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SMSS BASKETBALL: MARCH GLADNESS!

By KAREN NANI



It was another exciting season for the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program, especially for the Girls Varsity team, which was undefeated for the season and captured the 2012 Bronx Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Championship. The girls are shown above with their coaches (bottom row, l. to r.): Christine Rice, Val Rugov, Deirdre Spencer, Laura Clarke, Megan Moran and Nia Lucher. Top row: Coach Chris Rice, Alicia Jones, Nia Philips, coach George Spencer, Nia Drew, Ashlie Howell, Alexis Candelaria, Ashley Livingston, coach Frank Strazzera, captain Francesca Strazzera and Amber Tudor.

Victory celebrations became the norm during the 2011–2012 St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball season with the program's six Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams all posting winning records. In addition, the Girls Varsity team was undefeated in the regular season and captured the Bronx County championship for the fourth time!

Annamarie Whelan, the program's coordinator for the last five years, commended everyone involved in another winning season. "Special congratulations to the Girls Varsity team, which came in first in the A Division Bronx Championship, and congratulations to our Boys JV, who played for the Championship B Division title and came in second place," she told *The Current*.

"It would not be possible without all our volunteers who spend countless hours of their free time developing the children's basketball skills." She acknowledged the dedication of the coaches: Intramural coach James Goonan and his assistants, Meghan Clancy and Lou LaMonico; Girls Gidget coach Bill Whelan and his assistants, Kristen McConaghy and Lorraine Watson; Girls JV coach Robert Whelan; Girls Varsity coach Frank Strazzera and assistants, George Spencer and Chris Rice; Boys Bantam coach Michael Whelan and assistants Chris Rice and Pete Russell; Boys JV coach Mark Amos; and Boys Varsity coach Tom Orzo.

She proudly described the program's formula for success. "It's so wonderful to see how these children get better throughout the year. Each has his or her own individual talent: one player might be a strong dribbler and another is a fantastic outside shooter, whereas another player can make a perfect layup to the basket. Others can run and stay a step ahead of their opponents. The coaches combine these skills into a successful team and bring out the best in all of these children." Ms. Whelan also extended special thanks

to the parents who work the concession stands and admission table at the games. "Their continuing volunteerism is greatly appreciated."

A new program feature, Friday Night Hoops, was introduced this season. Under the supervision and direction of Tom Orzo, this eight-week basketball program was for boys ages 10 through 13. They played basketball games with an official referee every Friday evening at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School gym. The kids all received T-shirts sponsored by City Island businesses, including the IGA, City Island Pharmacy, Seafood City and Extreme Closet Make-over. Special thanks to Jossolyne Rice, who helped with ordering the uniforms; to Lou LaMonico and Adolfo Carrión, who assisted as coach coordinators; and to all the fathers who volunteered and coached.

A summary of each team's exciting season follows.

Girls Varsity

The Girls Varsity had a season for the ages! Practicing hard all year paid off with an undefeated 18–0 regular season record. The team beat St. Margaret and Archrival Xavier to reach the Bronx CYO Championship game. With the team down 13 to 4 late in the first quarter against Santa Maria, the game looked bleak, but the girls wouldn't be denied. Led by their captain, Francesca Strazzera, and fellow eighth-grader Ashlie Howell, they rallied for an exciting 38–35 victory (the game can be viewed on dcusports.com).

The team represented the Bronx in the NYC championship. They battled a tough Staten Island team to the last minute but fell short 27–20. Needless to say they made the City Island community very proud.

Special recognition goes to team MVP Francesca Strazzera and Defensive Player of the Year Ashlie Howell. The Coaches Award went to Christine Rice. Coaches

Continued on page 7



Boys Junior Varsity. The Boys JV team (aka the "Sharks") finished the season with a record of 16 wins and 9 losses and played for the Championship B Division title. Bottom row (kneeling): Michael Amos, John Tomson, Matthew Valentine, Andrew Whalen, Eric Lomonaco and Joseph Leni. Top row: Coach Mark Amos, Connor Hanley-Piri, Mateo Tomilson, Joseph Cadero, Carlo Fine, Anthony Mazzella and Deion Rodriguez.



Girls Junior Varsity. The Girls JV finished the season with a winning record of 10 victories and only 4 losses during the regular season. The proud teammates are shown above (bottom row): Alexandra Henning, Dava-Lee Candelaria, Emma Adinolfi, Christine Whelan, Scarlett Vargas and Jessica Hines. Top row: Madison Saenz, Samantha Negron, Arielle Clarke, Melody Saenz, Thalia Colon and coach Robert Whelan.



Future hoopsters learned basketball skills in St. Mary's Intramural program. Shown above with their coaches are (sitting): Jordyn Rivera, Cyrus Alston, Jesse Sparks, Marc LaMonico and Alex Persteins. Kneeling: Peter Luderman, Patrick Clancy, Jared Smith, Donny Hostomsky, Gabriella LaJoy, Isaiah Elsayled and Oscar Etzel. Standing: Julian McElroy, Oona Foxe, Benjamin Nicoletti, Lily Jude Pecaroro, Joseph Persteins, Alex Stewart, Tommy Forliano and Gwen Boyle. Missing from photo: Paul Goonan and Michael Masella. Coaches: Lou LaMonico, Meghan Clancy and James Goonan (not shown).

BRIEFLY...

NEW YORK HARBOR: On Saturday, March 24, the City Island Nautical Museum launched a new exhibition of color photographs of New York Harbor. Dick Sadler dedicated the exhibition to the memory of his father and former president of the City Island Historical Society, Captain Ed Sadler, who passed away at 95 in November 2011. Dick's work with the New York Water Taxi afforded him many opportunities to photograph exceptionally beautiful views of the harbor in which his father piloted a fireboat for over 30 years. There was a reception on March 25 at the museum, which is located at 190 Fordham Street.

CANCER BINGO: The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion would like to invite everyone to the annual Cancer Bingo, which will be held at the Post (550 City Island Avenue) on Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. The proceeds of this community event go to cancer research and cancer care for children and adults. Please join us for a nice evening. There will be many great prizes and sweepstakes!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 211 EASTER FLOWER SALE. Support a local Boy Scout or send Troop 211 scouts to summer camp by buying flowers at the annual flower sale, which will be held in front of Trinity United Methodist Church on Thursday and Friday, April 5 and 6, and on Saturday depending on flower availability. Rain or shine!

SAVE THE DATE: The Garden Club of City Island's annual spring event this year will be a luncheon with the theme "The calla lilies are in bloom again!" The luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 24, at the City Island Yacht Club, which is located at the foot of west Pilot Street. It promises to be a most festive and pleasant afternoon with a fabulous lunch and surprises galore, our usual raffles and wonderfully creative baskets to brighten the spring afternoon. All Island businesses and residents are welcome! The cost is \$40. Please call Carol McCabe at 718-885-3190 before May 17 to make your reservations.

PROOF: The City Island Theater Group's production of David Auburn's "Proof" will open at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Friday, April 27, and will run for two weekends. Performances on April 27, 28, May 3, 4 and 5 will be at 8 p.m. There will be a matinee performance on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. The play is directed by Nina Gabriele-Cuva and features Kevin Gordon, Elizabeth Paldino, Teliesen Rose and Denis Zepeda in the cast. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

SAVE THE DATES: St. Mary's class of 1966 will be celebrating their 60th birthday bash on April 28 at the Morris Yacht Club. Call Ann at 201-476-1514 or email AReilly52@aol.com. The 2012 City Island reunion is planned for Saturday, August 18. Email cityislandreunion@yahoo.com.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 1 - AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 - ENTERPRISE CORRUPTION
- 1 - LOST PROPERTY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Feb. 18 to March 18, 2012.

2/21 - Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating a report of aggravated harassment. A male resident reported that he received many threatening phone calls from an unknown female from Feb. 6 to 21. The resident fears for his safety.

3/1 - Two Island males, 56 and 29, were arrested on Winters Street and Minneford Avenue and indicted for enterprise corruption (see story this page).

3/8 - At 11 p.m., a patron of a restaurant at 459 City Island Avenue reported to police that her wallet was missing.

Two Islanders Indicted in Connection with Illegal Gambling Operation

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK

On March 1, 2012, eight reputed members or associates of an organized crime family were arrested, for allegedly operating a sports betting and loan-sharking operation that generated profits in excess of two million dollars a year. Among those arrested were two City Island residents, one of them a New York City firefighter.

According to Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson, a grand jury indicted seven of the eight defendants on a top count of Enterprise Corruption, a Class B felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 25 years in prison. The seven defendants were Joseph Sarcinella, 77, of Scarsdale, New York; Frank Mastracchio, 56, of City Island; Dominick Totino, 44, of the Bronx; Dominick Pietranico, 81, of Mahopac, New York; Bruno Travostino, 81, of Manhattan; John D'Ambrosio, 54, of Bronxville, New York; and Thomas McMahon, 29, of City Island.

In addition to the Enterprise Corruption charge, these seven defendants were also charged with multiple counts of Promoting Gambling in the first degree, Possession of Gambling Records in the first degree, Criminal Usury in the second degree, and Conspiracy in the fifth degree. Mr. Mastracchio was also charged with illegal gun possession stemming from the recovery of an illegal handgun and a sawed-off shotgun during the execution of a search warrant at his home on Winters Street.

The crimes alleged in the indictments occurred between Dec. 1, 2009, and June 23, 2011. The charge of enterprise corruption is based on the defendants being "employed by or associated with" a gambling and loansharking operation run by Mr. Sarcinella, according to the indictment.

It is alleged that the defendants, acting

in concert with each other and with others, ran an illegal sports betting operation that utilized two gambling "wire-rooms" at 1500 Mace Avenue and 709 East 189th Street. The wire-rooms were staffed by workers who manned telephone lines for the purpose of taking bets, managing betting activity and setting betting lines and spreads. Additionally, a social club at 1480 Mace Avenue was used to pay out on winning bets and collect on losing bets.

"Information gathered during the course of the investigation indicated various ties between most of the defendants and the Genovese crime family," a spokesperson for the district attorney told *The Current*.

It was also learned that one of the defendants, Mr. McMahon, who lives on Minneford Avenue, is currently employed as a firefighter with the FDNY. Mr. McMahon was charged with the fewest counts in the indictment, mostly involving bookmaking and gambling.

According to police, Mr. Mastracchio has been arrested before. On June 23, 2011, he was arrested by officers from the 45th Precinct at 9:10 a.m. and charged with two counts of criminal possession of a weapon. The arrest occurred during the execution of a search warrant issued by Bronx County Supreme Court.

The charges in the indictments are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. After being arrested at their homes, the defendants all pleaded not guilty to the charges and were released on bail. Bail was set at \$25,000 bond for Mr. Mastracchio and \$5,000 cash for Mr. McMahon. All of the defendants were arraigned before State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett and are due back in court on May 29, 2012.

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EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson
 COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek
 ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

STAFF: Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannerger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.
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“MAMA’S BOY” AND PROUD OF IT

By KAREN NANI



Photo courtesy of TLC

Anthony “Chip” Cecere Jr. (back row, second from right) of Krunch Time Fitness on City Island, and his mother, Camille Cecere (sitting, second from the right), will be featured in an upcoming series on the TLC channel entitled “Mama’s Boys of the Bronx.” The show premieres on April 9, and the entire cast is shown above.

On April 9, 2012, a new series on the TLC cable channel will premier entitled “Mama’s Boys of the Bronx.” One of the five Italian-American men who will be featured on the show is Anthony “Chip” Cecere, the owner of Krunch Time Fitness located at 538 City Island Avenue.

According to the producer, the show takes a light-hearted look at five friends “who grew up together and have plenty in common: they are attractive, employed, in their 30s and unapologetically still live with their mothers.”

Mr. Cecere was initially reluctant to participate when he first got the call from the casting crew. “I wasn’t too keen on the whole TV thing,” he told *The Current*. But after a while, he thought it would be a nice opportunity for himself and his mother, Camille. They decided it would be fun to show the positive side of Italian culture here in the Bronx.

Although Mr. Cecere and his family live on Tremont Avenue, some of the scenes for the show were filmed on City Island at his gym, which he runs with his partner, Michael Pagan, and his brother, Tommy.

How did he wind up on City Island? “I started training in the 1990s in the Bronx. The streets had gotten rough and you had to work out to survive,” he explained. He then

started doing fitness training for some other gyms but began thinking about opening his own business.

He and his partner, Mr. Pagan, found the empty gym on City Island Avenue, formerly AJ Fitness. “We invested money to fix the place up and opened Krunch Time in January 2010.”

According to Mr. Cecere, the business is doing well. “We train lots of City Island residents and have a steady clientele. We work by appointment and we design customized training programs for our clients.”

Meanwhile, he lives with his family, and he and his mother are about to become nationally known. According to the show’s description, “Mama’s Boys of the Bronx chronicles the fun-loving escapades of these adorable paisans—at work, at home, hanging out on their beloved Arthur Avenue or enjoying the five boroughs before they come home to their dotting moms. Meanwhile, the mothers try to keep tabs on the partying, dreaming and scheming of their sons.”

Does Anthony want to remain a “mama’s boy” forever? “My mother would love me to meet a nice Italian girl and get married. And so would I,” he enthusiastically told this reporter. Meanwhile, he enjoys his mother’s cooking and shares recipes with her. And yes, she even works out with him sometimes.

He invites Islanders to stop by Krunch Time, at the corner of Cross Street, and say hi. They are open six days a week by appointment, usually between 6 and 11 a.m. and then after 3 p.m. There are also Zumba classes given by a female instructor on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The TLC series airs on Monday, April 9, at 10 p.m. (channel 28 if you have Cablevision; otherwise check your local listings). Two 30-minute episodes will air back to back over four weeks.

STEP UP TO THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM

By BARBARA HARRISON KAYE



Photo by DICK SADLER

“Welcome to America,” a photograph by Dick Sadler that is on display (in full color) at the City Island Nautical Museum, along with 26 other images of New York Harbor and City Island.

The month of May is going to be a big one for the City Island Nautical Museum, as it prepares to launch a major fund-raising campaign to replace the front steps leading up to the newly landmarked school building, beginning with an Open House on May 5 and 6.

May is National Preservation Month, and the Nautical Museum is doing its part to help preserve one of City Island’s most beloved structures, which served the community as a school from 1898 to 1976 and continues to serve as the home of the Nautical Museum and the City Island Community Center.

When the façade of the building was destroyed by fire in July 2007, along with the interior hallway, the City Island Historical Society, which operates the museum, supervised its restoration to the original 1898 portico, with help from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the fourth grade of P. S. 175, and many residents or former residents of the City Island community, as well as insurance provided by the Nautical Winds Condominium, owner of the building.

In 2010 the Garden Club of City Island and the Historical Society replanted the gardens in front of the museum, and during March of 2012, Island resident and gardener George Callas donated several euonymus bushes to fill the trench alongside the driveway, much improving the appearance of the front of the building.

However, the front steps leading up to the museum entrance are in poor condition, thanks to years of traffic, ice, vandalism and other forms of abuse. The ramp leading up to the front door affords a safe entrance to visitors, but the trustees of the Historical Society decided that the steps should be replaced and brought up to code.

As part of its campaign to raise funds to pay for new steps, the museum has redesigned its website (cityislandmuseum.org), thanks to the talents of longtime museum member Dot Payne, and set up a Facebook place where one may view over 90 photographs, keep up to date on museum activities and events and become a “friend.” Of special

interest is a forthcoming series of videos, interviews with Islanders old and young, bits of history and other intriguing bits that will draw attention to the museum, City Island’s only non-profit tourist attraction that is open most of the year.

During the month of March, a major new exhibition was installed—beautiful color photographs of New York Harbor taken by Dick Sadler, who has dedicated the exhibition to his father, the late Captain Edward Sadler, who was until his death in November 2011 president of the City Island Historical Society and a beloved fixture at the museum on weekends.

The museum has recently been helped enormously by the contributions of time and talent from a number of Island residents who are serving as volunteers, not only for the fund-raising campaign but also to serve as docents during the museum’s open hours on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., as well as for group visits during the week arranged by special appointment.

The Open House that will take place at the museum during the first weekend in May will provide a wonderful opportunity for new visitors to become acquainted with this remarkable institution, but it will also interest regular supporters, who will welcome the opportunity to listen to musicians playing sea chanteys, participate in a knot-tying workshop, chat with clam diggers about the “good old days” and with former students and teachers at P. S. 17. There will be scavenger hunts for children and adults, refreshments galore, and other activities relating to City Island history.

The Bronx Seaside Trolley, which runs the circuit from Pelham Bay Park to the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and City Island on the first Friday of each month beginning in May, will also be on duty during the day on both Saturday and Sunday of Open House Weekend in order to draw attention to the museum and to help visitors and residents alike find their way to 190 Fordham Street to enjoy the festivities.

So save the date for the Open House and step up for the Nautical Museum as it launches its campaign and expands its audience to all who are interested in preserving the nautical heritage of City Island.

In the meantime, watch for the Nautical Museum to be featured in a short film as part of the Emmy-award winning series “Secrets of New York,” which will air at the end of April. Check the website www.nyc.gov/media for the schedule.

For up-to-date information on the fund-raiser and on “Secrets of New York,” visit the museum’s website or Facebook page, where new information will be uploaded regularly.

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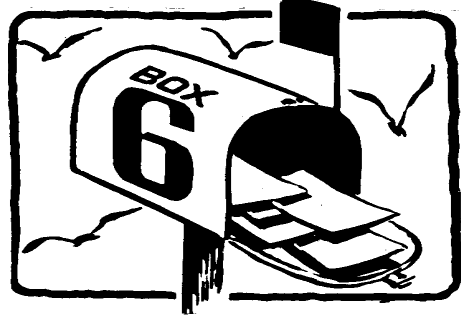
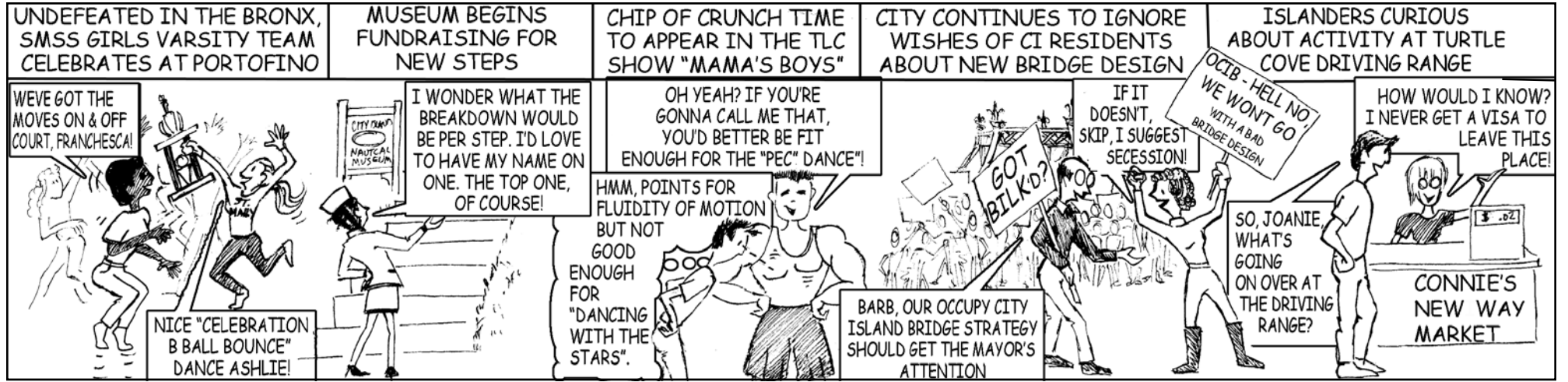
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Thanks, Bank!

To the Editor:

Kudos to the staff at City Island's Chase Bank branch for its recent installation of a much-needed (weatherproof) bulletin board outside the branch. As some Islanders may recall, the original bulletin board was removed from the lobby years ago during renovations and was sorely missed. Thanks again to Chase Manager Christopher Cusmano for responding to the community's request.

Maria A. Swieciki

Bridge Protest Starts Up Again

To the Editor:

Many of us on City Island are unhappy with the design that the city's Department of Transportation (DOT) has foisted on us as a replacement for our old bridge. DOT officials have refused to accept the fact that the 167-foot high cable-stayed bridge they insist on building is unacceptable to many residents. Aside from the fact that its height is not consistent with our low-rise zoning and that its goalpost appearance is not consistent with a nautical community, the bridge will take over two years to build, will seriously impact Island businesses, and will cost far more than a simpler causeway design that could be built offsite, like the Willis Avenue Bridge and be installed virtually overnight.

In 2003 we were told the new bridge would cost \$25 million to build; now the budget is over \$135 million because so much has to be done to the steel to keep the huge structure wind resistant and to prevent salt-water corrosion.

We wonder why DOT is sticking to its decade-old decision in spite of the rising costs and why they have been wedded to

the same engineering company that condemned the old bridge and designed this one, even though they have never built a bridge before.

Although we have written letters, signed petitions and pleaded with city officials, no one hears us. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Association, the Garden Club and other groups on the Island are preparing a major protest, but we need support from the community. Stop by Lickety Split after it opens on April 1 or drop by Bob Carmody's office at AER Realty to express your support and offer your help in staging an event that even Mayor Bloomberg won't be able to ignore.

Skip Giacco, President
City Island Chamber of Commerce



Happy Theater

To the Editor:

I would like to share the unbelievable experience that my friends and I had at the City Island Theater Group's recent production "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress." I organized a gathering at the performance on March 8 (International Women's Day) for my best friend, Greer Jason, a former City Island resident and bride-to-be (on April 28). I can't imagine a better way to celebrate International Women's Day!

It was such a great experience that I wanted to spread the word about this wonderful theater group, which is literally right in our backyard. I don't think enough Islanders know or take advantage of it.

The group decorated our eight reserved chairs with white bows at the front of the audience, and they even used Greer's name in the play, When one of the bridesmaids asks the name of a woman in the courtyard below the window (and not seen in the play) who is flirting with all the guys at the wedding reception, one of the other actresses responds: "The \$%#&@ in the blue backless dress?" Another bridesmaid answers: "That's Ms. Greer Jason." We all cracked up! It was great.

The director came out to meet us after the play to wish Greer well and gave her a bottle of champagne! It was so much fun. I want to thank CITG for giving me and my friends this special memory!

Amanda Libretto



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

This handsome and useful vehicle is the brainchild of Skip Giacco, proprietor of the Lickety Split Ice Cream Shop (opening April 1), and president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce. Skip, who is making at least two more carts like this one, thanks to the welding talents of Karl Hoedl of Buddy's Hardware, is looking for volunteers to help keep City Island Avenue clean on a regular basis. Students can earn community service hours, adults can earn the respect of their neighbors! For more information or to volunteer, call Skip at 718-885-9654.

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FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS

By BRUCE A. WEIS

The City Island Theater group tends to mix the themes of its shows: musicals follow dramas after comedies. Hence, following last fall's excellent but sobering presentation of "The Crucible," the group mounted a production of Alan Ball's comedy "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" as its offering for winter 2012.

"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," a sort of a good old girl buddy comedy, premiered in 1993 on the stage of the Manhattan Class Company, a venerable off-Broadway production house on New York's West 43rd Street. The play opened to mixed reviews. The New York Post found it "wonderfully entertaining," but the New York Times called it "frivolous," acknowledging that Alan Ball seemed to

have spent a great deal of time eavesdropping on female gossip.

The play's author, Georgia-born Alan Ball, continued with light comedy following "Five Women," writing for ABC's top-rated comedy "Grace Under Fire" and for "Cybil," a CBS effort. His writing turned darker when he wrote and co-produced the Oscar-winning film "American Beauty" in 2000, which earned him overnight acclaim and recognition of his screenplay, which won the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay and a Golden Globe. The movie itself earned five Academy Awards. Alan Ball remained on the dark side successfully, earning a total of six Emmys with the HBO "Six Feet Under" series that he created and produced, and he received a Golden Globe



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast and director of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," performed by the City Island Theater Group in March (front row, l. to r.): Elizabeth Paldino, Director Maria Provenzano and Emily Bendler; back row: Susan Rauh, Christina Drake, Tee Cotter and Steve Bendler.

SINKING INTO MADNESS: "PROOF" ON CITY ISLAND

By MARY MCINTYRE



Photo by MARY MCINTYRE

The cast and director of the City Island Theater Group's new production, "Proof" (front row, l. to r.): director Nina Gabriele-Cuva, Denis Zepeda and Elizabeth Paldino; (back row): Taliesen Rose and Kevin Gordon.

David Auburn's play "Proof," which will be presented this spring by the City Island Theater Group, offers a sobering look at the ravages of mental illness on a brilliant mathematics professor and its effects on his immediate family. The play won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for drama, as well as the 2001 Tony for best play, and was made into a movie in 2008.

On the eve of her 25th birthday, Catherine, a cynical, bitter, depressed college dropout, must deal with her estranged sister who is coming from New York City for the funeral of their father, Robert. Claire, the older sister, soon has good reason to believe that Catherine too is suffering from mental illness, and she wants to sell the family home and take Catherine back to New York to care for her.

Meanwhile, one of their father's former graduate students, Hal, is relentless in his request to review the 103 notebooks Robert left behind and in which he eventually finds a paradigm-shifting proof about prime numbers.

The title of the play refers both to that proof and to the central question of the play: can Catherine prove the authorship of the mathematical proof? Throughout, the play deals with Catherine's fear of following in her father's footsteps, both mathematically and mentally, and her desperate attempt to stay in control, an effort complicated both by her sister's plan to care for her and by the development of her relationship with Hal.

The City Island Theater Group's production is directed by Nina Gabriele-Cuva, and the cast includes Kevin Gordon, Elizabeth Paldino, Taliesen Rose and Denis Zepeda.

Performances will be held at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on April 27, 28, May 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m.; there will also be a matinee performance on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. For reservations, please call 718 885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

nomination for "True Blood," his southern vampire series.

Alan Ball remained true to his southern roots by setting "Five Women" in the Knoxville, Tennessee, bedroom of the bride's sister during a society wedding. The five bridesmaids have taken refuge there to duck the unseen bride, whom they disdain, and the overdone wedding reception they abhor, as well as to avoid an unscrupulous wedding guest (also unseen) named Tommy Valentine, with whom, it appears, they share a common history.

Hiding in the bedroom, the bridesmaids verbally wrestle with the various issues that they face. Chief among them is why the bride has forced her bridesmaids to wear these awful dresses and which of the men in their lives is the biggest piece of "wet toast." The F bomb gets dropped a lot and reputations are torn to shreds.

The play can be seen to operate on two levels. Although it's possible to simply enjoy "Five Women" as a biting comedy, one can also consider the play's underlying angst and its sources. The bridesmaids came from similar backgrounds, but they have clashing personalities. The groom's sister, Mindy (Susan Rauh), is an uncloseted lesbian, while the bride's rebellious sister, Meredith (Christina Drake), keeps a poster of Malcolm X on the wall of her bedroom along with stuffed animals and horse show ribbons. Susan Rauh is an acknowledged master of grace on the edge

of explosion, but here (with exception of a brief rant in the second act) she projects an accepting calm, perfectly in tune with her character. Conversely, Christine Drake as the edgiest of the bridesmaids darkens her portrayal in the course of the play, moving from rebellious but upbeat to alienated and despondent and back, in a manner of speaking.

Tee Cotter (Georgeanne) gave an excellent, anguished portrayal of the bridesmaid with the most intimate (or at least most recent) attachment to the infamous Tommy Valentine (and for whom garbage brings back happy memories). Interestingly, Tee (a CITG veteran) was a last-minute addition to the cast and was able to develop the character of Georgeanne in only two weeks.

Elizabeth Paldino provided a thoughtful portrayal of Trisha, the man-eater of the wedding party. Although the role could have been simply that of a bridesmaid with a heightened libido, Elizabeth added nuance and depth to the character. Emily Bendler did a fine job as the absurdly naïve Frances in her first dramatic role. Alan Ball seemed to let slip his sitcom background when he created Frances, as characters such as this are a staple of situation comedy, but Emily was able to make an implausible character believable. Finally, Steven Bendler (Tripp), who entered the play well into the second act as things seemed to be spiraling toward frustration, brought a lift to the show and the promise of a possible happy ending for at least one bridesmaid.

Costumes, certainly the giant yellow bridesmaids dresses, were a little scary, but this was, of course, deliberate. As always, these were the work of Carol McCabe. Joe Burck did the lighting and production design (overcoming Grace Church's antique footlights), and Denis Zepeda once again was responsible for sound design. Keith Rodriguez successfully constructed a bedroom suitable to Knoxville, Tennessee, designed by Joe Burck and furnished with various items purchased, borrowed or purloined by Barbara Dolensek, the CITG prop mistress. Programs were put together by Susan Rauh.

Maria Provenzano directed "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," and Fiorella deLima was the Production Stage Manager, assisted by Kelly Pere. Production Managers were Nick Sala and Carol McCabe, who can take credit again for another successful production that was enjoyed by large crowds during every performance.

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

Coldwell Banker Bond, a well-known real estate firm, has recently opened an office at 212 City Island Avenue. The manager is Isaiah Bond, who has been in the real estate business for 14 years; he was a mortgage professional for 6 years and a credit consultant for 6 years. Coldwell Banker is hoping to help speed up the turn time on sales in the region by offering their marketing systems. All buyers, sellers, renters, investors are welcome.

Dragons Path Academy, 229 City Island Avenue, is going to have a martial arts summer camp for the first time this year, and parents are urged to register now. The fee is a modest \$250 for a full week with activities every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For the schedule and more information, visit the website at www.dragons-pathacademy.com or call 347-945-3172.

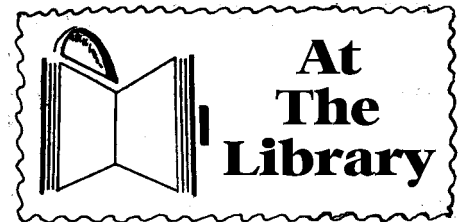
Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) will be exhibiting works of art in a show entitled "Artist's Choice" from April

5 through 30, with an opening reception on Friday, April 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. For more information call 718-885-1403 or visit the website <https://sites.google.com/site/focal-pointgallerycityisland/>.

Back by popular demand, **Pet Mend Animal Hospital** will hold a vaccination clinic on City Island on Sunday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Early Ruth Antiques, 319 City Island Avenue (between Bay and Fordham Streets). This will be followed by a spay/neuter clinic coming soon. For more information, call 914-834-9000.

There has been some serious spring cleaning, and a lot more, at the **Turtle Cove golf range** in Pelham Bay Park. A new concessionaire took over the property last fall and has been working hard to improve the property, by removing or rebuilding old structures, installing new fences and otherwise making the place look much better without increasing its footprint in the park one inch.

The Uptown Coffeehouse presents singer-songwriter David Roth on Sunday, April 1, at 6 p.m. at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Admission is \$15; children under 12 \$5. Bronx Cultural Cards are accepted. For more information e-mail TheUptowncoffeehouse@gmail.com.



City Island Branch Library Events for April 2012
Celebrating 101 years here since 1911!

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

April Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Two Thursdays, April 12 and 26, at 11 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Every Thursday, April 5, 12, 19 and 26, at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Toddler Time: Every Tuesday, April 3, 10, 17 and 24, at 11 a.m. 18 months to 3 years.

Springtime Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, April 3, at 3:30 p.m. All ages.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Ancient Greece: The legend of Eros and Psyche, storytime and performance. Monday, April 23, at 4 p.m.

April Young Adult Programs

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

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

"Yu-Gi-Oh"!: Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

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

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

Special film showing: "Avenger's Week." All films to be screened at 2 p.m. Monday, April 9: "Iron Man"; Tuesday, April 10: "The Incredible Hulk"; Wednesday, April 11: "Iron Man 2"; Thursday, April 12: "Thor"; Friday, April 13: "Captain America."

April Adult Programs

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

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

Introduction to Facebook: Find lost friends, make new ones. Fridays, April 13 and 27, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



Photo by GARY MAKUFKA

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, Toby Liederman hosted the annual Women's History Month program at the City Island Library. Members of the audience, some of whom were from places as far away as Venezuela, Germany and Mississippi, were invited to participate in the program.

New Film for April: "Hoover" starring Leonardo DiCaprio. As the face of law enforcement in America for almost 50 years, J. Edgar Hoover was feared and admired, reviled and revered. But behind closed doors, he held secrets that would have destroyed his image, his career and his life. Saturday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Warner Brothers Pictures (2011 Rated R).

Lectures: We hope to present Jeremy McCue lecturing on this month's topic on Saturday, April 28, at 2 p.m. the date is pending, so please call in advance for details and check our fliers.

"Jobs, Jobs, Jobs": Career Counselor Theodore Henderson will present two lectures on how to get the job you want. On Wednesday, April 4, at 12 noon, he will discuss "How To Get Interviews." The next will be held on Wednesday, April 18, at 12 noon on "How to Negotiate Your Salary." These workshops may be all that it takes for you to land the perfect job. Check it out!

Major Event Announcement: On Saturday, April 14, at 2 p.m., we are honored to have with us retired FDNY firefighter Dennis Smith, the author of 16 books, including "Report from Engine Co. 82" and "Report from Ground Zero," founder of Firehouse Magazine, board member of Congressional Fire Services Institute and Tribute Center at Ground Zero. He will be discussing his life as a firefighter and lifesaver. Don't miss this one-time event!

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue & Bay Street. Please call the branch for any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. 718-885-1703

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Holy Week Schedule 2012

CONFESSIONS
SATURDAY-March 31
4:30-5:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY-April 1
VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.
SUNDAY-8:00 A.M., 10:00., & 12:00 NOON
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

HOLY THURSDAY-April 5
8:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
Procession to Repository
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY-April 6
8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-4:00 P.M.
Confessions 5:00-6:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY-April 7
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
Confessions 9:00-10:00 A.M. & 4:00-5:00 P.M.
SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M.
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY-April 8
Masses- 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A. M., & 12:00 Noon



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MARCH GLADNESS

Continued from page 1

Frank, George and Chris want to thank the girls for the amazing memories and shout out to them one more time, "You were undefeated Bronx County Champions"

Boys Junior Varsity

In February 2012, the New York metropolitan area had a lot to cheer about. The New York Giants won the Super Bowl, the New York Knicks had Jeremy Lin "Lin-sanity," and St. Mary, Star of the Sea had the Boys Tyro basketball team (aka the "Sharks"). The boys had an incredible run during the CYO Division B Playoffs, winning against Villa Maria B and St. Barnabas Parish. These victories placed them in the semi-finals bracket against Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit was big and strong, but the Sharks' defense and mental toughness along with team captain Deion Rodriguez's four points in a 15-second span, helped the Sharks seal the game with a 33-30 victory, placing the team in a championship game against St. Gabriel. St. Gabe's was victorious in that game, but the Sharks never gave up, playing hard until the end. In the coaches' hearts, the Sharks will always be the true champions.

Overall the team's season record was 16-9 with plenty of excitement and fun. The season started with very competitive tryouts, which resulted in a team whose players were for the most part strangers to one another. As the season progressed, all the boys became true teammates. Coach Amos would like to thank all the sixth-graders: Deion Rodriguez, Mateo Tomilson, John Tomson, Connor Hanley-Piri, Eric Lomonaco, Carlo Fine, Andrew Whalen and Joseph Cordero. Good luck next year! To all the returning fifth-graders, Michael Amos, Joseph Leni, Matthew Valentine and Anthony Mazzella, the coach's message is: Never stop dribbling the ball,

because next season is fast approaching and he will be waiting with his whistle looking for future basketball players.

The coaches would personally like to thank all the parents with all the help and sacrifice during the long season. It was a pleasure coaching this wonderful group of boys dedicated to learning the game of basketball.

Girls Junior Varsity

The Girls Junior Varsity had a fantastic season. The girls finished the season with a 10-4 regular season winning record. They played hard but lost in the Bronx A Division playoffs. The team was led by Christine Whelan, Thalia Colon, Destiny Foster, Dava Lee Candelaria and Scarlett Vargas. The girls displayed great sportsmanship throughout the season and should be commended on a job well done.

Boys Bantams

The 2011-2012 Boys Bantam basketball team played exceptional basketball, finishing the season with 14 wins and 5 losses. They faced talented opponents throughout the season, and all players contributed to the team's success.

The winning Boys Bantams were Patrick Livingston, Ryan Whelan, John Russel, Joseph Cruz, Lamire Bryant, Joseph Goonan, Mateo Tomlinson, Joseph Cordero, Carlo Fine, Angel Reyes, Steven Rice, Tristen Torres, Joshua Rosario, Javin Coleman, Carmine Testa, Thomas Whelan, Jaiden Marrero, Anjelo Nieves, Aidan Hanley-Piri and Timothy Stiene.

Coach Mike Whelan extends thanks and appreciation to the players, Coach Chris, Assistant Coach Pete Russell, and all of the parents who committed their time and effort volunteering at games and ensuring the boy's made it to practice.

Congratulations on a successful season!

Girls Gidgets

The Girls Gidgets had a challeng-



Boys Varsity. The varsity boys won over 20 games this season including tournaments. Shown above are the varsity shooting stars (bottom row): Nicholas Labriola, Daniel Johnson, Robert Moran, Greg Bodrick and Michael Pirraglia. Top row: Robert Weyhrauch, John Nagy, Michael Valentine, Jabari Weste, Michael Labriola, Tommy Wright and coach Tommy Orzo. Not shown: Jean Louis Gonzalez and Damien Thorne.



Girls Gidgets. The young and hardworking Gidgets are shown above with their coaches Bill Whelan, Kristin McConaghy and Lorraine Watson. Bottom row: Isabel Whelan, Alexa Forliano and Sara Vega. Top row: Samantha Kucerak, Kaltrina Rugova, Ahmari Fails, Meghan McConaghy and Jaydn Watson. Not shown: Eleni Mantzaris.



Boys Bantams. Every player contributed to the Bantam team's successful season of 14 wins and 5 losses, including (front row): Patrick Livingston, Ryan Whelan, John Russel, Joseph Cruz, Lamire Bryant and Joseph Goonan. Standing: Angel Reyes, Steven Rice, Tristen Torres, Joshua Rosario, Javin Coleman, Carmine Testa, Thomas Whelan and Jaiden Marrero. Back row: coaches Chris Rice, Mike Whelan and Pete Russel. Not shown: Mateo Tomlinson, Joseph Cordero, Carlo Fine, Anjelo Nieves, Aidan Hanley-Piri and Timothy Stiene.

ing season and lost some close games. The girls made some new friends and enjoyed both coming to practice and playing in the games. All the girls worked hard and improved their basketball skills each week.

Congratulations to Isabel Whelan, Alexa Forliano, Sara Vega, Samantha Kucerak, Kaltrina Rugova, Ahmari Fails, Meghan McConaghy, Jaydn Watson, and Eleni Mantzaris.

Special recognition goes to the Offensive Most Valuable Player (MVP), Ahmari Fails; Defensive MVP, Meghan McConaghy; and Most Improved Player, Sara Vega.

Coaches Bill, Kristin and Lorraine hope to see everyone back next season. They wish good luck to the fourth-graders who will be moving up to JV. Thanks to all the parents for their support and taking time out of their busy schedules to get the girls to practice and the games.

See you next season!

Boys Varsity

Saint Mary's Boys Varsity had a great season this year. The boys won 16 league games with only 5 losses, and won more than 20 games overall, including tournaments. The team played some of the

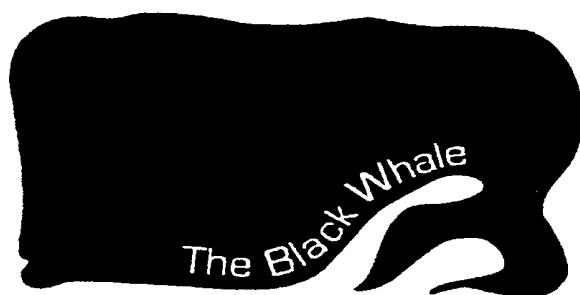
most exciting CYO games this season and finished with a season-ending loss in overtime in the A division quarter finals.

Coaches awards go to team MVP Michael Pirraglia; Best Defensive Player Jabari Weste; Most Improved Player from last year, Michael Labriola; Most Improved during the season, Rob Weyhrauch; and Rookie of the Year, Michael Valentine.

Coach Orzo would like to say good luck to all the graduating players and to all returning seventh-graders. "Keep a ball in your hand and smile."

Intramurals

It was another great year of Intramural hoops thanks to coaches Mark Ramon, Meghan Clancy and James Goonan. The coaches thank all the parents for bringing their children each week. The Intramural program develops the future shooting stars of St. Mary's CYO teams. This year's young hoopsters were Julian McElroy, Oona Foxe, Benjamin Nicoletti, Lily Jude Pecoraro, Joseph Persteins, Alex Stewart, Peter Luderman, Patrick Clancy, Jared Smith, Donny Hostomsky, Isaiah Elsayled, Oscar Etzel, Jordyn Rivera, Tommy Forliano, Gabriella LaJoy, Cyrus Alston, Jesse Sparks, Marc LaMonico, Alex Persteins, Paul Goonan and Michael Masella.



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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

APRIL

Thurs., Fri., and Sat., April 5, 6 and 7, **Boy Scout Easter Flower Sale**, in front of Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

Sat., April 14, **Little League Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m. Ambrosini Field, City Island Avenue near Winters Street.

Thurs., April 19, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway.

Tues., April 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., April 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

MAY

Sat. and Sun., May 5 and 6: **Museum Open House**, 1 to 5 p.m. both days, City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat. May 5, **78th Anniversary of Temple Beth El Dinner**, Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, 7 p.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

Sunday, April 1, begins the holiest week of the church year as we prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord. We began on Palm Sunday with the blessing and distribution of palms at all the Masses.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., we will have the service of Tenebrae, consisting of psalms, readings and the chanting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah. The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy

Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday, we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The solemn commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 4 p.m. After a day of waiting and silence on Saturday, we will participate in the solemn Easter Vigil, which will take place at 8 p.m. that evening. Our joyful Alleluias will continue on Easter Sunday at all our Masses, 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Happy Easter to all!

Because of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, there will be no religious education classes on April 4 and 11.

Our monthly coffee hour will be held on Sunday, April 15, in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Our eighth-graders will practice for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday and Friday, April 26 and 27, from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. On Tuesday, May 1, we will welcome the Most Reverend Dominick Lagonegro, who will administer the sacrament to our young people.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

The Souper Bowl of caring was big success. The Sunday School collected \$115 and 96 nonperishable food items to benefit City Harvest. In addition to learning about hunger, the children have been learning about Jesus as he calls his disciples and begins his ministry.

Easter Sunday is April 8, and in addition to our 10 a.m. worship, there will be the annual Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. in Pelham Cemetery. In case of inclement weather (heavy rain or snow; hey, it could happen),

we will meet in Trinity's Fellowship Hall at 6:30 a.m.

The Budget Corner is grateful to the many friends who donate their gently used items and come by to shop. It has been so busy that it will now be open on occasional Fridays! The schedule is April 3, 14, 17 and 28. Remember, donations to and proceeds from the Budget Shop help Trinity to continue its programs and outreach on City Island.

Rick DeWitt

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Thrift Shop

St. Mary's thrift shop will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays in April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The all-new spring/summer collection will be ongoing. Gently used spring clothing, shoes, bags, linens, household appliances, CDs, tapes, records, books and bric-a-brac are all on display. Come by and check out the new items and enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee. Remember that donations are always greatly appreciated.

Arlene Byrne

Temple Beth-El

The 78th anniversary of the founding of Temple Beth-El of City Island will be celebrated on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The Gala Dinner-Dance will be held at Pelham Split Rock Golf Courses and will honor Rabbi Shohama, Violet Smith and Amy Breen of Seafood City. Save the date!

The synagogue, unaffiliated, all-inclusive and egalitarian, provides an exciting place for observance for Jewish families and individuals who come from many different communities and cultures. We are a spirited congregation that gathers together under the leadership of the stimulating and innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener.

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

Our community Passover seder will be conducted at the Temple on Saturday, April 7, the second night of Passover. As in the past, glatt kosher food will be served during our warm and congenial seder, conducted primarily in English and led by Reb David Markus. Please call Mike Eiron at 718-792-3709 for information, to volunteer, or to make reservations before Monday, April 1 (\$45 for adults; \$15 for children).

Other events for this busy month:

Sunday, April 8, 5 to 6:30 p.m.: "Age-ing to Sage-ing" workshop, learning how to reveal the sage within each of us. Third of four sessions, Led by Reb David. Free to members, \$10 non-members.

Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.: Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Shohama and Reb David.

Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.: Classical music concert; \$10 advanced tickets, \$15 at the door. Advanced sales may be made at Kaleidoscope Gallery (280 City Island Avenue) or with PayPal at our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. (Please specify that the donation is for concert tickets.)

Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.: Kabbalat Shabbat led by Reb David.

Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.: Yom Ha'Shoah, Remembering the Holocaust.

Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.: Kabbalat Shabbat led by congregants.

And from May 4 through 6, "Gems Of Holiness" weekend celebrating the Temple's 78th anniversary, Rabbi Shohama Wiener's 70th birthday and her 10th anniversary as our spiritual leader. \$180 per person for the entire weekend. \$75 per person for Dinner/Dance alone. For information about this



Photo by PAT LaPORTE

The Reverend St. Clair A. Samuel, photographed here at left with Pastor Yew, was the guest preacher at Trinity on March 18. He is the District Superintendent of the Metropolitan District of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. His inspiring message was "God So Loved the World" based upon the Gospel of John 3:16.

special weekend's activities, please contact Paul Klein at 718-885-3090 or visit our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Theater Group

After a very successful production of Alan Ball's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," the City Island Theater Group has moved right into production of David Auburn's "Proof." Nina Gabriele-Cuva is the director, and the cast includes Kevin Gordon, Elizabeth Paldino, Teliesin Rose and Denis Zepeda and opens Friday, April 27.

Once again, CITG is pleased to be featured in the storefront window at 282 City Island Avenue. Special thanks go to Cheryl Brinker and Steve Bussmeir for their wonderful support of the theater.

Looking to the fall, the board has selected George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner," a comedy in three parts, for its fall production, which will run three weekends in the beginning of November. After debuting in New York City in 1939, this play was adapted for radio both here and in London and was broadcast as a Hallmark Hall of Fame production, as well as a feature film, and it even served as the basis of a musical production in 1967. There have been multiple revivals of it on Broadway.

This play calls for a large cast, and once again City Island Theater Group is challenging itself to continue to bring quality theater to the Island.

Mary McIntyre

Boy Scout Troop 211

Each scouting year has special moments that make the year memorable. Since January we have had a few of those moments. In late January, Troop 211 scouts fielded two teams in the annual Klondike derby. Ten scouts pulled two wooden sleds miles to test their skills in camping, cooking, first aid, and other essential areas, ultimately placing fourth and winning the "West Meridian" trophy. This was Troop 211's second year in a row taking home a

trophy from the Klondike. After the Klondike, the scouts certainly earned the right for some fun watching the action unfold at their next two trips, Monster Jam (with the lobster monster truck from Maine) and Extreme Motocross (flipping quad-runners over towers of flames). The motocross trip was a Troop 211 Eagle Scout Reunion activity, and five Eagles enjoyed the action alongside current Troop 211 scouts.

All Eagle Scouts from Troop 211 should keep an eye on *The Island Current* for future Eagle reunion trips. Speaking of reunions, the troop is excited about the City Island Reunion this summer and is already planning on fun ways to document the best scout stories from former Troop 211 scouts whom we meet at the reunion.

Don't forget to help the troop make new memories by buying flowers at our annual Easter Flower sale (Bay Street and City Island Avenue) from April 5-7.

Waldo Persteins

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

April Movie Night: "A Bronx Tale," Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. \$2 per ticket. Concessions are available. For more information, please e-mail BxShanley@optonline.net or call 917-721-8747.

Uptown Coffeehouse: Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 at the door or you can pay on PayPal through our website: www.uptowncoffeehouse.org. Dates: March 11, April 1, May 6, June 3.

Martial Arts Double Feature presented by Dragon's Path Academy: \$5 with concession stand, 7:30 p.m. on April 17: "IP 3 (The Legend Continues)" and "Enter the Dragon" with Bruce Lee.

Multi-vendor Indoor Tag Sale: April 15 and May 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. E-mail cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com for a table.

Weekly Schedule

NEW DAY AND TIME

Fit For Life: A balanced cardio and strength training class for all experience levels. Classes offered Tuesday and Thursday 4 to 5 p.m. For any questions, please call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122. Classes are \$8.

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

ADULT PROGRAM

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

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

City Island Reflexology

David Cook
190 Fordham St
718-885-1494



Healing and Revitalizing
Your Body
Safely & Naturally

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Meets Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Geared for ages 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

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

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

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

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

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

Amy Gottlieb

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 12, at 8 p.m. We will have election of officers and discuss upcoming events.

The annual golf outing will be held on Friday, April 20, at the Pelham Split Rock course. There is lunch at noon and a tee off at 1 p.m. There will be a barbecue back at the Post after the outing. The price is \$150 all inclusive, or \$50 if one is attending the dinner back at the Post. It will cost \$100 to sponsor a hole.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

City Island Republicans

Redistricting is almost complete as required by law every 10 years after the census. It looks as if we will remain in the same districts for another 10 years. The lines are just a bit different.

Tuesday, April 24, is the Republican presidential primary. The contest is not over and your voice will count in who our presidential nominee will be. Please come out and vote. The candidates are Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. at P. S. 175.

Unlike some states, New York is a closed primary state and only registered Republicans are eligible to vote in the Republican primary that day. Anyone who needs an absentee ballot because they will be away or are too ill to go to the polls may call the Bronx Board of Elections at 718-299-9017 and ask for Shamene.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Holiday Services

Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday: The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Lambs babysitting available beginning at 9:50 in the Parish Hall.

Thursday, April 5: Maundy (Holy) Thursday: Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 6, Good Friday: Ecumenical Service with Trinity Methodist Church at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 8, Easter Sunday: Festival Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Lambs babysitting available beginning at 9:50 in the Parish Hall.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Friday, April 6: No Shabbat service. First night seder of Passover.

Saturday, April 7: Community Passover seder on the second night of Passover led by Reb David, 6:30 p.m. Call for reservations (718-792-3709).

Friday, April 13: Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Shohama and Reb David, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 20: Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Reb David, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 27: Kabbalat Shabbat service led by congregants Steve Gottlieb and Bob Berent, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 5: 78th anniversary of the founding of Temple Beth-El. Dinner celebration at the Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, 7 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Friday, April 6: Good Friday Ecumenical service with Grace Episcopal at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 24: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:30 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge

Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon. Blessing of Palms at all masses.

Thursday, April 5: Tenebrae, 8 a.m., Holy Thursday psalms and readings. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 6, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 4 p.m. Confessions, 5 to 6 p.m.

April 7, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 8, Easter Sunday: Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

Chapter 318 AARP

AARP Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall at 1 p.m. Meetings in April will take place on April 4 and 18. Plans are being made for day trips, speakers and other interesting activities. Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends. New members are always welcome.

AARP Chapter 318 is hosting a day trip to West Point Military Academy on Friday, May 4. All are welcome. You can obtain a detailed brochure at the next AARP meeting on April 4 at Trinity Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. The package price is \$90 and includes round-trip transportation by motor coach to the West Point Visitor's Center / Museum, a guided (driving) tour of the West Point Military Grounds, a complete buffet lunch at West Point's Hotel Thayer, and a two-hour boat cruise along the Hudson River. Note: a photo ID is required to enter the Military Academy. Full payment must be received by April 15. Checks should be made payable to AARP Chapter 318. Please call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707 to find out where to send your check. Bus departure will be at 9 a.m. in front of Trinity Church on May 4. We hope you'll join us.

Rosetta Woods

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion

Our next auxiliary meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. Our upcoming Cancer Bingo will be number one on the agenda. This bingo will be held on Thursday, May 17, with set up the night before. Please bring any prizes or donations with you to the meeting as they all have to be wrapped and numbered.

St. Patrick's Day was a good time, and we would like to thank the "men" for a job well done. Baseball season is fast approaching; stop by to watch an inning or two. (Let's go, Mets!) We meet again on Tuesday, May 1. Happy Spring, Easter and Passover to all.

Regina Murphy

PSS Senior Programs

Healthy Exercise Program: Spring is here and it is time. You can attend all classes for \$20 per month or all classes for \$6 per week. Or for individual classes you may contribute \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance. The schedule is as follows:

Zumba Gold with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the City Island Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Sit-tercise with Patty on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays, leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Fit for Life with Sarah on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall (note: class is canceled April 5 for Good Friday).

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

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

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

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

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

Call Patty at 718-885-1891 to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events like group theater discounts, such as "George M" at Westchester Dinner Theater on June 21. Are you interested in going to see the Yankees or Mets and to sit in good seats at great prices? Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer is suspended until further notice.

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

Sunday, April 1: Palm Sunday service at 10 a.m. Lambs babysitting is available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Thursday, April 5: Holy Thursday service, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 6: Good Friday service. Grace Church joins with Trinity United Methodist Church, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity, 113 Bay Street.

Sunday, April 8: Easter Sunday service at 10 a.m. Lambs babysitting is available, beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Monday, April 9: Hearts and Hands group meets at 7:30 p.m. in Grace Church Hall. All are welcome to join this knitting group, which creates caps, shawls and lap robes for patients at Calvary Hospital.

Scott Meyer



Directed by David Fincher

The cinematic world of director David Fincher is dark, grim and visually stunning. These grim films are not for gentle spirits but can be fascinating to film buffs who appreciate highly stylized sensationalism. Interestingly, Fincher began his film career making music videos with such artists as Madonna, Billy Idol, Paula Abdul, Aerosmith, the Rolling Stones, Roy Orbison, Nine Inch Nails, Rick Springfield and Michael Jackson.

He moved on to feature films by directing **Alien 3** in 1992. The third in this sci-fi series finds Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) in a spacecraft fleeing from an alien planet, when her ship crash lands on a barren penal-colony planet inhabited by rapists and murders. When Warden Andrews (Brian Glover) announces Ripley's presence to the inmates, their spiritual leader, Dillon (Charles S. Dutton), fears that her presence will stir up trouble. She is placed in the care of prison doctor Clemens (Charles Dance) as she waits for a rescue ship to arrive. But it seems that Ripley isn't the only new visitor to this desolate world.

Seven (1995) is a stylish thriller and was a huge box office success. Set in a hellish vision of a New York-like city, it is the story of Detective William Somerset (Morgan Freeman), a homicide specialist who is scheduled to retire in one week. For his last case he is teamed with young hotshot David Mills (Brad Pitt), who has talked his reluctant wife, Tracy (Gwyneth Paltrow), into moving to the big city. A diabolical serial killer is staging grisly murders, choosing victims representing the seven deadly sins. Fincher pays special attention in creation of the opening credits which are completely original and telegraph the mood of the movie.

The Game (1997) is another in Fincher's stylized film noir genre, and this time he has stepped up the pace. The film tells the story of Nicholas Van Orton (Michael Douglas), a jaded San Francisco investment banker. On Nicholas's 48th birthday, his younger, free-spirited brother Conrad (Sean Penn) comes to town and gives Nicholas a special gift for "the man who has everything"—a ticket to CRS (Consumer Recreation Services), a company that constructs games custom-fit for each participant, to provide, as CRS salesman Jim Feingold (James Rebhorn) enigmatically explains, "whatever is lacking." When Nicholas's life goes to hell, he begins to wonder if the game is in fact an attempt to steal his fortune and take his life.

The most original and bloody of Fincher's efforts is the disturbing and stunningly effective **The Fight Club** (1999). The story is told by the mild-mannered narrator (Edward Norton), who is bored to death by a dull white-collar job and an empty fondness for material things. He comes under the spell of the charismatic Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt), who teaches him how to fight in a parking lot. From there the violence escalates into an underground secret society of testosterone-fueled anarchists, with a totally unexpected plot twist. It's the sort of film I had avoided for years, but it fascinates as it repulses, an effect that could only be achieved by someone with Fincher's talent.

A rather bloodless thriller is **Panic Room** (2002), which stars Jodie Foster as the newly divorced Meg Altman, who

moves into an enormous Upper West Side brownstone with her daughter, Sarah (Kristin Stewart). The house is equipped with a high-tech, fortified hiding place—a panic room—just in case something bad should happen, and of course it does, on their very first night in the house, when three bad guys Burnham (Forest Whitaker), Raoul (Dwight Yoakam) and Junior (Jared Leto) arrive in search of hidden treasure.

Zodiac (2007) stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Robert Graysmith, a San Francisco cartoonist who becomes an amateur detective obsessed with tracking down the Zodiac killer. Robert Downey Jr. co-stars as Paul Avery, a showboating newspaper reporter, and Mark Ruffalo plays San Francisco police detective Dave Toschi. Chloë Sevigny is Melanie, Graysmith's wife and mother of his three children, who loses him to his obsession with solving the case. Fincher frontloads the film with violence in this chilling drama based on actual events of the 1960s and 1970s. Then the intricate story structure focuses on the lives and careers of the detectives and newspaper people involved in the case.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) stars Brad Pitt (his third film with Fincher) in the title role as a person who is 70 years old at birth and grows younger throughout his life. It juxtaposes and recounts his relationship with Daisy (Cate Blanchett), a bohemian dancer who ages in the normal way. This film is a notable departure from previous cinematic endeavors, both in subject matter and mood. He also has added a dimension of elegance to digital filmmaking. The film received 13 Academy Award nominations, including Best Actor for Pitt, Best Director for Fincher and Best Picture.

Another cinematic departure for Fincher is **The Social Network** (2010), also a best picture, actor and director nominee. It is the story of Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), the world's youngest billionaire.

There is irony in his creation of Facebook, the most widespread social network on the planet, because he is a man with excruciating, pathologically poor people skills. While at Harvard, he and his best friend, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), begin the project. Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake), developer of Napster, convinces him to move to California to ensure success. The film begins with a significant conversation between Zuckerberg and his girlfriend, Erica Albright (Rooney Mara), but much of the story is told retrospectively through the viewpoint of two major lawsuits against Zuckerberg—one by Saverin and another by Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (twins played by Armie Hammer). Pacing is the outstanding virtue of the film supported by its Oscar-winning script by Aaron Sorkin (TV's *The West Wing*), and a superb musical score by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross. Seeing it on DVD with the subtitles on is a tremendous help in catching all nuances of dialogue.

Fincher returns to his brooding harsh cinematic style with **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (2011), based on the first

in the *Millennium Trilogy* of best-selling books by Stieg Larsson and a remake of the Swedish version of the film. It is the story of disgraced journalist, Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), who is hired by a wealthy industrialist, Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer), to investigate the disappearance of his niece some 40 years earlier. Blomkvist is aided by the pierced, tattooed, punk-extraordinary computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (Oscar-nominated Rooney Mara). Despite her appearance, Salander's appeal arises from a combination of vulnerability and ruthless competence. She can hack any machine, crack any code and, when necessary, retaliate violently, but she is also a lost and abused child. As they work together on the investigation, Blomkvist and Salander uncover immense corruption beyond anything they have ever imagined. The opening credits are visually stunning, as is the cinematography of the entire bleak film. However, there are some brutal scenes that effectively evoke the book but would certainly be difficult for some viewers.

And until next time, happy (and discerning) viewing. . .

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he is risen!

Tell it out with joyful voice:
He has burst His three days prison;
let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered,
man is free,
Christ has won the victory.”

Celebrate the victory of Christ with the people of Grace this Holy Week and Easter...
All are welcome, always!

~Hymnal 1982

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 1st:
The Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 AM
(with child care)

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 5th:
Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 6th:
Ecumenical Service at Trinity Methodist Church, 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 8th:
Festival Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM
(with child care)

Grace Episcopal Church
 116 City Island Avenue (at Pilot Street)
 718.885.1080
www.gracecityisland.org

SCHOOL NEWS
2+2=4
By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

There was a lot going on at P.S. 175 in March. Students in all grades worked diligently on their Science Fair Projects, which were displayed during parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 13. Lower-grade students worked on group projects and upper-grade students worked on their projects individually and in pairs. The students did a beautiful job preparing their displays, and it was evident that a lot of hard work went into the presentations and that much learning had taken place.

Our students also attended some exciting trips. Kindergarten went to Queens College for a performance of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." Seventh-grade students went on a class trip to Philadelphia, where they enjoyed a guided tour of many of the historical sites and visited the Frank-

lin Institute Science Museum where they explored the wonders of science through many hands-on exhibits. As part of our Rewarding Positive Behavior Program, sixth- to eighth-grade students who had exemplary behavior attended a trip to the movies to see "The Lorax."

Rehearsals continue for the fifth-grade performance of "Dear Edwina." From the sound of things, this promises to be another huge P.S. 175 hit.

Kindergarten through third-grade students finished their flamenco music unit of study with a fabulous performance of "La Musica Flamenca." Students were able to experience all the musical instruments and dance elements they learned through this unit of study. As always, we are grateful to our PTA for subsidizing the Lincoln Center Institute so that it continues to be part of the P.S. 175 arts and aesthetics education program.

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

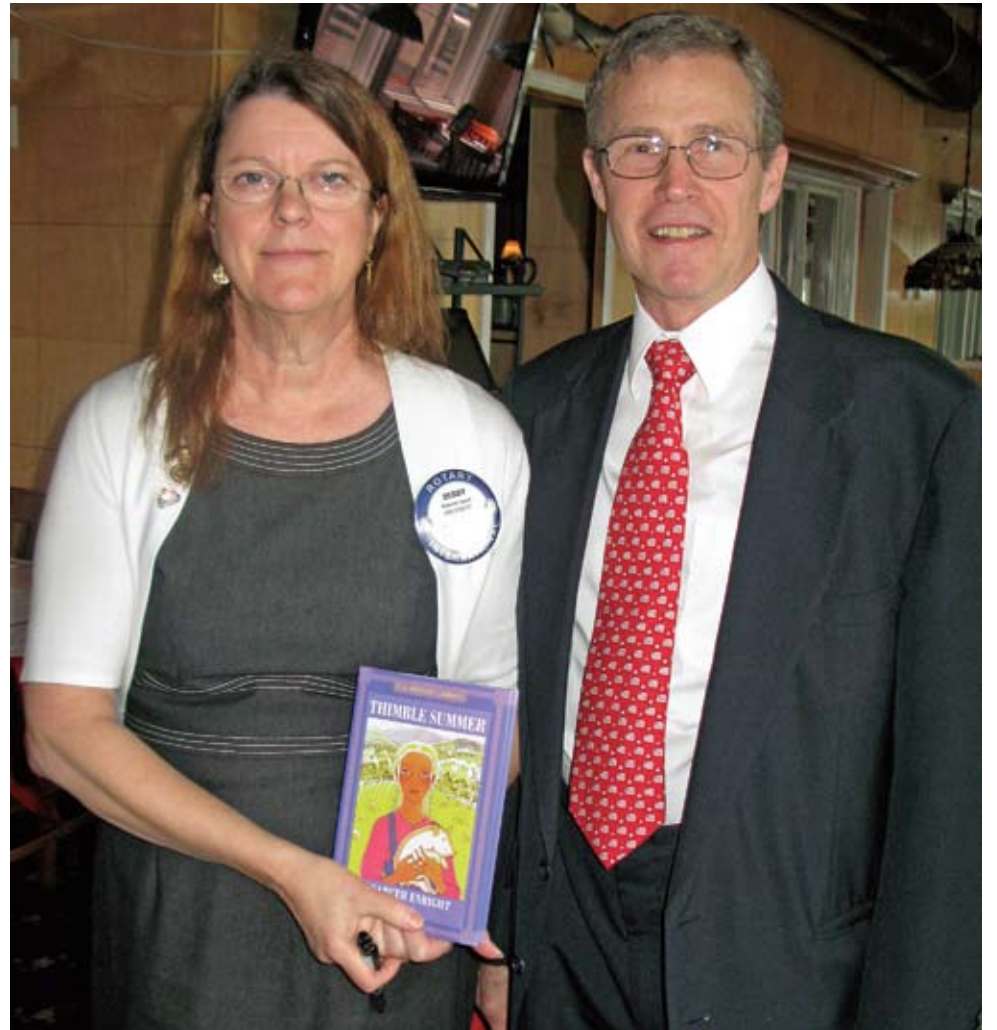


Photo by JIM ROMEO

Island magician David Fletcher entertained at the March 20, 2012, meeting of the Bronx Rotary Club at Sammy's Shrimp Box. He is pictured with Club President Debby Appel. The Bronx Rotary Club has instituted a new initiative this year by donating books to the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School library each week in honor of the guest speaker. Mr. Fletcher signed the bookplate in the front of this week's book, "Thimble Summer." The Club hopes to start a similar program with P.S. 175 to help stock their new library.

ing experiences and opportunities for our students. Many thanks also go to the businesses in our community that supported the party.

The eighth-grade graduation committee has been busy planning for all the end-of-year events that will take place in June. Parent meetings are being held in preparation for graduation and senior activities. We look forward to seeing all of the eighth-grade parents at these meetings.

Please keep in mind these important dates:

- Kindergarten registration is on-going. Families with children turning 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2012, should come in to fill out registration paperwork.
- Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 22, at 9:30 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening, from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 20, at 6 p.m.
- The Kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 21, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a family celebration, complete with a DJ and Sunny the Clown.

Finally, the P.S. 175 community mourns the loss of our long-time teacher Andrea Horowitz. She was a committed and dedicated professional who loved teaching and wanted to make a difference in the lives of her students. Based on the phone calls and e-mails we have received since her passing, she more than achieved this goal. She will be greatly missed by all in the P.S. 175 community.

March Citizens-of-the-Month are Yzabella Padagas and Michael Masella (kindergarten); Oscar Etzel and Jessica Desgroseilliers (first grade); Amanda Acocella and Benjamin Nicoletti (second grade); Robert Samboy and Gabriella Carozza (third grade); Brandon McGaughan and Jonathan Mazzella (fourth grade); Leena Peloso and Joseph Leni (fifth grade); Carlo Fine and Juliana Durante (sixth grade); Jonieri Cruz and Mario Castillo (seventh grade); Nora Kuka and Kathleen Kramer (eighth grade).

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School

Grades Pre-K through third will participate in an Easter Egg Hunt on Monday, April 2. Grade 1 will perform a Passion

Play on Tuesday, April 3, at 1 p.m. in the school gym, and all are welcome to attend. Wednesday, April 4, ends the third marking period, and Easter recess begins that day at 1 p.m., resuming on Monday, April 16.

On April 16 and 17, grades 4, 6 and 8 will take the mandatory New York State ELA test, and April 17 is the Confirmation Retreat. The school will be closed on the 18th for Religious Conference Day. Report cards will be distributed at the parent-teacher conferences on April 19.

Game Night, sponsored by the Home School Association, will take place on Friday night, April 20. On April 23 and 24 grades 4, 6 and 8 will take the mandatory New York State Math test. On April 20, grades 1, 2 and 3 will celebrate Earth Day with Oscar by going to see the Disney nature movie "Chimpanzee." We will wish a happy Administrative Assistant's Day on April 25 to Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Kurtz! On April 30, grades 2 and 3 will take a trip to the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk.

February 2012 Students of the Month are: Pre-K: Kailee Burnett and Michael Vega; kindergarten: Jayla Harrison, Ciara Medina and Devine White-Foster; first grade: Emily Badillo and Zoe Hall; third grade: Mykaila Donovan; fourth grade: Lucas Torres and John Wilson; fifth grade: China Tatum; sixth grade: Thalia Colon and Deion Rodriguez; seventh grade: Christine Rice; eighth grade: Ryan Mendez.

Congratulations to the winners of the school's Science Fair: Maya Hackworth (first grade), Leah Mastin (second grade), Jaylen Lopez (third grade), Julitza Rendon (fourth grade), Arielle Clarke (fifth grade), Alexa Herrera-Murphy (sixth grade); Nicholas Moore (seventh grade), and Graham Herrera-Murphy and Jabari Weste (eighth grade); these students will now take part in the Mount St. Michael Bronx Science Fair.

Congratulations to Graham Herrera-Murphy who took fifth place (after two tournament tie-breakers) at the Museum of Mathematics Tournament held at Fordham University. Jared Candelaria, Ryan Mendez, Jahquell Terry and Jabari Weste also represented St. Mary's in the Tournament. Congratulations to St. Mary's Girls' Varsity Basketball Team for their undefeated season, finishing 21-0, and conquering the Bronx County Championship.

A happy and blessed Easter to all!

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Bartow-Pell Events

Spring has sprung at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, which will jump-start the Easter season with its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is one day when it's okay to put all your eggs in one basket! Children from 2 to 12 years old will hunt for eggs in the formal garden, tap their talent at arts and crafts tables and have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Crafts include making tissue paper flowers, painting wooden eggs, paper bag decorating, and face painting. Nine hunts for three different age groups will run every 15 minutes from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. There will be egg spoon races and an egg toss on the field outside the back gate of the formal garden. Guests should bring their own baskets. Light refreshments will be offered. The cost is \$12 for children 2-12; members \$10. Rain date is Sunday, April 1, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Hundreds of people usually attend the Easter Egg Hunt so registration is strongly advised. Parking, which is free, will be at the Pelham Bay and Split Rock golf courses across from Bartow-Pell on Shore Road.

From April 1 to July 1, the museum will have on exhibit "The Art of the Garden Tool: Dibbles and Daisy Grubbers," which celebrates the garden tool with selections from the extensive collection of landscape architect Mark K. Morrison. Beautifully crafted and exceptionally useful, these objects provide a fascinating glimpse into the art of gardening as it has been practiced in Europe and America since the 17th century. Specialized tools such as clod crushers, cucumber straighteners and wasp catchers are displayed alongside more familiar objects such as dibbles and watering cans, each handmade in practical yet elegant forms.

At our first First Friday of 2012, on April 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., view our new exhibition, enjoy the contemporary

folk sound of Hawthorne, explore the mansion and savor light refreshments. Then hop on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley for a ride to City Island. The trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. The cost is \$8 for adults; \$5 seniors and students; *members free.*

On Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., landscape architect and antique garden tool collector Mark Morrison will present a lecture "The History and Evolution of Garden Tools." Registration requested. Free.

Yoga in the Orangerie will take place on Wednesdays, April 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6, from 8:30-9:45 a.m. The benefits of yoga are well known: de-stress, get strong and flexible, and have fun! This beginner level class is also suitable for those who want to deepen their practice in a steady, mindful approach. Taught by certified Anusara® yoga teacher Ann Casapini in a serene, sunlit space. Class size limited to 12. Registration and pre-payment required. Cost \$136 for series; members \$120.

On Saturday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. will be New York Cares Day Volunteer Garden Clean-Up. Help make the grounds of BPMM beautiful! Light refreshments available. Wear long sleeves, pants, and sturdy footwear. Registration requested. Free.

And on Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be another Volunteer Garden Clean-Up, this one sponsored by Con Edison. Light refreshments available. Wear long sleeves and pants, sturdy footwear, and bring work gloves if you have them. Registration requested. Free.

Another lecture related to the garden tools exhibition will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 4:30 p.m., when New York Botanical Garden instructor Florence Boogaerts will present a fascinating look at "Gardens of the World." Registration requested. Free.

To register for these events, call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org. For directions and to learn more about the

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, visit www.bpmm.org.



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

APRIL 2012									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0029	1.32	0637	7.08	1311	1.03	1921	6.99	Sun 01
02 Mon	0137	1.07	0741	7.21	1418	0.74	2022	7.36	Mon 02
03 Tue	0248	0.61	0845	7.45	1520	0.32	2118	7.81	Tue 03
04 Wed	0354	0.04	0943	7.73	1614	-0.12	2208	8.26	Wed 04
05 Thu	0451	-0.52	1037	7.97	1703	-0.49	2257	8.64	Thu 05
06 Fri	0543	-0.97	1128	8.13	1751	-0.74	2345	8.88	Fri 06
07 Sat	0634	-1.24	1218	8.16	1839	-0.81			Sat 07
08 Sun	0033	8.94	0726	-1.27	1309	8.04	1928	-0.69	Sun 08
09 Mon	0123	8.81	0822	-1.09	1403	7.80	2021	-0.38	Mon 09
10 Tue	0216	8.50	0923	-0.75	1503	7.48	2123	0.04	Tue 10
11 Wed	0316	8.06	1031	-0.34	1617	7.17	2241	0.45	Wed 11
12 Thu	0434	7.60	1141	0.01	1740	7.03			Thu 12
13 Fri	0002	0.69	0608	7.33	1249	0.21	1853	7.10	Fri 13
14 Sat	0114	0.69	0722	7.30	1352	0.27	1956	7.32	Sat 14
15 Sun	0219	0.50	0825	7.4	1450	0.22	2053	7.59	Sun 15
16 Mon	0316	0.23	0921	7.54	1542	0.14	2143	7.84	Mon 16
17 Tue	0409	-0.04	1011	7.64	1630	0.09	2231	8.02	Tue 17
18 Wed	0456	-0.24	1057	7.68	1714	0.10	2314	8.10	Wed 18
19 Thu	0540	-0.32	1139	7.64	1753	0.18	2353	8.08	Thu 19
20 Fri	0620	-0.29	1219	7.53	1828	0.34			Fri 20
21 Sat	0028	7.98	0656	-0.16	1254	7.39	1854	0.53	Sat 21
22 Sun	0054	7.84	0726	0.04	1323	7.23	1901	0.67	Sun 22
23 Mon	0105	7.75	0742	0.23	1338	7.12	1918	0.73	Mon 23
24 Tue	0124	7.74	0754	0.36	1357	7.09	1951	0.80	Tue 24
25 Wed	0156	7.74	0825	0.46	1429	7.10	2031	0.91	Wed 25
26 Thu	0235	7.70	0904	0.59	1509	7.12	2116	1.03	Thu 26
27 Fri	0319	7.62	0948	0.71	1555	7.14	2206	1.14	Fri 27
28 Sat	0408	7.50	1038	0.81	1646	7.19	2300	1.17	Sat 28
29 Sun	0503	7.37	1132	0.84	1742	7.30			Sun 29
30 Mon	0000	1.09	0602	7.28	1230	0.77	1841	7.50	Mon 30
MAY 2012									
01 Tue	0105	0.85	0706	7.29	1331	0.58	1941	7.80	Tue 01



THE WINTER THAT WASN'T

When we heard that the Farmers' Almanac had also predicted the winter we just had, the one that wasn't, in other words, we set out to find out how. We wanted to compare their methods to our own. (Regular readers will recall that ours involved the purchase of an expensive new snow blower.)

Alas, it was not to be. At the Farmers' Almanac they prefer playing it close to the vest. For example, Caleb Weatherbee is the pseudonym for the Almanac's forecaster. His (or her) true identity is a long-standing secret. And what the editors do choose to share regarding methodology is at best vague and cryptic: it is, they say, a "top secret mathematical and astronomical formula that relies on sunspot activity, tidal action, planetary position and many other factors." At worst, it is meaningless.

Still, old Caleb did nail the winter that wasn't, and, as his (or her) guess is as good as ours, this summer, he says, is expected to be warmer than usual. No surprise there,

though, and we could have told you that, besides. After all, we didn't get the air-conditioner fixed when we had the chance.

The "planetary motion" of Jupiter and Venus was a sight to see last month. Their conjunction, or coming together, began with Jupiter on top of Venus. Then, in the middle of the month, they flipped. Venus, the brighter and closer of the two planets, was on top of Jupiter. Of course, Jupiter is many times larger than Venus. Because of its distance from Earth—much greater compared to that of Venus—it seemed the smaller of the two planets. Watch for these two conjoining planets in the western sky again in late May of 2013.

While winters-that-aren't may be something that a lot of us can get used to around here, Carl says not so fast. Because of the above average temperatures, a lot of the insects that would have died off will be back again in spring and summer. And this time, we understand, they mean Bzzzzzzness!

As always, we welcome your feedback and invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com.

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UPTOWN HOSTS RADIO STAR



Photos by RICK DEWITT

On Sunday, March 4, 2012, at the Uptown Coffeehouse in the City Island Community Center, Pete Fornatale (pictured below) of WFUV / PBS chronicled the history of Simon and Garfunkel, drawing on his more than 40 years of experience as a DJ and an author in New York. After Pete's presentation, Elliott Glick of the Starving Artist Café and friends performed Simon and Garfunkel songs. Enjoying the evening were (l. to r. above) Lucille Rivin, John Scardina, Mike "Harps" DiMaggio, Lynn Stein, Elliott Glick, Curtis Becraft and Norma Kerner. The Uptown Coffeehouse is held at the City Island Community Center on the first Sunday of every month at 6 p.m.



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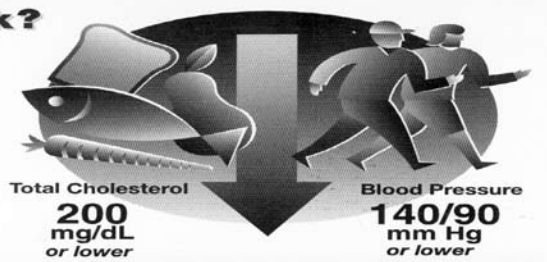
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PHOTO RESTORATION: Take old photographs and have them restored like new. Copies made from negatives or prints. Framing available as well. Call Ron 718-885-1403.

PASSPORT PHOTOS taken at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. Call Ron at 718-885-1403.

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Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 and their families paid tribute to the 9/11 memorial at Ground Zero on March 10, 2012.



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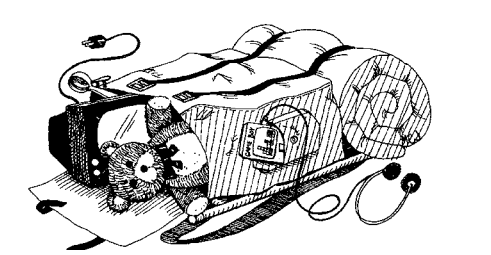
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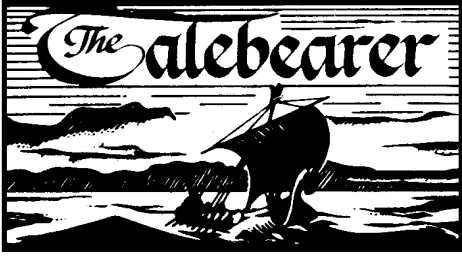
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Double congratulations to Hannah Glick, who was "Citizen of the Month" in her eighth-grade class at P.S. 175 for February and who was accepted, after an audition, to the Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts at Town Hall in New York City, where she will begin studies this September. Mom and Dad—and everyone in the family—are so proud of our angel! Love you!

Birthday greetings on April 4 across the miles to former Islander Ruth Cronk.

Happy birthday on April 4 to my Daddy, Frank "the Tank" Ramftl, with hugs and kisses from Gianna Marie.

Birthday greetings to Frank Ramftl, with love from Grandma, Dad, Mom and Fred.

Happy birthday on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Birthday wishes to the Talebearer's Maria Swieciki and to Chase Bank's Brenda Winston, who share the same day, April 25.

Happy birthday to Pell Place's Eileen Scott, who will celebrate her big day on April 19.

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

Congratulations and keep up the good work to St. Mary, Star of the Sea's Basketball Program on another winning season. All the CYO teams posted winning records, thanks to the tireless efforts of coordinator Anna Whelan, players, coaches and parent volunteers. The Girl's Varsity came in first in the "A" Division Bronx Championship and the Boy's JV played for the Championship "B" Division and came in second. You have made City Island proud!

Happy April 14 birthday greetings to Mari Doyle, with love from your family.

Happy 18th birthday wishes to Kevin Whelan and to his sister Briana Whelan, who turns 15, with love from Mom, Dad and Christine.

Birthday congratulations go out to Jack Strnad, who turns 17 on April 28.

Happy birthday to Marine Street's David Butterworth, who turns 19 on April 30.

Happy May 1 birthday wishes to Diane Duryea, with best regards from your friends at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

And a very happy Green Thumb Award to Horton Street resident Virginia Ferrara, whose camellias bloomed not only throughout last spring and summer but also throughout this past winter.

Maria Swieciki



The St. Mary's Girls Varsity team hoisted their Bronx CYO championship trophy at a celebration at Portofino Restaurant on City Island.



Virginia Ferrara proudly shows off her thriving camellia bush.

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