock, spices and herbs. Let stand on an open flame until hot, but do not let your soup boil. Next you cool your soup and puree it in the blender. Finally, when you are ready to serve your guests (six to eight of them for this recipe), reheat the soup, adding one cup of heavy cream as you do. The cream's the clincher!

Our other recipes—for pie and bread—will have to remain secret for now. However, in the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, we might be persuaded. . . . Try us at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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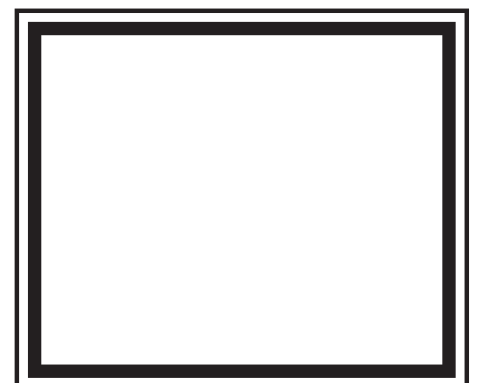
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Remember When



Photo courtesy of HELEN LEUPP

With Veteran's Day approaching on Nov. 11, City Island's Post 156 of the American Legion has many activities planned, including several involving the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Shown above in 1958 are Kathy and Susan Leupp of Fordham Street, members of the Ladies Auxiliary Juniors, who marched in all the parades and worked on projects helpful to the hospitalized veterans.

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ATTENTION ALL CITY ISLAND RESIDENTS: Let yourselves be heard! Attend the monthly meetings of the City Island Civic Association at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, at 8 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Receive our monthly newsletter to stay informed about local issues. Annual dues are only \$20. Send a check or money order to the City Island Civic Association, P.O. Box 117, City Island, NY 10464.

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

Happy 17th birthday on Nov. 12 to Bay Street's Bobby Swieciki, with love from Mom and Dad, Stephen and Maria.

Get-well wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Howard Hurley from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc.

Happy Thanksgiving to Fanny Lopez—the best grandmother and mother-in-law two gals can ever have. We love you “mucho,” La Bendicion, Alanis and Annette.

Congratulations to Michael Rotello for being the director of one of the top three marching bands, the Bayshore Marching Band, in the Columbus Day competition, as announced by Tony Danza.

Congratulations to Barbara Dolensek, whose new horse, Maruxa, just won best in breed at a major horse show in Devon, Pennsylvania.

Continued smooth sailing to Horton Street's Lorraine and Ducky Rauhauser

as they celebrate their anniversary on Nov. 8. Also, happy Nov. 15 birthday wishes to their son-in-law, Paul Nani, who lives on King Avenue.

Happy fifth birthday on Nov. 19 to Deirdre Spencer. And congratulations on a terrific start in kindergarten. With love from Mommy, Daddy, Kieran, Grammy and Da.

Belated Oct. 27 birthday wishes to Hawkins Street's Chris Kolb. And happy sixth-birthday wishes to his sister Lily on Nov. 3.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Buckley Street's Bette and Charlie Lacina, who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 22.

Happy birthday on Nov. 8 to Pell Place's Vera von Hagn, with love from your family.

Happy 18th wedding anniversary on Nov. 8 to Hawkins Street's Bob and Diane Carmody.

Happy birthday to our “Girlie Pearlies,” Alanis Lynne Lopez, who turns eight on Nov. 12. We love you so very much. You're the light of our lives. Love from Mommy, Grandma, Nikko, Taino, Thumper and Peanut.

And a very happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving to all our readers, neighbors and friends.

Maria Swieciki

SPOOKY SUNDAY!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Halloween brought out the imagination of Islanders once again—from those who decorated their homes with pumpkins and mums from the American Legion Pumpkin Sale on Oct. 1 (middle photo) to the creative costumes featured in the 2004 Halloween parade. The parade, begun over 15 years ago by the late Christine Jorgensen Hansen, drew hundreds of children, adults and pets for some freaky fun and trick-or-treating.

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