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One Dollar

DOLPHIN RESCUE, CITY ISLAND STYLE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT

A public outcry over the proposed removal of the dolphin sculpture in Hawkins Park began on April 27, 2009, and the Parks Department finally agreed to keep the dolphin where it has been since 1972. A huge banner was put on the fence (photo, right) and petitions were signed to keep the dolphin in place.

In April 2009, the Parks Department began its planned renovation of Hawkins Street Park in accordance with plans approved in the fall of 2008 by Community Board 10, the Garden Club of City Island and the City Island Civic Association. However, one small detail—the removal of the dolphin sculpture to another location on City Island—became a very big deal when observers saw the Parks Department employees getting the sculpture ready to be moved. Cries of protest could be heard reverberating throughout the Island, as banners and posters went up on the park fence and letters were written by schoolchildren asking that the dolphin remain in the park.

The park was originally dedicated to the memory of Leonard Hawkins and other Island residents who had served in World War I, and the Parks Department planned to move the memorial closer to the front of the park and to add new plantings. Because children frequently climb on the dolphin, Parks offi-

cial determined that it would require a 120-square-foot area of rubber padding, which could not have been easily accommodated in the new plan.

In 1972, when the dolphin was placed in the park by Island residents who raised money with bake sales and other sources of funding, there was no children's playground on City Island, and Hawkins Park became an attractive spot for families with young children, who learned to love climbing on the dolphin and seal sculptures. Because the Parks Department subsequently constructed a new playground in Ambrosini Field near P.S. 175, the Garden Club felt that this would be a more appropriate place for the dolphin.

Although a few people objected to the dolphin's removal at the Civic Association's meeting in November 2008, the organization voted 21 to 6 to support the Parks Department's plan if the dolphin could be moved to the playground. Little did anyone suspect that the public outcry would become loud enough



to become a media event beginning April 27, 2009.

Passersby noticed that the dolphin was being removed from its usual spot by Parks Department employees, who gave them the impression that it was being destroyed rather than simply moved, and before the day was out, a huge banner was put on the fence and petitions were being signed to keep the dolphin in place. Students at P.S. 175 expressed their love for the sculpture and their belief in its value as a symbol of City Island, writing hundreds of letters to the powers-that-be (see Box 6, page 4).

Residents telephoned elected officials, including Council Member James Vacca, who asked the Civic Association to bring the issue up again at its April meeting. He assured residents that the Bronx Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte would abide by the "wishes of the community." Although only a handful of nonmembers came to address the issue at the meeting, they brought with them petitions and letters expressing the protests of hundreds of Island residents. In an unofficial vote, those present at the meeting agreed that the dolphin should stay in Hawkins Park.

Some residents argued that although children enjoy climbing on the dolphin, it is in fact a sculpture and deserves to be treated as such. It was pointed out that the Alice in Wonderland sculpture in Central Park is a popular climbing spot for children and has no safety padding beneath it. No one at the meeting could recall a single injury in the past 37 years involving a fall from the dolphin.

Skip Giacco, owner of Lickety Split, the

ice cream parlor next to Hawkins Park, expressed in no uncertain terms his great dismay that the dolphin might be moved. He said that his customers, adults and children alike, often used the park and that one of the park's most popular attractions was the dolphin sculpture.

Bill Stanton, president of the Civic Association, was pleased with the outcome, although he and other Civic members expressed some regret that the loss of Ladder Company 53 and the Island's drug problems had not aroused the same kind of emotional fervor and activism in Island residents.

After the Civic meeting, Jimmy Vacca reported to the Civic officers that the Parks Department had agreed to let the dolphin stay in the park, perhaps in a slightly different location. Although the Garden Club had hoped that the park would be completed by Memorial Day, work has been delayed by the need to revise the new design, as well as by a letter sent to the Parks Department by descendants of the Arnow family claiming that a family graveyard was located in the park. Since the park was originally the site of a school and subsequently a police station, it is unlikely that a graveyard would have been located there, or if it had been, that any of it would have survived.

The day after the news of the dolphin rescue reached the Island, a huge "Thank You" sign was placed on the gate, and Michael Shanley, one of the protest leaders, sent a gracious note to the Civic Association and the Garden Club thanking them for helping to keep the sculpture in Hawkins Park.

Council Speaker Quinn Listens To City Island Speak Up

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On May 11, 2009, Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council, met with Island residents to discuss the various issues and problems facing City Island, specifically the proposed loss of Ladder Company 53 from the fire house and excessive traffic and noise.

Christine Quinn, Speaker of the New York City Council, graciously responded to an invitation from the City Island Civic Association by agreeing to meet with several Island residents, along with Council Member James Vacca, on Monday, May 11, at the City Island Nautical Museum, in order to learn about the various issues facing the community.

More than 35 Islanders, including representatives of the Civic Association, Community Center, Garden Club, American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Community Board 10 and other groups, were pleased to meet with Ms. Quinn, who expressed strong support for her colleague Mr. Vacca and for City Island's protest of the budget cuts affecting the local fire house.

Speaker Quinn described the budget process and said that the ladder company closure is on the short list of those the Council will object to during budget negotiations.

The Fire Department has plans to close many other fire companies throughout the city. Mr. Vacca pointed out that our low incidence of fires rather than our unique location was probably the cause of the closure, but the Island's isolation has to be taken into account. The city's budget must be passed by July 1, so this will be a major subject in the budget negotiations. The stimulus package money will start to be allotted in the near future and may ease current budget constraints, but there are no guarantees.

She advised the group that the City Island community must remain involved and vocal and attend the City Hall hearings wearing City Island t-shirts and carrying signs in order to let city officials know that we care about this problem. It is critical that the neighboring communities understand that their involvement is also crucial, because their primary services could be adversely af-

Continued on page 5

BRIEFLY...

THE ISLAND BY ISLANDERS: The City Island Nautical Museum will host an exhibit of artworks featuring City Island by Islanders. Each artist may submit up to two works of art. There are no entry fees and all media and styles are welcome, but every piece should reference City Island in some way. Space is limited, so it will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Artists should expect to leave their work in the museum for three months. Deadline for submission is June 23. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, June 28, 2009. Please call Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at 718-885-0933 to submit work for the exhibit.

MINNEFORD MARINA CITY ISLAND COMMUNITY FAIR will be held at 150 City Island Avenue on the weekend of June 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This beautiful and historic site will become a meeting place for City Island-based restaurants, yacht clubs, services and virtually anyone here who wants to join in on the fun! The event has been arranged with the cooperation of the City Island Chamber of Commerce. Along with complimentary food and drinks, there will also be free boat rides, music and games. The event is designed to spotlight City Island's unique character and community. Come join the fun, rain or shine!

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: In honor of the 65th anniversary of D-Day, Grace Episcopal Church will pay tribute to all the brave men and women who served our country in all foreign conflicts by offering musical/comedy entertainment in the form of a 1940s USO canteen. Come join the celebration on Saturday, June 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. and enjoy great music and dancing, donuts and coffee and "Who's on First?" Costumes and uniforms are optional but encouraged! Tickets are \$10 per person and include all refreshments. Seating is limited, so reserve your ticket soon by e-mailing your information to gracecityisland@yahoo.com or make your reservation by calling 347-327-3590.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET, sponsored by the City Island Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post #156 will take place on Sunday, June 28, 2009, at 1 p.m. Multi-denominational clergy will bless vessels from the Fenton Marine Dock located in City Island Harbor. Boats are to assemble at the Hart Island Ferry Dock in the harbor at 12:30 p.m. Communication on LVHF Channel 71 will begin at 12:30 p.m.

ANNUAL FIREWORKS "THE BRONX SALUTES AMERICA," sponsored by State Senator Jeff Klein, will take place at Orchard Beach on Wednesday, July 1 (rain date July 2), at 9 p.m.

ALCOHOL TOXICITY TALK will be offered at Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, on Sunday, June 14, at 5 p.m. Toni Kavanagh, a nursing professional and mother of three teens, will offer an important presentation on the dangers of underage drinking. Topics include common myths about alcohol and empowering teens to say "no." The dangers of alcohol will be underscored, with special emphasis on identifying friends who exhibit signs of alcohol toxicity. The steps for safe intervention are discussed and "first response" measures are stressed. All young people in grades 7 and up are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. Pizza will be served!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS to be part of the 27th Spring Art Exhibition Extravaganza at Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. If you are an artist 18 years or older, bring your artwork to Focal Point Gallery as soon as possible. An assortment of 132 pieces from 120 artists left onlookers in awe during the overwhelmingly successful winter exhibition. Call 718-885-1403 to set an appointment before you stop by the gallery. The deadline is May 31, and there is a \$20 hanging fee per piece. The gallery will only accept work (artist's choice) ready to hang and reasonable in size and cannot be responsible for shipping work back to the artist. The gallery will take 30 percent of the sale price; work can be NFS. The opening reception for the artists will be on Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m. All art has to be picked up by the artist at the end of the exhibition on July 31. For further information, call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403.

WARRIOR/HIGHLANDER SPORTS CLINICS. Boys and girls ages 7 to 16 are invited to attend a one-week sports camp at the Maritime College and the Pelham Bay Little League. The camp starts Monday, June 29, and runs to Friday, July 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Football instruction will be provided by Jerry Demers and the Warrior coaches, as well as by head coach of the Maritime Privateers, Clayton Kendrick Holmes, and his staff. Baseball and girls' softball instruction will be in the hands of Joe Cisco, director of the Bronx Highlander Academy. The program will hold a sports challenge for participants and trips to the Rockland pool, Lake Compounce Water and Amusement Park, and the Maritime College field and pool. The cost is \$45 per day or \$180 for the week. For additional program and registration information, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574.

ART AND SPORTS/MUSIC MEMORABILIA AUCTION will be held at the City Island Yacht Club on Saturday, July 18, with the preview from 7 to 8 p.m. and the auction at 8. Admission is \$10 per person and \$15 per couple and includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese tasting, coffee and cake, with a cash bar. Tickets are limited and will be by advance sale; call the yacht club at 718-885-2487. There will be more details in the July issue of *The Current*.

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P.O. Box 6
City Island, N.Y. 10464



EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268
www.theislandcurrent.com

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STAFF: Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Danegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg, Paula Huffell and Teresa Teto.

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PELHAM BAY PARK SUMMER ACTIVITIES include a fitness program near the pavilion at Orchard Beach (OB Fit) on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12 noon with different activities for different levels of fitness. "Storytelling in the Shade" is an interactive program for children, cosponsored by the New York Public Library, which will be held on the beach (under a tent) on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. And June 6 is National Trails Day, when volunteers are welcome to help rid the park of invasive vines. For information on all these programs, call 718-430-1890.

BARTOW-PELL MUSEUM EVENTS: Hop a free ride on the Bronx Trolley on Friday, June 5, and enjoy live music by the MetropoliTones at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. And on Saturday, June 20, from noon to 2:30 p.m., "Take Me Out to the Ball Game: 1864." Bring a picnic lunch and celebrate Father's Day weekend watching an old-time baseball game played by 1864 rules. Then everyone gets to join in the fun with a game of rounders. Enter the raffle to win a signed, vintage baseball. Free popcorn and house tours. \$15/adults, \$5/children 6-17, children under 6 free. Members: \$10 adults, \$3/children 6-17. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

ISLANDER ARRESTED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Visitors and residents alike were surprised to see a good deal of police activity at the corner of Fordham Street and City Island Avenue in the evening of Friday, May 15, when a young man, Island resident Frank Beqiraj, 19, was taken into custody in a police ambulance after a struggle, during which one of the police officers was injured.

The episode started at about 7:30 p.m. when police officers, one in plain clothes, noticed a man giving money to Mr. Beqiraj in exchange for a small object. Suspecting a drug deal, the officers approached him and saw what appeared to be a gun in his waistband. He started to run away, and the police officers followed him as he raced into a nearby driveway on Bay Street and disappeared.

The officers canvassed the area, and when a bystander told them that a neighbor on Fordham Street had seen Mr. Beqiraj climb over his backyard fence and enter a shed on his property, they went to the site and found the suspect hiding inside the shed.

In an effort to resist arrest, according to the police report, the suspect hit Police Officer Carlos Martinez of the 45th Precinct several times with a closed fist and continued to struggle until he was finally subdued by the officers and placed in handcuffs. Office Martinez suffered a sprained wrist and was treated at Jacobi Hospital for the injury.

Onlookers told *The Current* that Mr. Beqiraj had just been released from jail after an arrest earlier in the week and that he had been bragging about possessing a firearm to

some of his friends. The officers did not find a gun on the suspect, although they thoroughly searched his route from Bay Street to Fordham the following day. They did, however, find seven clear plastic bags containing marijuana on a blanket in the shed, although they have not confirmed, for lack of evidence, that the bags were put there by the suspect.

At the arraignment on May 16, Police Officer Joseph Papisidero stated that Mr. Beqiraj had committed the offenses of assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest, obstructing governmental administration, trespass, criminal trespass and harassment. Mr. Beqiraj pleaded not guilty and was released on \$1,000 cash and \$1,000 bond. He is due back in court on July 6.

Traffic Alert

New York City's Department of Transportation began a major reconstruction project at the Amtrak bridge west of the Bartow-Pell traffic circle in mid-May. The project will last for three years, during which time the four lanes of the Hutchinson River Parkway access road over the bridge will be narrowed to two lanes, one westbound and one eastbound.

Council Member James Vacca has added this project to the long list of possible obstructions to off-Island fire trucks trying to reach City Island in case of emergency.

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LADDER COMPANY 53 TO BE CLOSED PERMANENTLY ON JULY 1

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

A rally at Catherine Scott Promenade near the bridge, orchestrated by Jimmy Vacca and his office, was held on Mother's Day on May 10, 2009, to alert visitors to City Island's efforts to save Ladder Company 53 from removal by the Fire Commissioner and the Mayor.

When the New York City fiscal year begins on July 1, 2009, City Island may lose its Ladder Company 53 around the clock, not just from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m., as has been the case since January of this year. Along with three other firehouses, City Island has been selected to help Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta balance his budget with the cuts demanded by the Mayor and the Office of Management and Budget, in spite of vocal and persistent protests by Island residents.

Led by Council Member James Vacca, who is now chair of the Council's Committee for Fire and Crime Justice, City Islanders have vehemently complained about the firehouse cut since January, with a town meeting, three appearances at City Council hearings on the issue, and a rally held near the City Island Bridge on Mother's Day, May 12. Petitions have been signed, and more than a thousand postcards have been sent to the mayor, signed by off-Islanders as well as residents. Virtually all elected officials, including U.S. Representative Joseph Crowley, State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, have been very supportive in the effort to keep the ladder company in service, as have local community organizations and Community Board 10.

In spite of the many reasons why City Island should not have been targeted for any firehouse cut, the Fire Commissioner and the Mayor seem willing to ignore the serious vulnerability of the community even as they acknowledge that response time for off-Island ladder companies would double from 5 minutes to 10, twice that of any other part of the city. Experts have proven that if firefighters cannot begin fighting a fire within 5 minutes, total destruction is virtually guaranteed.

Commissioner Scoppetta continues to cite the low number of runs for Ladder Company 53 as a reason for the cut, although he is well aware of the fact that City Island's fire trucks are not allowed to leave the Island to fight fires elsewhere, precisely because of City Island's vulnerability. He has visited the Island and seen that this is a community of largely wooden houses set close together, alongside 33 restaurants and several boat yards. Many of these houses are set back from the street and are higher than two stories, requiring the use of a ladder in addition to an engine truck.

The commissioner told the City Council that if the firefighters' union would consent to reducing the number of firefighters on some engine companies, the cuts would not be necessary, but the unions are aware that this would undoubtedly lead to cuts in personnel across the board and are unlikely to

agree to this proposal.

Some Island residents suspect that the Fire Department targeted City Island because of the publicity that protests here have been able to get in the past, in order to persuade the Mayor to change his mind about the budget cut in this election year. In 1975, Islanders stopped traffic at the bridge on a busy June weekend in order to protest a similar cut, and police allowed the traffic to back up for miles before they put a stop to the protest.

This year's protest, a rally at Catherine Scott Promenade near the bridge, orchestrated by Jimmy Vacca and his office, was designed not to stop traffic but simply to take advantage of the heavy traffic on Mother's Day to alert visitors to City Island's plight. Many posters were displayed and hundreds of postcards to the Mayor were signed by those traveling to City Island restaurants who were amazed and appalled that the city would cut fire protection to a community that was as isolated as City Island.

Thanks to the efforts of the Police Department, the heavy traffic was kept moving smoothly, but as Mr. Vacca said in his remarks at a press conference at the rally, a fire truck from off the Island would have had a great deal of difficulty negotiating the fire lane, which is often crowded on spring and summer weekends with drivers eager to beat the traffic.

A handful of Island residents took a third trip down to City Hall on Tuesday, May 12, to attend another hearing with the Fire Commissioner, who remained unmoved by the protests and the arguments. Indeed, he had already released letters on Friday, May 8, to the four affected fire houses, giving 45-day notice of the closures.

Some residents were incensed when a door-to-door campaigner for Mayor Bloomberg recently visited their homes, apparently unaware of the fact that he was planning to cut the ladder company here. Even the local Republican Club has made it clear that it will not support the Mayor's reelection bid, in spite of the fact that he is running on the Republican ticket.

The City Council has yet to approve the Mayor's proposed budget, and Mr. Vacca has made it abundantly clear that he will not approve any budget in which firehouse cuts are proposed. He urged Island residents to keep up their protest by writing or e-mailing the Mayor and insisting on fair and equal rights as tax-paying citizens to expect basic services, especially those involving risk to lives and property. The Mayor's address is City Hall, New York, NY 10007 or send him an e-mail by going to www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor/html.

CITY ISLAND'S CLEAN TEAM SWEEPS UP

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and ALLEN SPATZ

On Saturday, May 16, 2009, a group of volunteers spread out along City Island Avenue armed with brooms and paintbrushes, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Organized through the Civic Association, the "City Island Clean-Up Day" was led by several members of the McGowan family, including Susan McGowan Hayes and Jimmy and Chris McGowan, along with about 50 Islanders and Garden Club members. Great job, Clean Team!



Armed with rakes and paintbrushes, a noteworthy group of volunteers spread out along City Island Avenue on Saturday, May 16, 2009, in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Organized through the Civic Association, the "CI Clean-Up Day" was led by several members of the McGowan family, including Susan McGowan Hayes and Jimmy and Chris McGowan, along with about 50 Islanders and Garden Club members, who put their own personal gardening chores on hold to help beautify City Island Avenue.

They started out at 9 a.m. at Hawkins Park and divided up into eight teams covering different sections of the Island. The teams tackled graffiti removal, garbage and cigarette butt pickup, curb sweeping, and mailbox painting.

When asked how the initiative started, Sue Hayes told *The Current*, "We were concerned about the appearance of the Avenue and the number of empty storefronts, especially in this economy." They decided to join forces with the Civic Association and formed a Quality of Life committee.

Their mission, which they decided to accept themselves, is to clean up the Avenue and improve the appearance and value of property on the Island. They focused on some empty

properties, such as the former site of Royal Marina and the corner of Reynolds Street, as well as public spaces, including the triangle around the veteran's memorial by the bridge.

The volunteers included a wide range of Islanders, including Civic Association's Barbara Dolensek, Garden Club's Barbara Hoffman, and Grace Church's Mother Patty Alexander, who brought along her six year-old son, Peter. Island teens Andrew Simoncek, Ian Campbell, Ari Weber, Sean Moran and Tiernan Shanley put on work gloves and pitched in, along with adults Kerry Fellegara, Shel Kimen, John Kopita, Pat Fusco, Amy Phillips, John Schwam, Ron Mangione, and Bruce Weis. Inge Otto, Maureen Brooks and others worked hard near the bridge to improve the "first impression" of City Island.

Volunteers were then treated to a community picnic at the Little League field with hot dogs and hamburgers donated by the City Island Diner and drinks by the Civic Association.

In addition to cleaning, the group has put planters with flowers in place at the corners of Bay, Fordham and Hawkins Streets and arranged to have works of art by Islanders, including Mary Colby from Fe Fi Faux and Lois Weingarten, displayed in the windows

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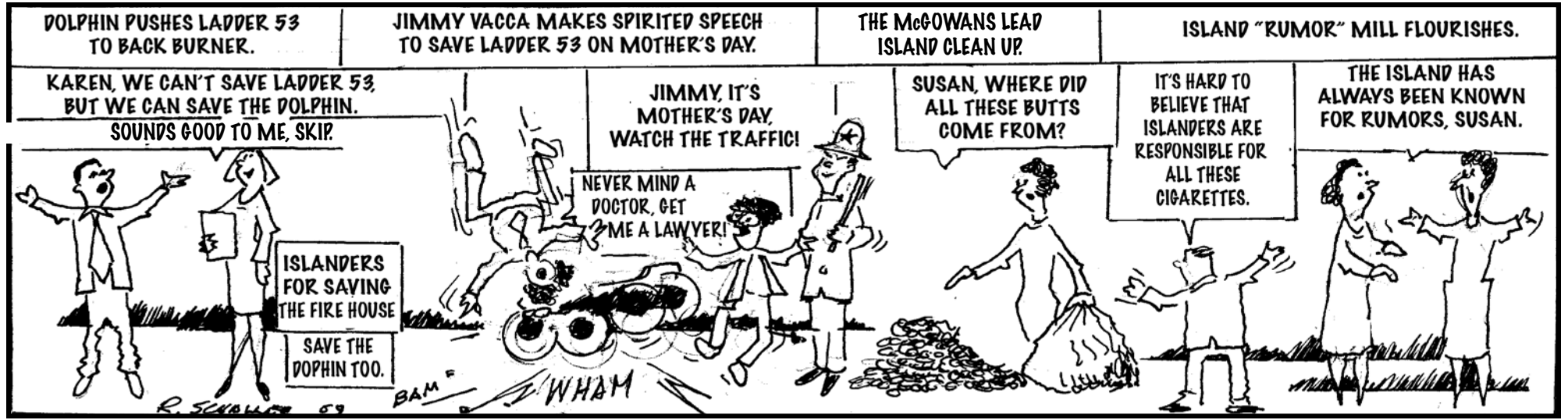
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Thanks for the Dolphin

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current:

Dear friends and neighbors,
 In case you haven't heard, I just want to inform you that it has been agreed that the dolphin in Leonard Hawkins Memorial Park will be incorporated into the new design of the park. It is important that you know that both the City Island Civic Association and the Garden Club of City Island were very gracious and agreed to overturn the result of a previously held vote if it represented the wishes of the majority of those in attendance.

The floor of the meeting was opened to anyone who wished to speak on the topic, and both organizations even agreed to accept the submission of signed petitions and handwritten letters into the debate. Needless to say, the motion to keep the dolphin in Hawkins Park passed overwhelmingly.

It is important that we all support both of these organizations and get involved in the many issues facing our community. Some of the issues that are at the forefront of the Civic Associations agenda are saving the Ladder Company 53, the overdevelopment of City Island and quality of life issues, such as crime prevention, traffic control, graffiti and vandalism.

Michael Shanley

Kids Sound Out About Dolphin

Copies of the following letters were received by The Current:

To the Parks Department:

My name is Joseph Mancuso and I am a City Island clam digger. I was born on City Island.

When I was a baby, my mom would take me to Hawkins Park, but City Islanders call it Dolphin Park. I always loved it there. I am very fond of those memories, and the dolphin reminds me of when I was small. If the dolphin is moved, where would the Parks Department put him? The dolphin has been there forever. That's his home in the park at Hawkins Street. There are many memories in that park for all the

City Islanders and the people that visit here. It is wonderful that the Parks Department wants to improve the park, but please keep our memories happy ones. Please include the dolphin in your plans.
 Thank you.

Joey Mancuso
 4th grade, P.S. 175

Dear City Island Civic Association:
 Please don't take away our dolphin! The dolphin in Hawkins Park has been there for as long as I can remember. I have so many memories there. When I was little, I used to play in that park. Now I hang out there with my friends and eat ice cream there. We always laughed and had really fun memories there. If you take away our dolphin, you take away our memories! So please don't take the dolphin away.

Erin Schlottman
 6th grade, P.S. 175

P.S. If you do get rid of the dolphin (which I don't want you to do), I want it.

To whom it may concern:

I may not know a lot about certain things, but I do know that the dolphin statue in Hawkins Park is of great importance. The statue may be just a statue to some people, but it symbolizes the heart and center of City Island. Dolphins are beautiful creatures that are playful and kind. They are intelligent and swift, kind of like the citizens of City Island.

The statue stands tall in Hawkins Park and is a great view, especially on a hot summer day while sitting in the park and eating an ice cream. Hawkins Park honors U.S. Navy Seaman Second Class and City Island native Leonard Hillson Hawkins, who died while serving on the *USS Delaware* in World War I. Not only does the park itself honor him but so does the dolphin as well. It represents, honors and upholds the utmost respect for a man who defended the lives of the people of his country. This dolphin statue may just seem like a piece of rock to some but it signifies the strength and dedication of a hometown man. Please reconsider removing the dolphin from the park.

Nicholas Cambria
 7th grade, P.S. 175

To whom it may concern:

We cannot let the city remove the dolphin! It has become an important figure on City Island and the Hawkins Street Park. It has been there for over 30 years and there is no real reason to remove it. I am pretty sure the dolphin is not causing any problems, so what is the point of its removal? It is just a waste of money and time in order to take it down. Also, Hawkins Park is a dedication to those who fought in WWI. It shares the park's history and gives the park meaning. It helps us remember why the park was built.

The dolphin has become a symbol of

the first park on City Island and all of City Island, for that matter. Many people recognize the dolphin as the first thing they saw on City Island. My mother is one of those people. Some people consider the dolphin a "safety hazard." If the dolphin is a safety

hazard, then pretty much everything is a possible "safety hazard." I have been looking at the dolphin for 12 years, and I hope I will be looking at it for many years to come.


Ari Weber
 7th grade, P.S. 175

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Speaker Quinn

Continued from page 1

ected by a fire on City Island. Speaker Quinn pointed out that her office has a record of being successful with its requests. For example, the recent police classes, in January and July, were restored, thanks to the efforts made for their continuation.

The other important issues facing City Island include the continuing problems with drug abuse among the youth, graffiti that must constantly be overpainted, traffic and noise. Bill Stanton, president of the Civic Association, said that heroin and prescription drug abuse will not be tolerated. Parents and residents need to get involved and supply information that can be anonymously reported.

Ms. Quinn recommended that City Island residents adopt the city policy: "If you see something, say something." Emergencies and crimes in progress should be called in to 911; issues of concern to 311 or to the community police officer at the 45th precinct (718-822-5449 or cao45pct@aol.com). It is important that Island young people obtain the help they need so that another drug overdose can be avoided.

In response to complaints about the traffic and noise that inevitably accompanies warm spring weather, she suggested that residents look into a program called "Operation Silent Night" to combat excessive noise, as it was successful in her Greenwich Village neighborhood.

Overdevelopment on City Island was also discussed, especially the problems caused by too much traffic and not enough parking. Jimmy Vacca explained that we need a process similar to the "bad actor's law," by which a builder with a bad track record of violations will not be able to obtain a new permit until those violations are resolved. Ken Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, spoke of the need for each community board to have a City Planning staff member to regulate zoning requests. The speaker said that community board staffing is difficult in the current financial climate, but that financial grants for special projects are possible. Downzoning and abatements should be reviewed, and projects need to be kept within City Island standards, given its unique history.

The final issue to be discussed was the open classroom arrangement at P.S. 175, for which \$5 million has been allocated for FY 2011. Several other issues had been shared with the speaker in advance of the meeting but were not discussed; these issues included property taxes, increased water rates, the MTA express bus, the new City Island Bridge, the Rodman's Neck firing range and the closing of Le Refuge.

All in all, it was deemed a successful meeting by all who attended, and Ms. Quinn was happy when she was presented with an honorary membership in the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum.

Zoning Change Requested For IUC Property

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Community Board 10 will hold a public hearing for the City Island community at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, in the City Island library auditorium, 320 City Island Avenue, to discuss a proposed zoning change for the 5.4-acre property that was formerly the site of International Underwater Contractors. The site is now zoning light manufacturing (M1-1) but the developer City Island Estates LLC wishes to build 22 detached houses consisting of 43 dwelling units, and this requires a zoning change to R3A. The property faces Fordham Street, the shoreline of Long Island Sound, part of Carroll Street and Fordham Place.

In January 2008, Melanie Meyers, a lawyer representing City Island Estates LLC, along with the architect, Chris Lessard, presented plans to the City Island Civic Association for the development of the property, which then called for 22 two-family houses, one group along Fordham Place and the other group flanking a private road to be built off Fordham Street. The plan is to sell the units as condominiums but not to make this a gated community. As required by law for a waterfront property, there will be public access to the waterfront at the north end of the lot, with a seating area and promenade, but there will be no docks or other structures on the shoreline.

The presenters showed elevations of the houses in four different styles, with clapboard-looking siding and various architectural details that reflect City Island. The houses are between 20 to 26 feet apart, rather than the 13 feet allowed in R3A zoning, but the developer wanted to build to a height of 41.5 feet, which is higher than the 35 feet specified in the Special City Island District zoning.

Although many Civic Association members felt that the development was attractive, they were concerned about the excessive height of the buildings, about possible brown-

field contamination on the site and the amount of traffic on Fordham Street that would result from additional residents. The presenters pointed out that the IUC property is one of a very few areas on City Island where the height could be up to 50 feet with a special permit and that necessary tests were being conducted with the Environmental Protection Agency to determine whether or not there is soil contamination. They assured the members in attendance that there would be sufficient parking onsite for residents of the condominiums and their guests.

Since that meeting, the developer has revised the plans slightly, so that 21 of the 22 buildings will be two-family houses; the other will be for one family only. And the five houses that face Fordham Place will be 35 feet in height, not 41.5 feet. The city's Department of City Planning certified the plans and began the procedure known as ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), which involves several steps, including approval of the Community Board.

Neighbors have told *The Current* that they will definitely attend the hearing. Some are concerned that allowing houses to be 41.5 feet in height will set a dangerous precedent for future developments. Others worry that the amount of traffic on Fordham Street, which is already very heavy, will result in congestion and even accidents. Soil contamination remains a concern, as no one has observed any remediation taking place on the property over the past two years.

Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, who arranged for the meeting to be held on City Island rather than at the board office, expressed doubts that the condominiums would sell in this market and expected the board to vote against the zoning change. The developers remain hopeful, however, and await the community's response.

Michael Proietti: The Next Food Network Star?

By BRENDA PROHASKA



Photo courtesy of Food Network
Islander Michael Proietti will compete to be the "Next Food Network Star," a show that will air on Food Network channel starting June 7, 2009.

Michael Proietti, 28, is a clam digger, born and raised on City Island, and very possibly the Next Food Network Star. Betty Fusco Proietti, proud mother of Michael and his four brothers, is often seen walking along City Island Avenue, but these days she walks a little more proudly as she passes the fabulous picture of Michael in Ron Turner's window, as the fifth season of "The Next Food Network Star" approaches.

Michael is one of 10 chefs who will appear as a finalist on the show, which will begin on Sunday, June 7, at 9 p.m. on Food Network, and the television audience will have a chance to vote their preferences beginning with this season. Many City Islanders will, of course, want to support a hometown boy, and many may not be aware of Michael's many talents. If you attend the annual Halloween Parade, he is always a standout, blessing us every year with a fabulous and outrageous costume.

Michael's education started at P.S. 175 on City Island and then he went on to Lehman High School and then the New York Restaurant School. He joined the restaurant industry at an early age and worked his way up from washing dishes and prepping food to become executive chef at the Radisson Hotel in New Rochelle. For many years, he was a sous chef and a purchaser at Asia De Cuba, a popular Manhattan restaurant known as a "Sex in the City" favorite.

As a native New Yorker, Michael is inspired by the wide variety of markets available to him, and he brings his appreciation for global cuisine and a one-of-a-kind attitude to the competition.

These days, as he waits for the show to air, Michael is currently working on a cookbook, and he spends a lot of time developing recipes for his restaurant. He has also been reaching out to share his talents with the City Island community. In May he presented a "Rice Krispie sushi" class to the City Island Girl Scouts and made some incredible candy as well as giving the girls a lesson in using chopsticks.

On Saturday, June 13, at 2 p.m., he will give a demonstration at Chef's Central on Central Avenue in Hartsdale, and he will do a career day at Lehman High School, along with a few more events here on City Island.

Information about "The Next Food Network Star" can be found at www.foodnetwork.com. Michael's own Web page is <http://www.mvpchef.com/>, where you may find links to his blog and other tidbits of information about him. Don't miss the series kick off on Sunday, June 7, at 9 p.m. on the Food Network!!

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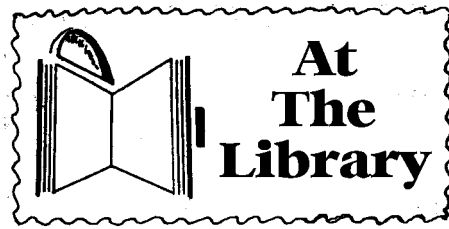
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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery, 249 City Island Avenue, presents a June filled with songwriters, splendid singers, acoustic fun, "painting to music"—and all that jazz. Here's the lineup: Friday, June 5, 8 p.m., Freddie Lando, a "golden voice," sings your favorites; Saturday, June 6, 8 p.m., Two Guitars (Brian Conigliaro and Gus Wieland), acoustic jazz; Sunday, June 7, 3 p.m., Cellar (Elizabeth Glushko and Peter Tascio), cello and guitar, from classical to classic rock; Friday, June 12, 8 p.m., Randy Niles, soulful acoustic / rock; Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Joe Iadanza and his Beautiful Band, rock / folk; Sunday, June 14, 3 p.m., Thieves and Poets (Bill Irvine / George Kelly / Christopher Frawley), acoustic refreshment; Friday, June 19, 8 p.m., Fred Kimmel and Friends; Saturday, June 20, 6 to 8 p.m., the Art of Joanie Mastrorilli, opening reception; Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m., Mercy Street (Trapper Quinn) performs and Joanie Mastrorilli paints to the music; Sunday, June 21, 3 p.m., Father's Day BBQ and Jam; Friday, June 26, 8 p.m., "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night for songwriters, comics, poets and actors; Saturday, June 27, 8 p.m., Kagero, Japanese gypsy rock; Sunday, June 28, 3

p.m., Manhattan Meta5, cutting-edge jazz. Call 718-885-3779 for more information; for video links to some performers, visit our Web site at www.starvingartistonline.com.



For Teens

Yu-Gi-Oh: Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Teen Time: A variety of video games. Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For Children

Reading Out Loud Picture Book Program: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Father's Day Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, June 9, at 3:30 p.m.

Mommies and Babies Get-together for Songs and Stories: Thursday, June 11, at 1 p.m.

Preschool Program: Every Thursday in June (4, 11, 18 and 25). Ages 3 to 5. Pre-registration required.

Summer Reading Club for 2009 will be launched in June. Come in and register for the program. The New York State theme for this year is "Be Creative @ Your Library."

An Open Letter to Our Friends: The City Island Library staff thanks all of our friends for their generous support through the wonderful letters they have been writing in the effort to help our library maintain its current level of service throughout the fiscal crisis.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

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AND THE PEOPLE SAID... Results of the City Island Survey

By SHEL KIMEN, Quality of Life Committee

The committee is grateful to everyone who filled out the online survey, which was also included in the March edition of *The Current*. There were 245 surveys completed, a respectable number to "take the pulse" of how people feel about the businesses in our community. In general, enthusiasm is high and residents contributed many positive and productive suggestions.

Here's some of what we found: 62 percent of the respondents have lived here longer than 10 years. It is normal for such a high proportion of people who took the time to fill out the survey to have lived here a relatively long time. But it is worth noting that 15 percent have lived here one to five years and are also invested in improving the island. It behooves us to inspire the newcomers and take advantage of their fresh eyes. Eight percent of the respondents didn't live here at all, a reminder that there are plenty of people who work on City Island or come here for boating and pleasure and are also interested in improving our community. We need to be mindful when we complain about off-Islanders. Lots of them are friendly and helpful, and they support our economy well beyond the seafood emporiums.

Although many of us have young children and we know they love the new park next to P.S. 175, most respondents had children 13 to 18 years old, and a number of comments reflected the need for more activities for these young people. The kids are looking for skate parks and gaming rooms with air hockey, pool tables and so on. Someone suggested opening such a place near the school, offering low-cost snacks along with the activities. Sounds like a money-maker to us! There's a vacant lot for sale on Schofield Street.

A high percentage, more than 50 percent, said that they eat on City Island at least once a week. That is great news. People asked for more ethnic restaurants and greater, low-cost variety. 42 percent say they most frequently eat out in groups with friends, whereas 35 percent eat alone or with a significant other. Only 19 percent opted for meals with the family. Restaurants might consider offering group discounts and reward volume.

Regarding promotions, the buy-one-get-one-free offer was favored only slightly more than 10 to 20 percent off. Quite a few people also mentioned wanting senior discounts, even though it wasn't one of the choices.

To the question of what would get people to shop more on City Island, many of the comments were similar: more parking, variety, amenities, and lower prices, etc. People routinely asked for more meat and fish, as well as more organic produce. And some people just asked for more reminders—of promotions or services or the merchandise the businesses sell. The top 10 businesses we wanted, in order of preference, were: 1. Bakery; 2. Bookstore; 3. Gym; 4. Clothing store; 5. Butcher; 6. More organic food; 7. Bike shop; 8. More cafés; 9. Yoga/Tai Chi/Stretching; 10. Boat tours and boat and kayak rentals.

Popular suggestions that weren't on the list included a farmer's market on the weekend, a barber shop, a visitor center, a fish market and youth entertainment. The most popular suggestion was a pet store and groomer.

It is worth noting that we already have some of these services. Although the bak-

ery does not regularly sell bread and cookies by the pound, we are told these items can be ordered ahead of time. And although we don't have a gym, there are a few local residents who have started fitness programs that include cardio workouts as well as stretching. There is yoga on Wednesday nights at the Harlem Yacht Club, which is available for use by Island residents even if they aren't members, plus yoga and aerobics classes at the Community Center, and a senior fitness program at Grace Church. We may not get everything we want in terms of pricing and variety, but we can take small steps.

It is also worth noting that many of these "new" stores and services have already made the attempt to survive on City Island and had to leave because of lack of support. These include cards, crafts, flowers, leather, candy, tea and a gym.

The harsh reality of our situation is that we live on a small island that is relatively isolated, with very limited parking, and the tourism dollars we get tend to be spent at the large seafood restaurants. Sustainability in our community will be a tough nut to crack. We will have to be innovative with the types of businesses and services we develop and realistic in what we can actually support as a community.

Some models that seem to be working are businesses that are storefronts for other businesses. For example, Sugar and Spice has a successful catering business and the new jewelry store, Calico Juno Designs at 310 City Island Avenue, is owned by a resident who has an active wholesale and online business to support the store. New businesses will probably have to be multifaceted and very creative in order to survive here.

A store that sold pet food might not make it. But a store that sold pet food and also offered grooming and boarding or training classes would do better. A book store would be nice, but one that also sold cards and a few art supplies, traded used books, had an online component with Amazon, and attached itself to an existing café would have a better chance. Could the churches offer yoga for a donation to the Garden Club to green our streets even more? Perhaps a health-food store could coordinate with local farmers to open a Saturday green market in Hawkins Street Park? Could one of the marine shops take on bike repair or kayak rental? Could Sugar and Spice extend its hours and expand its product range? These are not meant to be actual suggestions but to provide inspiration for innovative entrepreneurs. There is money to be made on good ideas.

Likewise, we will have to be inventive to find different ways to attract a greater diversity in tourism and to entertain and service the existing off-Island boating community. This is a process we are just beginning.

It is heartening to see that so many people care. We read so many wonderful comments about why people love living here, despite our struggles with the economy and vacant stores. And it was fantastic to see so many people come out for City Island Clean-Up day on May 16! Rest assured, we all had a good time and there will be more. We are already thinking about another one for the fall.

Now that we have all this data, we are going to start talking to developers and organizations that may be able to help us. Anyone can view the results in their entire-

ty at <http://tinyurl.com/o5ukaf>. If you are a potential business owner, you may want to read the comments. And if you want to organize your own improvement project or get in touch with us directly you can e-mail cityislandavenue@gmail.com.

Here are some of the responses to the question: "What do you love about living on City Island?"

"I love its beauty, P.S. 175, the people (I have made many wonderful friends), being surrounded by water, and the tight-knit

community."

"I like how nice the people are . . . and the nice park that was just built for the kids."

"The people, the small-town community sense, the way it seems we are trying to improve things, the way you can walk everywhere, general friendliness, the closeness of the water, the houses and gardens on the side streets."

A Current Review

"RUMORS" FLOATING AROUND CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI



Photo by RICK DeWITT

"Rumors" were flying at the City Island Theater Group's latest production, which runs through May 30, 2009. Shown above is the talented cast that tackled this fast-paced farce (back row, l. to r.): Keith Rodriguez, Frank Siciliano, Camille Kaiser, Steven Bendler, Christopher Meindl and Eileen Marcus. Front row: Ralph Puma, Julie White, Elizabeth Paldino and Susan Rauh.

How appropriate that the City Island Theater Group brought Neil Simon's "Rumors" to an island where the rumor mill is second to none. The wonderfully staged production opened on May 15 for a three-weekend run through May 30, 2009, at Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, the home of the theater group.

Tackling this fast-paced and hectic farce presented a challenge for the CITG's director, Nick Sala, his set designers and the actors. This Neil Simon gem, first staged in 1988 on Broadway, features comedic roles for five men and five women. At its start, several affluent couples gather in the posh suburban residence of a couple for a dinner party celebrating their 10th anniversary. When the guests arrive, they discover there are no servants, the hostess is missing, and the host, reportedly a deputy mayor of New York City, has shot himself through the earlobe. Comic complications arise when, given everyone's snooty upper-class status, they decide they must conceal the evening's events from the local police and the media.

As soon as the show began and the elegant Susan Rauh paced nervously on stage portraying the first guest, Chris Gorman, I realized that I had seen the Broadway version with the original cast. Frustrated with my memory, I spent the intermission, with the assistance of other audience members, trying to remember the actors' names from the original cast.

The one I finally remembered was the talented actor Ron Liebman, who portrayed Lenny Ganz. Just when I began to wonder if a local actor could do the part justice, Steven Bendler, making his debut with the CITG, arrived hilariously on stage. Lenny and his wife, Claire, very well played by CITG regular Elizabeth Paldino, have had a nasty fender bender on their way to the party. Mr. Bendler has an excellent comedic delivery and garners the biggest laughs from the audience, especially with his final multilingual soliloquy.

With the arrival of each couple, the hilarity and nonsense escalate. They include Chris's husband, Ken Gorman, entertainingly played by Christopher

Meindl. As an attorney, he attempts to hold the situation and his wife together, as she (Ms. Rauh) humorously tries to kick the cigarette habit. Mr. Meindl has his best moments when he loses his hearing during the second act.

Then come Ernie Cusack and his wife, Cookie, a television cooking show host, who is having major back spasms. Frank Siciliano and Camille Kaiser engagingly portray this couple, and Ms. Kaiser gets lots of laughs from her physical antics on stage.

Last but not least is the vain and insecure Cassie Cooper (Julie White), who is convinced that her husband, Glenn (Ralph Puma), is having at least one affair. Mr. Puma, also making his CITG debut, does a good job portraying a smarmy politician. (In an ironic note, his program bio says that he is involved in local politics.) The lovely Ms. White portrays the most neurotic of the characters and delivers some hilarious lines about a million-year-old crystal with special powers.

The local police finally arrive to try, in vain, to sort it all out. Played by Eileen Marcus and Keith Rodriguez, the police officers fully looked the parts in their authentic NYPD uniforms. Ms. Marcus takes charge of the "crime" scene, and the stage, as the show builds to its side-splitting finale.

Equal credit for the success of the show goes to the set designers, Chris McGowan and Dorothy Muccio; construction crew, led by Con Grondahl; prop master Barbara Dolensek; and lighting director Maria Provenzano. They created a multilevel stage with entrances that don't normally exist in the church hall. The furniture, slamming doors and special nighttime auto effects were essential to the hilarity.

Finishing touches were provided by Carol McCabe and Norma Kerner's wonderful costumes, which were elegant and provided a nice contrast to the sometimes slapstick humor. The dresses and suits held up well, even through the dancing curtain call.

As rumor has it, this is the 10th year of CITG productions. Happy anniversary and may the shows go on!

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JUNE

Tues., June 2, **Community Board 10 Hearing** on Fordham Street zoning change, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Auditorium, City Island Library.

Sat. and Sun., June 6 and 7, **Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sat. and Sun., June 13 and 14, the **Minneford Marina City Island Community Fair**, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 150 City Island Avenue.

Thurs., June 18, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Providence Rest at 3304 Waterbury Avenue. Call 718-892-1161 for details.

Sat., June 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chef's salad (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, cubes of ham, turkey, etc.).

Sun., June 28, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

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

JULY

Wed., July 1, **"The Bronx Salutes America" Fireworks**, sponsored by State Senator Jeff Klein (rain date July 2), 9 p.m., Orchard Beach.

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly schedule: Grace Church will celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday in June at 10 a.m. with Church School. During July and August (through Labor Day weekend), our Sunday worship moves to 9 a.m. We also offer Evening Prayer in the Church every Monday at 7 p.m. and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Here is an overview of special events at Grace Church during June:

Saturday, June 6, 7 p.m.: Grace Church USO Show. In honor of the 65th anniversary of D-Day, Grace pays tribute to all the brave men and women who served our country in all foreign conflicts, by offering musical/comedy entertainment in the form of a 1940s canteen. So come join us for great music and dancing, donuts and coffee and "Who's on First?" Costumes and uniforms are optional but encouraged! Tickets are \$10 per person and include all refreshments. Seating is limited, so please reserve your ticket soon by e-mailing your information to gracecityisland@yahoo.com or you may leave your reservation on 347-327-3590. We hope you can join us!

Sunday, June 14, 5 p.m. Alcohol Toxicity Talk (Grace Church Parish Hall). Toni Kavanagh, a nursing professional and mother of three teens, will offer an important presentation on the dangers of underage drinking. Topics include common myths about alcohol and empowering teens to say "no." The dangers of alcohol will be underscored, with special emphasis on identifying friends who exhibit signs of alcohol toxicity. The steps for safe intervention are discussed and 'first response' measures are stressed. All young people in grades 7 and up are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. Pizza will be served!

Sunday, June 21, 11:30 a.m. Father's Day Picnic, sponsored by the children's Church School. All are welcomed!

Monday, June 29, through Thursday,

July 2, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: Fifth Annual Ecumenical Vacation Bible School (at Trinity Methodist Church). Please call the Grace Parish Office to register your child or to volunteer to help with our program.

For more information about Grace, please call 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, www.gracecityisland.org.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages is located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets and conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 pm. Our doors are open to all. We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

On Friday, June 12, at 7:30 p.m. our rabbinic intern, Molly Karp, leads her last Kabbalat Shabbat service at Temple Beth-El. She will be accompanied by Cantor Elaine.

We will hold our annual meeting and elections earlier that evening. Come at 6:45 p.m. for this important meeting and to vote for the officers and trustees of Your Shul by the Sea. (Refreshments will be served later.)

Visit our Web site, www.yourshulbythesea.org. (Sorry, but no refreshments are allowed near the keyboard.)

Bob Berent

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Friday, June 5, we will have our monthly Holy Hour from 4 to 5 p.m. This will be our last scheduled Holy Hour before the summer months. Come and join us for this period of adoration.

On the same day, June 5, the eighth-graders of St. Mary's school will have their graduation Mass at 7 p.m. and will follow this with a party in the school gym. We congratulate all our graduates, both those in St. Mary's school and those in our religious education program who attend other schools, and we wish them all well in their high school careers.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will take part in the City Island Fair to be held on the avenue on June 6 and 7. The last day for the shop before the summer months is Saturday, June 27.

On Fathers Day, Sunday, June 21, we will honor all our fathers with a special blessing at all the Masses.

Our Parish Council will bring the year's activities to a close by gathering for a celebration dinner on Monday evening, June 29.

At the end of the month, we will once again welcome Father Alexander Iheonunekwu, who will be returning to us for the summer months.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our worship service and Sunday school begin at 10 a.m. Bring your children for Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Sunday school will be closing the end of May and will reopen Sept. 13. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Please come and join us for worship and fellowship. If you have any questions regarding Trinity, call Reverend Susan Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

Don't forget to register your children for Vacation Bible School, which will be



Photo by PAUL NANI

The City Island Girl Scouts were in full bloom for Mother's Day with their annual plant sale on May 9, 2009. Shown above are some of the blossoming scouts (l. to r.): Catherine Ficke, Dusty Prohaska, Anastasia Geros and Lauren Russell.

held in Trinity's Fellowship Hall between 9 a.m. and noon from June 29 through July 2. Call Reverend Sue at Trinity or Mother Patty at Grace Church (718-885-1080) or Sister Bernadette at St. Mary's (718-885-1440).

The Budget Shop will be open June 2, 6, 16 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call Jay Howard (718-885-2192) to volunteer for scheduling. A plea to all City Islanders: we need a volunteer to lead the Budget Shop behind the scenes. You do not need to be a member of Trinity. The Budget Shop is our main fund-raiser and we really need help. Please call Myra Martin (718-885-1049) or Ellie Hebard (718-518-7241) to review the responsibilities of the behind-the-scenes leader. A working crew has already been established but we need a leader. Please call us if you can help cleaning, gleaning and setting up.

The Budget Shop will be closing on June 20 and reopening on Sept. 15. Since we now have an overabundance of donations, we ask that you please hold all further donations until Sept. 1. Please do not leave anything outside the clothing box; either hold it or donate it to Good Will.

Trinity wishes everyone a restful, healthy summer and hopes that you may join us for our worship service each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Ellen G. Hebard

Pelham Cemetery

The annual meeting of the lot owners of Pelham Cemetery will be held on Tuesday, July 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Leonard Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue. The meeting is for lot owners only.

Holly Vincent

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 8 p.m. at the Post. We will be electing our slate of officers for the 2009-2010 term.

All unpaid members are reminded that dues (\$30) are past due. Any male who is a descendant of a veteran who served during the time periods set by Congress is eligible to join the Squadron. Anyone interested can call Vice Commanders for Membership Fred

Ramftl at 347-680-7695 or Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000.

Our recent renovations of the hall and lounge area would not have been completed without the assistance from SAL members Jimmy Livingston and Richie Ferris, along with Richie's work crew. Stop by the Post to see the great job that they did.

The new bathroom downstairs on the first floor is almost complete. The first flush should occur by Memorial Day.

A sick call goes out to Jimmy Livingston, who will be having minor ambulatory surgery in early June. We all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

The annual servicemen's dinner will be a dinner-dance held at the Lido Restaurant this year in late November in honor of the 90th anniversary of the American Legion. More details will follow during the next several months.

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Sundays at 2 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 hall, 116 City Island Avenue (at Pilot Street).

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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.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fun Friday. Dinner and Game Night: June 26 at 5 p.m. \$5 per person (under 5 free). Bring a game to play! Please RSVP to pro4info@aol.com or call 718-885-1145 (leave message).

Art Classes with Laury: If you are interested in Art Classes this summer, please call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 to sign up or for more information. Leave a message!

NEW CLASS

Yoga Class with Vincenza: Yoga instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of Miami. Tuesday nights 7:30 p.m. Ashtanga Yoga. All levels welcome. Please bring a yoga mat. For more information please call 917-440-3618.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

Sally's Playground: Ages birth to 5 years. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAM

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa. No partner necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nilsa at 917-838-6501.

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 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

TNT (Thursday Night Tap): Adult Jazz/Tap Classes. Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Yoga: A beginner to intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance the immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 718-885-2445.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Wilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit www.funmimusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Chess Club: Thursday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up! Call Bill at 718-541-3995 for more information.

City Island Physical Therapy: Licensed physical therapist with private office space. For an appointment call Janine Mantzaris at 917-577-1752.

Amy Gottlieb

PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

Stay fit and feel good by joining the exercise classes at Grace Church Hall. Mondays: Sittercise at 10 a.m. with Patty; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 10 a.m. with Mary; Thursdays: Yoga stretch at 9:30 with Michael; Fridays: Arthritis exercise at 10 a.m. with Patty. On Wednesdays, join our Orchard Beach Walk at 9:45 a.m. at the oval or ride in our van, which leaves Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.. Sign up now to join an afternoon swim at the New Rochelle YMCA for July and August. The swim fee will be \$3 per session, and the van transportation to the Y will be \$1. Arthritis exercise on Friday is free and the suggested contribution for the other classes is \$2. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to all classes and Patty at 914-882-9578 for more information. All programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Pat Grondahl



Photo by RON TERNER

Barbara Harrison Kaye (left) and Barbara Hoffman, officers of the Garden Club of City Island, welcomed Bronx Parks Commissioner Hector Aponte to the annual Garden Club lunch, which was held at the City Island Yacht Club on Thursday, May 21, 2009.

City Island Republicans

June is a busy month, and the weather usually gets hot around petition time. The City Island Republicans, with the backing of the Bronx Republican Party and Chairman Jay Savino, will NOT be circulating petitions for Mayor Michael Bloomberg on City Island since he has not guaranteed that our community will keep Ladder 53 in service around the clock. Such actions are placing the safety of all City Islanders in jeopardy.

However, the separate petition for the local offices and party petitions will be circulated as usual, since those people, along with City Island's eight county committee members in the Bronx Republican Party, have demanded that the Mayor keep the truck here on duty all of the time. Furthermore, we want to make sure our community is represented in the local party. If someone comes to your residence, please sign the county committee petition, which will allow us to be properly represented.

We also encourage City Islanders of all parties who receive a phone call or a knock on the door from the Mayor's people to tell them to request that the Mayor keep our ladder truck here on City Island.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

Legion News

Tempus fugit. June 6, 2009, will be the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Since WWII veterans are passing on at the rate of 1,000 per day, there are not many left. Sad, but a fact of life. I was among the youngest in my squadron, joining the unit prior to our departure for England.

I remember D-Day well. Indications were that it was not far off as one day late in May we were ordered to paint our aircraft, wings and fuselage, with large black stripes. We realized later that this was to identify us as allied aircraft.

Our base was known as Station 465, a grassy field with no runways. The town close by was Chalgrove. It was quaint with thatched-roof houses, most facing Brookside Avenue, the main street. Each property had a small bridge that crossed a brook that paralleled the road. The brook was home to many ducks. When I visited Chalgrove five

years ago, the ducks were still there. Traffic bound for the staging areas passed day and night along Brookside Avenue.

It was on the evening of June 5 that the air above Chalgrove seemed to erupt with activity. Aircraft came from all directions, first heavy bombers, then medium bombers, fighters, and C47s with their human cargo of paratroopers; next were C47s towing gliders. We were at the point where this great aerial armada was forming before heading for the coast of France. I was witness to history being made.

Grace Church is honoring the anniversary of D-Day and the memory of those who fought to defend the United States in foreign wars by replicating a USO canteen from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, at the church (Pilot Street and City Island Avenue). There will be music and entertainment and refreshments for all.

Another important day in June is Flag Day, June 14. The flag is an important symbol to all of us, young and old. It should be treated with reverence and not disdain. Our flag does not subscribe to any creed but the American creed. Much has been written about the flag by learned scholars. We often find our esteemed politicians adding their sage opinions!

And let us not forget dear old dad on Father's Day, June 15. A nice card with his favorite schnapps would suffice.

I haven't noticed the wreath hanging on the door at the Post, ergo no recent departures of members. We certainly have had our share in recent months.

And now the bright side. Buddy Pontecorvo is back after a lengthy stay at the Dumont Nursing Home in New Rochelle. Comrade De Luca is still at Sound Shore, and I'm told that he has become quite a bingo player. William Chilson is in a nursing facility in Riverdale, St. Patrick's Home. Bill Trainor is on the mend following a hip operation.

Officers for the following year will be the same as this year. There were no volunteers for these prestigious positions!

Jack Hartigan's nomination for judge advocate was questioned by one of the members, who was critical of his advancing age. Commander Carman ruled that the member was out of order and could be assigned to latrine duty.

Coming up in June is the Blessing of the Fleet on Sunday, June 29. There is always some confusion about this, as some Islanders can't understand why feet are being blessed.

Mike Treat added three new members to the Post's roster: Ronald Watson Jr., Siegfried Schulz and Juan Olmeda. Welcome aboard.

Meetings for the month of June are as follows: regular meetings Monday, June 1 and 15; executive meeting Monday, June 8. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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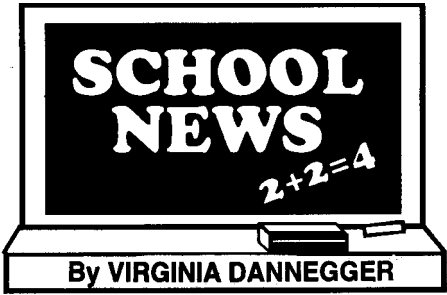
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Public School 175

Best wishes to all the eighth-graders, who, pending successful completion of graduation requirements, will be attending the following high schools in September: **Astor Collegiate Academy:** Lirijana Novovic, Brandyn Reilly. **Beacon H.S.:** Abigail Adams. **Bethlehem Central H.S.:** Ian Campbell. **Bronx Academy of Health Careers:** Stefanie Vazquez. **Bronx High School for the Visual Arts:** Dylan Cruz. **Bronx H.S. of Science:** Benjamin Beruh, Veronica Weyhrauch. **Blessed Sacrament/St. Gabriel:** Raeann Grimes. **Cardinal Spellman:** Ryan Fitzpatrick, Jeanette Leonard (scholarship), Jordanna Lubelli, Shannon Monaghan, Sean Moran, Robert Pirraglia. **Christopher Columbus:** Ryan Henning. **Collegiate Institute for Math and Science:** Marcus Lopez. **DeWitt Clinton:** Nancy Navarro. **Global Enterprise H.S.:** Andrew Clarke, Justin Robinson. **High School for Contemporary Arts:** Sarbrena Camacho. **LaGuardia:** Meghan Mason. **Lehman:** Austin Albert, Denis Curtin, Johnathan Mora, Adrian Pena, Omar Viguera. **Manhattan Business Academy:** Hannah St. Furcy. **Mount St. Michael:** Cray Garza, Kyle Kreig. **Pelham Preparatory:** Frances Robles. **Preston H.S.:** Jennifer Branley, Alyssa Cambria, Athena Darretta, Brianna Ragucci, Melissa Scott, Luna Sepulveda. **Renaisance H.S. of Music and Art:** Mariol Rama, Kenny Rosa. **Salesian H.S.:** Edward Carey II, Brian Devlin, Nicholas Santiago, Kevin Saulnier, Steven Schmitz. **Shelton H.S.:** Nicole Dammacco. **St. Catharine Academy:** Kylie Negron, Juleit Rossi, Marlyn Sanchez, Shaylin Scott, Garbielle Vitiello. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** Brandon Olivo. **The Ursuline School:** Anna Rothschild.

In addition, Abigail Adams was accepted to **LaGuardia H.S.** and received a scholarship to **Preston H.S.** Jeanette Leonard was accepted to the **High School of Math, Science and Engineering.** Veronica Weyhrauch received scholarships to **Preston H.S.** and **Cardinal Spellman H.S.**

Congratulations and good luck to everyone in September!

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade graduates, who will attend the following high schools in September: **Bronx High School for Writing and Communication Arts:** Samantha Garcia. **Cardinal Spellman H.S.:** Erik Candelaria, Malik Dixon, Joshua Williams. **Fordham Prep:** Johnathan Mendez. **Lehman H.S.** Bar-kim Salgado. **Manhattan Village Academy:** Malik Barnes, Sean Dilla, Brenton Howell, Devin Navarro, William Ortega, Amir Smith. **Monsignor Scanlan:** Emilio Malave. **Mount St. Michael Academy:** Evan Spencer. **Preston H.S.:** Birla Gonzalez, Amber Tudor. **St. Catharine Academy:** Liana Billings, Korinna Lane, Ashley Morales. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** John Epps, Jerome Smith.

Congratulations and good luck to all!



Multiple Personalities

This column isn't about films depicting the psychiatric category of split personality but it focuses on movies in which actors or actresses play more than one part, a category that has something for everyone. For the stout of heart are on-the-edge-of-your seat thriller/horror films. **Jack's Back** (1988) stars James Spader playing his own twin brother in a modern-day Jack the Ripper suspense film. **Dead Ringers** (1988) features Jeremy Irons as twin brothers who are both gynecologists and follows their deterioration into madness. Margot Kidder has the lead(s) in **Sisters** (1973) as separated French Siamese twins, one of whom is crazy and the other "sane." (Watch for Olympia Dukakis as one of the women in the bakery.) This is an extremely clever film, and I would strongly recommend it if it weren't for two rather graphic gory scenes.

For action/adventure buffs, there is my all-time favorite dual role in which Christopher Reeve plays both nerdy Clark Kent and **Superman (II)** from 1980 being the best of the series). Consider also any of the **Batman** films: **Batman** (1989) with Michael Keaton as Bruce Wayne/Batman, supported by Jack Nicholson as the Joker and Kim Basinger as Vicki Vale; and **Batman Returns** (1992) with Keaton again, along with Danny DeVito as the Penguin and Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman. **Batman Forever** (1995) has Val Kilmer replacing Keaton, with Tommy Lee Jones as Two-Face/Harvey Dent, Jim Carrey as the Riddler/Dr. Edward Nygma, and introducing Chris O'Donnell as Robin/Dick Grayson. **Batman and Robin** (1997) replaces Kilmer with George Clooney, keeps O'Donnell as Robin, and features Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze/Dr. Fries and Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy/Dr. Pamela Isley. Christian Bale takes over in both **Batman Begins** (2005) and **The Dark Knight** (2008), the latter which also stars the brilliant late Heath Ledger as the Joker and Aaron Eckhart as Two-Face/Harvey Dent.

For kids (or any grown-up who ever went to sleep-away camp) there is **Parent Trap** (1961), with Hayley Mills as twin sisters separated at birth when their parents divorced. They are unaware of each other's

existence until they meet at summer camp. This film was remade in 1998 with Lindsay Lohan as the lead and the late Natasha Richardson as the mother. And for fans of Westerns (although this one is from Australia), there is **The Man from Snowy River** (1982) with Kirk Douglas playing his own brother, filmed in a breathtakingly beautiful setting.

For those who favor drama and romance, there is the excellent **French Lieutenant's Woman** (1981). This is a unique film, because it is the juxtaposition of two stories: one a modern-day drama about an actor, Mike (Jeremy Irons), and an actress, Anna (Meryl Streep), who are in the process of making a movie and having an affair, although they are both married. The other story is the historical drama on which their film is based and in which Irons and Streep respectively play Charles, a gentleman already engaged to marry, who becomes obsessed with Sarah, a woman of questionable reputation. The two stories are interwoven together in a way that makes for a fascinating, intelligent drama.

The comedy category has the most selections to offer in this genre. **Some Like It Hot** (1959) stars Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis as musicians who witness a murder in prohibition-era Chicago. To escape town, they dress as women and join an "all-girl" band, with Marilyn Monroe as Curtis's love interest.

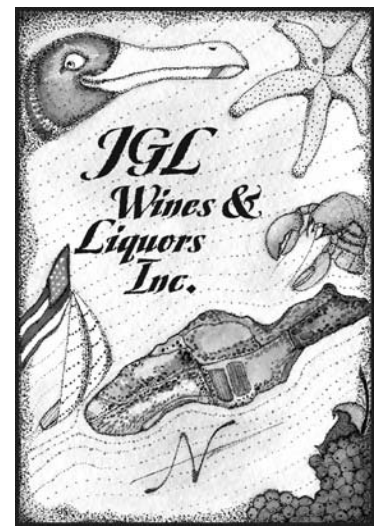
Victor/Victoria (1982) is a Blake Edwards comedy starring Julie Andrews as Victoria, a poor starving singer in 1929 Paris. She meets Toddy (Robert Preston), a gay nightclub singer who convinces her that they can make a fortune if she becomes a female impersonator. This complicated but extremely funny and entertaining plot expands with James Garner as King Marchand, a Chicago gangster with whom Victoria falls in love, his girlfriend Norma (Lesley Ann Warren), and his bodyguard (Alex Caras). Stealing each scene is a waiter (Graham Stark), who keeps us laughing throughout. From the opening art deco credits to the decor of the hotel suites, this is a film for the

eyes to feast upon as well.

Tootsie (1982) stars Dustin Hoffman as Michael Dorsey, an out-of-work actor who gets a job as "Dorothy" in a television soap opera. Bill Murray and Teri Garr are his best friends, Jeff and Sandy. Dabney Coleman is Ron the TV show director, Jessica Lange (in her Oscar-winning performance) is Julie who befriends Dorothy; and Charles Durning is Les, Julie's father, who falls for Dorothy. The film's director, Sydney Pollack, plays George, Michael's agent, and he steals every scene in which he appears.

In **All of Me** (1984), Lily Tomlin is Edwina Cutwater, an obscenely wealthy woman who wants a new body. She hires Terry Hoskins (Victoria Tennant) as a recipient for her soul. During the transformation ceremony, everything goes awry with lawyer Roger Cobb (Steve Martin) receiving Edwina's soul and keeping his own. The scenes in which Roger's two personalities tug at his body are hilarious.

And until next time, happy viewing....



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Obituaries

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Philip and Evelyn Gauss

Evelyn Gauss

An Islander for over 75 years, Evelyn Gauss died peacefully at her home on Earley Street on April 27, 2009. She was 98.

Evie, as she was known, was born on Jackson Avenue in the Bronx on Sept. 23, 1910. In her early years, she was employed by Prudential Life Insurance Company in New York. To escape the heat of the city, she spent summers on City Island along with her sister, Lorraine, in a waterfront bungalow that her parents, Pauline and August Buschmann, rented from Sophie and Frederick Gauss.

It was there that she met their son, Philip, who became her beloved husband in 1934. Their two daughters, Carol and Melinda, were born over the next several years as the family lived in various rented homes on the water.

In 1944 they decided to move "inland" and purchased a large home on Earley Street that had been built by Philip's father, Frederick. Large enough to accommodate the extended family, including Evie's parents, it became known as the "Happy Home." The house was always filled with wonderful smells of home cooking and baked goods, which went hand in hand

with the family's warm hospitality.

Life was full during these years. Philip had a long career at Minneford Yacht Yard and became General Manager early on. In later years, he would be recognized for his expertise in overseeing the building of several of the America's Cup defenders, including *Constellation* and *Intrepid*. Evie was always at his side as these amazing yachts were christened and launched from Minneford's.

Both Evelyn and Philip were active members of Grace Episcopal Church. Philip was a vestryman and warden, while Evelyn was a member of various church groups and a founding member of the Grace Church Thrift Shop. She supervised and worked at the thrift shop for 27 years. Their daughters were choir members and church school teachers. Grace Church was always an important part of the life of the Gauss family, which had settled in City Island in the late 1890s and were among the first families at Grace.

Evie is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Bob McKenna of Tappan, New York, and Melinda and Bud Halligan of Tillson, New York; her sister and brother-in-law, Lorraine and Ducky Rauhauser of City Island; her niece, Karen Nani of City Island, and nephew, Eric Rauhauser of California; seven grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; two great nephews; and one great niece.

Evie's wonderful life was celebrated in her beloved Grace Church as family and friends filled the church on May 1, 2009. She was interred at Pelham Cemetery after the service.



Linda Boudreau

Islander Linda Boudreau died of colon cancer on March 20, 2009, at the age of 55.

Linda had been a resident of City Island since she was six years old, when her father, Henry Esposito, bought a house on Bay Street.

She worked for John Mini Landscapes

for 16 years until he moved the business off the Island.

Linda was a familiar sight on City Island Avenue walking her two dogs. Her sweet personality and laughter will be missed by those who loved her.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Boudreau; her daughter, Crissy Weidman, son-in-law, Chayne, and grandson, Chaynie, of Long Island; her two sisters and brothers-in-law, Ginger and John Giriat of City Island and Margie and Jeff Morton of Colorado; her brother, John Esposito of City Island; and many sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

C. Frank Sena

Frank "Chezy" Sena, a longtime resident of City Island, died on his 81st birthday on April 30, 2009.

He was born in 1928 on 225th Street in the Bronx and attended P.S. 78, Evander Childs High School, Iona College and Fordham Law School. He became an attorney in 1956.

In 1967, Frank moved to Winter Street on City Island with his family, and he immediately became involved in the City Island Civic Association, the Community Board, the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the City Island Little League.

Frank took great pride in his home and his family. He was a wonderful husband to Frances for 52 years and a great father to Virginia, Michael and Francesca, as well as grandfather to his four grandchildren, Francis, Christina and Andrew McGuire and Mia Sena. Frank was a surrogate father to his son-in-law, Chris McGuire, and his daughter-in-law, Tina Sena, and a mentor to many, a responsibility he took very seriously.

Frank was known for his warm sense of humor and quick wit. He was a special person, that rare breed, a gentleman lawyer, a man who taught by example. He will be very much missed by his family and many friends.

Peter Coyle

Peter C. Coyle passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 17, 2009, at the age of 62.

He moved to City Island with his family when he was in the fifth grade and took up residence on Fordham Street. As a young child, he worked as a delivery boy for Sam Bierman's Pharmacy and M&M's grocery store. Later in his life, he worked as an exterminator, an encyclopedia salesman, a waiter at the Black Whale, a steamfitter and a plumber. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, he ran the taco stand in front of the Black Whale.

Peter loved the outdoors whether he was camping, boating or walking in the Orchard Beach woods. He loved City Island and its residents and always offered a helping hand to those in need. If you had a willing ear, Peter would always find the time to discuss poetry, philosophy, religion, local politics and the hypocrisy of the leaders of our nation. He did not shy away from controversy.

He is predeceased by his brother, John, and survived by his son, Peter; his former wife, Stephanie; his sisters Marilyn Johnson of City Island and Kathleen Coyle-Rappa of Springhill, Florida, and his brother, Michael, of Santa Barbara, California.

Peter was well loved by his family and friends and will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 27, at Trinity Methodist Church at 10 a.m.

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P.S. 175 CELEBRATES THE QUADRICENTENNIAL

By LISA FINE



Photo by LISA FINE

Third-graders Michael Bauso, Iyanni Olin, Carlo Fine and Jennifer Carino celebrating the planting of corn, squash and beans, which are the companion plantings that make up the "three sisters garden" at P.S. 175, part of the school's Quadricentennial celebration.

A century ago, City Island participated in New York's 300th celebration of Henry Hudson's voyage to New York by building a replica of his ship, the *Half Moon*. For this year's 400th celebration, the City Island School has participated in imaginative displays and innovative programs fostering learning about the culture, history and natural resources of New York.

P.S. 175 has the privilege of being a registered Quadricentennial School, the only one in the Bronx and one of only three public schools in the city system to be honored with this distinction. This means that the students will have the rare opportunity to participate in the anniversary of an event that changed the course of world history.

Kicking off the celebration, the City Island School already hosted an evening with Eric Sanderson, a P.S. 175 parent and the author of the recently published book *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*. Later this month, the fourth-graders will travel to the Museum of the City of New York to see the exhibition based on Dr. Sanderson's Mannahatta Project, which features cutting-edge visualizations of the early history, ecology and geography of Manhattan.

Applying place-based learning techniques, parent Michael Shanley will help students discover history and celebrate di-

versity as he leads May field trips for the third, fourth and fifth grades to the Woodlawn Cemetery, Wave Hill and the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

A small tulip design celebrating Hudson's journey from Amsterdam to New York is blooming in the school's front garden, a tribute to the larger tulip displays and cultural exchanges between the Netherlands and New York City. Parent Han Yu Hung will expand the Pilot Garden Program at P.S. 175 to include a "three sisters garden," an exemplary horticultural technique practiced by the Lenape people 400 years ago in this area.

As a powerful symbol of both the Hudson anniversary and City Island's boat-building history, P.S. 175 parent, artist and woodworker Bob Adams, together with the research and inspiration of Dr. Ed Rothschild, has constructed a scale model of the *Half Moon*. The model will be launched on Friday, June 12, in the theme garden facing City Island Avenue as part of a full day of quadricentennial and Arbor Day celebrations and events.

After the boat launch, all of the students and teachers will participate in a dynamic ecological performance to weave a "Muir Web" exemplifying the interconnection of all things in nature. Eric Sanderson, who conceived of this innovative ecological model and named it for the California naturalist John Muir, will direct this activity.



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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Saving Time)
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary 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

JUNE 2009									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0132	0.27	0733	7.20	1354	0.28	2001	7.87	Mon 01
02 Tue	0232	0.04	0833	7.19	1450	0.29	2056	8.02	Tue 02
03 Wed	0329	-0.18	0928	7.20	1543	0.31	2147	8.12	Wed 03
04 Thu	0421	-0.34	1018	7.21	1631	0.35	2234	8.16	Thu 04
05 Fri	0510	-0.39	1106	7.21	1717	0.43	2319	8.13	Fri 05
06 Sat	0555	-0.33	1150	7.19	1758	0.57			Sat 06
07 Sun	0000	8.05	0637	-0.17	1232	7.16	1835	0.74	Sun 07
08 Mon	0037	7.91	0715	0.06	1310	7.12	1904	0.91	Mon 08
09 Tue	0108	7.76	0748	0.31	1344	7.07	1921	1.04	Tue 09
10 Wed	0128	7.62	0811	0.54	1409	7.05	1944	1.10	Wed 10
11 Thu	0151	7.52	0823	0.68	1429	7.07	2019	1.14	Thu 11
12 Fri	0224	7.43	0849	0.74	1458	7.14	2100	1.16	Fri 12
13 Sat	0303	7.32	0926	0.79	1536	7.21	2145	1.18	Sat 13
14 Sun	0346	7.17	1008	0.83	1618	7.30	2234	1.17	Sun 14
15 Mon	0435	7.00	1053	0.87	1705	7.39	2327	1.12	Mon 15
16 Tue	0527	6.84	1143	0.89	1756	7.51			Tue 16
17 Wed	0024	1.01	0624	6.72	1236	0.88	1851	7.68	Wed 17
18 Thu	0127	0.82	0724	6.69	1332	0.83	1947	7.88	Thu 18
19 Fri	0236	0.54	0827	6.76	1431	0.71	2045	8.12	Fri 19
20 Sat	0348	0.19	0930	6.94	1533	0.55	2143	8.37	Sat 20
21 Sun	0453	-0.19	1032	7.18	1637	0.35	2241	8.57	Sun 21
22 Mon	0552	-0.52	1131	7.44	1741	0.16	2338	8.68	Mon 22
23 Tue	0647	-0.75	1229	7.67	1844	0.00			Tue 23
24 Wed	0035	8.67	0741	-0.84	1326	7.84	1946	-0.08	Wed 24
25 Thu	0134	8.52	0835	-0.79	1424	7.93	2048	-0.09	Thu 25
26 Fri	0235	8.25	0929	-0.62	1524	7.94	2152	-0.03	Fri 26
27 Sat	0341	7.90	1026	-0.36	1626	7.91	2257	0.06	Sat 27
28 Sun	0452	7.54	1124	-0.07	1730	7.85			Sun 28
29 Mon	0002	0.14	0600	7.23	1223	0.22	1832	7.81	Mon 29
30 Tue	0106	0.18	0705	7.02	1322	0.46	1932	7.81	Tue 30
JULY 2009									
01 Wed	0207	0.17	0806	6.92	1420	0.62	2029	7.84	Wed 01
02 Thu	0304	0.12	0902	6.90	1515	0.72	2123	7.89	Thu 02
03 Fri	0358	0.08	0955	6.95	1606	0.78	2213	7.94	Fri 03
04 Sat	0447	0.06	1044	7.04	1653	0.82	2259	7.95	Sat 04
05 Sun	0532	0.09	1129	7.13	1736	0.87	2342	7.93	Sun 05
06 Mon	0614	0.17	1211	7.20	1814	0.92			Mon 06
07 Tue	0020	7.86	0651	0.28	1248	7.23	1845	0.97	Tue 07



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Because the City Island Bridge has been declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the New York State's Historic Preservation Office required that the engineers document the bridge in photographs before it is destroyed, as the city plans to do when it replaces it with a new bridge, a project scheduled to start in July 2011. Residents noticed the photographers at work over the past month, culminating in a major operation on May 20, 2009, when the Department of Transportation had to give the photographers access to some of the bridge's hidden structural elements.



THE NEW YORK TIMES AND CITY ISLAND, PART II

This month's column is the continuation of an article about City Island that appeared in the *New York Times* on Aug. 25, 1878. We are indebted to Mr. Blake Bell and his Historic Pelham Web site for this find. Now, if our calculations are correct, we left off last time somewhere along the road between the ball fields and the bridge.

... And so the charming road continues to the long, low broad bridge which connects the mainland with City Island. At the mainland end of that bridge is a small hostelry, known as *Flynn's*, if a curiously-contrived sign made up of oyster shells is to be accepted as evidence, where anglers come from the City [so the sign reads], and small parties of excursionists occasionally from Mount Vernon, Yonkers, and smaller places near by.

Facing the other end of the bridge, on the island, is a handsome hotel, erected by Harry Cunningham, the once popular actor, who left the stage and became a still more popular restaurateur in the Bowery. He had great hope of making this a favorite road house; but hardly was it completed when he died, and now it is kept by his brother, who is an invalid and does not wish to be bothered with guests.

From the bridge one can enjoy a delightful view of the arm of the Sound which cuts off City, High, and Rat Islands from the mainland. Below the bridge, far as one can see them, [is] where different owners have millions of oysters and clams stored away waiting for the New York market, for this neighborhood is where the finest, fairest, and fattest of East River oysters and the sweetest of small clams are found. Upon the water, and half submerged, are ponderous "oyster floats," enormous boxes wherein the shellfish are heaped by the ton for convenient transfer to the smacks.

The tapering masts of scores of shapely little sloops and schooners, riding anchor down the stream, are sharply outlined against the sky, while here and there one with snowy wings outspread

is to be seen, darting swiftly away, or returning home. Above the bridge can be seen, mostly in the forenoons, many small boats, in which men are going through strange pantomimic action. They seem to be making many obeisances, and waving their arms in fantastic fashion. Upon closer investigation, they prove to be fishermen, operating long tongs and rakes that clutch oysters and clams from the bottom, 20 feet below. The water is so clear that it reflects another sky, as varied and beautiful in its ever-changing tints as that above. The quiet is so profound that one hears the rattle of a few clams dropped from a rake into the bottom of a boat far away, and the ripple of a girl's laughter from another boat beneath the bridge wakes echoes on the shores.

The nearest island to City Island is that denominated High by reason of the attitude of a mass of rugged rocks on its eastern front. Upon those rocks stands a house, once the summer headquarters of the now defunct "Mulum in Parvo Club," an association of journalists and actors, which flourished here some years ago. They leased the island for a term of 10 years—not yet expired—from Peter V. King, a rich Wall Street merchant. Boyhood's associations have endeared the lonely island to him, and he has been heard to say that "There is not money enough in New York to buy it." There is an excellent spring of cold and pure water upon it, and the western half of it might, with some little trouble, be made productive. A man of means could establish here a most enjoyable summer residence.

Rat Island is simply a mass of rocks. There are said to be numbers of rats on it, but why rats should choose to live there, where they find shelter, and what they get to live on, are all questions which nobody answers definitely, and which must cast a shadow of doubt over the reality of the rodents there. Away, over to the eastward lies Hart's Island, and farther up the Sound is David's Island, from both of which at times one hears, distinct but mellowed by the distance, the music of drum and fife, for on both soldiers are quartered...

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Island Current			June 2009						Tide Calendar				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
L = Low Tide H = High Tide	L 1:32A H 7:33A L 1:54P H 8:01P	L 2:32A H 8:33A L 2:50P H 8:56P	L 3:29A H 9:28A L 3:43P H 9:47P	L 4:21A H 10:18A L 4:31P H 10:34P	L 5:10A H 11:06A L 5:17P H 11:19P	L 5:55A H 11:50A L 5:58P	L 4:21A H 10:18A L 4:31P H 10:34P	L 1:32A H 7:33A L 1:54P H 8:01P	L 2:32A H 8:33A L 2:50P H 8:56P	L 3:29A H 9:28A L 3:43P H 9:47P	L 4:21A H 10:18A L 4:31P H 10:34P	L 5:10A H 11:06A L 5:17P H 11:19P	L 5:55A H 11:50A L 5:58P
H 12:00A L 6:37A H 12:32P L 6:35P	H 12:37A L 7:15A H 1:10P L 7:04P	H 1:08A L 7:48A H 1:44P L 7:21P	H 1:28A L 8:11A H 2:09P L 7:44P	H 1:51A L 8:23A H 2:29P L 8:19P	H 2:24A L 8:49A H 2:58P L 9:00P	H 3:03A L 9:26A H 3:36P L 9:45P	H 1:51A L 8:23A H 2:29P L 8:19P	H 1:08A L 7:48A H 1:44P L 7:21P	H 1:28A L 8:11A H 2:09P L 7:44P	H 1:28A L 8:11A H 2:09P L 7:44P	H 1:51A L 8:23A H 2:29P L 8:19P	H 2:24A L 8:49A H 2:58P L 9:00P	H 3:03A L 9:26A H 3:36P L 9:45P
H 3:46A L 10:08A H 4:18P L 10:34P	H 4:35A L 10:53A H 5:05P L 11:27P	H 5:27A L 11:43A H 5:56P	L 12:24A H 6:24A L 12:36P H 6:51P	L 1:27A H 7:24A L 1:32P H 7:47P	L 2:36A H 8:27A L 2:31P H 8:45P	L 3:48A H 9:30A L 3:33P H 9:43P	L 1:27A H 7:24A L 1:32P H 7:47P	H 5:27A L 11:43A H 5:56P	H 4:35A L 10:53A H 5:05P L 11:27P	H 4:35A L 10:53A H 5:05P L 11:27P	H 5:27A L 11:43A H 5:56P	L 12:24A H 6:24A L 12:36P H 6:51P	L 1:27A H 7:24A L 1:32P H 7:47P
H 4:52A L 11:24A H 5:30P	L 12:02A H 6:00A L 12:23P H 6:32P	L 1:06A H 7:05A L 1:22P H 7:32P	L 2:07A H 8:06A L 2:20P H 8:29P	L 3:04A H 9:02A L 3:15P H 9:23P	L 3:58A H 9:55A L 4:06P H 10:13P	L 4:47A H 10:44A L 4:53P H 10:59P	L 1:06A H 7:05A L 1:22P H 7:32P	L 12:02A H 6:00A L 12:23P H 6:32P	L 1:06A H 7:05A L 1:22P H 7:32P	L 2:07A H 8:06A L 2:20P H 8:29P	L 3:04A H 9:02A L 3:15P H 9:23P	L 3:58A H 9:55A L 4:06P H 10:13P	L 4:47A H 10:44A L 4:53P H 10:59P
Tide Calendar by Tom Smith													
													

Island Current			August 2009						Tide Calendar				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
L = Low Tide H = High Tide	L 4:21A H 10:18A L 4:28P H 10:37P	L 5:05A H 11:04A L 5:12P H 11:19P	L 6:21A H 12:20P L 6:20P	L 12:27A H 6:48A L 12:47P H 6:41P	L 12:42A H 7:03A L 12:58P H 7:01P	L 12:58A H 7:17A L 1:16P H 7:30P	L 4:21A H 10:18A L 4:28P H 10:37P	L 5:05A H 11:04A L 5:12P H 11:19P	L 6:21A H 12:20P L 6:20P	L 12:27A H 6:48A L 12:47P H 6:41P	L 12:42A H 7:03A L 12:58P H 7:01P	L 12:58A H 7:17A L 1:16P H 7:30P	L 12:58A H 7:17A L 1:16P H 7:30P
H 12:00A L 6:37A H 12:32P L 6:35P	H 12:28A L 7:45A H 1:47P L 8:06P	H 2:04A L 8:20A H 2:24P L 8:47P	H 2:45A L 9:01A H 3:06P L 9:33P	H 3:32A L 9:46A H 3:53P L 10:23P	H 4:24A L 10:36A H 4:46P L 11:21P	H 5:22A L 11:32A H 5:46P L 12:37P	H 12:28A L 7:45A H 1:47P L 8:06P	H 2:04A L 8:20A H 2:24P L 8:47P	H 2:45A L 9:01A H 3:06P L 9:33P	H 3:32A L 9:46A H 3:53P L 10:23P	H 4:24A L 10:36A H 4:46P L 11:21P	H 5:22A L 11:32A H 5:46P L 12:37P	H 5:22A L 11:32A H 5:46P L 12:37P
H 2:09A L 8:36A H 2:31P L 9:10P	H 3:00A L 9:22A H 3:20P L 10:03P	H 3:55A L 10:10A H 4:15P L 11:01P	H 4:55A L 11:04A H 5:18P	L 12:02A H 6:00A L 12:07P H 6:25P	L 1:04A H 7:04A L 1:13P H 7:30P	L 2:04A H 8:04A L 2:15P H 8:28P	H 2:09A L 8:36A H 2:31P L 9:10P	H 3:00A L 9:22A H 3:20P L 10:03P	H 3:55A L 10:10A H 4:15P L 11:01P	H 4:55A L 11:04A H 5:18P	L 12:02A H 6:00A L 12:07P H 6:25P	L 1:04A H 7:04A L 1:13P H 7:30P	L 2:04A H 8:04A L 2:15P H 8:28P
Tide Calendar by Tom Smith													
													

Tide Calendar			September 2009						Island Current				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
L = Low Tide H = High Tide	L 12:30A H 6:43A L 12:41P H 7:06P	L 1:01A H 7:14A L 1:15P H 7:42P	L 2:22A H 8:34A L 2:38P H 9:10P	L 3:09A H 9:21A L 3:28P H 10:03P	L 4:03A H 10:14A L 4:29P H 11:05P	L 5:05A H 11:15A L 5:27P H 12:16P	L 12:30A H 6:43A L 12:41P H 7:06P	L 1:01A H 7:14A L 1:15P H 7:42P	L 2:22A H 8:34A L 2:38P H 9:10P	L 3:09A H 9:21A L 3:28P H 10:03P	L 4:03A H 10:14A L 4:29P H 11:05P	L 5:05A H 11:15A L 5:27P H 12:16P	L 5:05A H 11:15A L 5:27P H 12:16P
H 12:00A L 6:37A H 12:32P L 6:35P	H 1:01A L 7:14A H 1:15P L 7:42P	H 2:22A L 8:34A H 2:38P L 9:10P	H 3:09A L 9:21A H 3:28P L 10:03P	H 4:03A L 10:14A H 4:29P L 11:05P	H 5:05A L 11:15A H 5:27P L 12:16P	H 6:07A L 12:10A H 6:21A L 12:16P	H 1:01A L 7:14A H 1:15P L 7:42P	H 2:22A L 8:34A H 2:38P L 9:10P	H 3:09A L 9:21A H 3:28P L 10:03P	H 4:03A L 10:14A H 4:29P L 11:05P	H 5:05A L 11:15A H 5:27P L 12:16P	H 6:07A L 12:10A H 6:21A L 12:16P	H 6:07A L 12:10A H 6:21A L 12:16P
													

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KEYBOARD PLAYER AVAILABLE: I play smooth and gentle music for special events. References available. Call Diana at 718-885-2091.

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.

TOYS, GAMES, PUZZLES, PUPPETS, craft kits & more! Now at Exotiq 718-885-3090 or shop online at www.themagicofgifts.com.

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

PORTRAIT PARTY FAVORS: Make your next event memorable for your guests. Add a portrait station to your next special events. Every guest will go home with a framed full color portrait of themselves. Our professionally prepared and presented color portraits are party favors that will be cherished for years. Call 718-885-1403 or stop by Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue.

JEWELRY DESIGNED & REPAIRED: Gold, silver, pearl & bead re-stringing. Exotiq 718-885-3090.

FOR SALE: New Construction 2 family 76A & 76B Winter Street, City Island with detached 2 car garages. Call for details. 718-994-9533.

PROTECT YOUR HOME: Fire extinguishers. UL rated. low prices. Master/Visa. Burck's, 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559.

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BOAT SUPPLIES: Burck's, 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559. Customer parking. Mastercard/Visa.

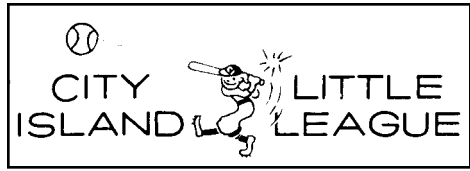
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The 2009 City Island Little League season has been moving along smoothly. Our baseball fields are overflowing with hundreds of boys and girls learning to play baseball and softball. Instruction for the little ones is on Saturday mornings, and official games for the minors, majors and girls' softball teams are throughout the week. The Juniors, under the direction of Charlie and Keith Krieg, have been traveling to the Astor Place baseball field to play more advanced and competitive baseball!

Across the board, the managers and coaches in the minor league division heartily report that "all their players are having fun, learning good baseball skills, and playing close games." Representing the I.G.A. team, Christopher DeSantis and Joseph Cordaro, and Michael DeSantis had back-to-back doubles in one game, and each hit one double and two singles in another. Meghan McConaghy went three for three along with Joseph Leni and Michael Amos. Later that week, catcher Steven Rice made a great play on a check swing from the batter when he got out from behind the plate and threw a strike to first base. Another note is that Justin Munafo, Joseph Leni, Michael Amos and Joseph Cruz all had three sharp singles.

The major league, which is for 10-12 year olds, has also seen some star turns. So far this season, Nick Bellocchio (Sammy's Fishbox), Delyn "Rufus" Bernard (American Legion), Nick Connolly (Ruggiero and Sons) and Christopher DiMarco (Jack's Bait and Tackle) have hit clean home runs out of the park!

Alexej Xhokaxhiu from the Ruggiero and Sons team caught for the first time this season and threw a player out at the plate. Robert Connolly, also a catcher on Ruggiero's, was successful in throwing a player out behind the plate. Mike Candelaria caught a fly ball in centerfield and threw to first base for a double play. John Eric Valenti pitched the first game for five innings, and gave up only one earned run. The American Legion team has been having a great season so far, and the team is playing like a cohesive unit. The coaches are impressed with some of their younger players, Julian Gannon, Kasper Pedersen and Nicholas Texidor.

On Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m. there will be Trophy Day at the field with sodas and hot dogs. Everyone from our City Island community is invited to watch our All Star players compete in a final game!

On a final note, the City Island Little League board members would like to thank all of the parent volunteers who contributed their time to work at the concession stand. Your participation makes an enormous difference. We simply could not do it without you!

Sally Page Connolly

Richard B. Chernaik, M.D.

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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.

Congratulations to Lauren Nye, who graduated summa cum laude from the Honors College at the State University at Albany. After a trip to Europe, she will continue with her education and earn her master's degree in English. So Lauren, "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So, get on your way!" With much love and admiration from your family. And happy birthday to Lauren who will celebrate on June 10.

Congratulations to Mary Dannegger, who graduated magna cum laude from Sacred Heart University on May 17. Mary was inducted into the Scholar Athlete Honor Society. We are very proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to David Mooney on his graduation from Salesian High School and for being the recipient of the 2009 Youth Award from St. Vincent's Hospital. We are so proud of you!!!! Love, Mom, Mima, Gram and Janessa.

Birthday wishes to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, who will celebrate his big day on June 23.

Congratulations and good luck to Bay Street's Maria Christina Swieciki, who will graduate from Preston High School on June 6. Maria will be attending St. Bonaventure University in the fall. We are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad, Stephen and Bobby.

Birthday greetings on June 29 to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth, with hugs and kisses from your family and friends.

Happy second birthday to Matthew! It has been such a joy watching you grow. We love you so much. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Bobby and Nanny.

Congratulations and best of luck to P.S. 175's much loved Health Intern, Mrs. Betty Carman, who is retiring after 21 years with the Board of Education. Mrs. Carman has been with the City Island School for 19 of those 21 years and has provided tender, loving care, Band-aids, hugs and kisses to staffers and children alike. We wish her much happiness as she kicks back, relaxes and enjoys her golden years! Love from your proud family.

Happy birthday on June 1 to Tier Street's Marion Rosenfeld, from your friends at Atlantic Emeritus Realty.

Belated 17th birthday wishes to Briana Lotrionte, who celebrated her big day on May 28, with love from Mom, Dad, Nicolette, Jillian and Amber Jo.

Congratulations to Nicolette Lotrionte on receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in political science and Italian studies with a concentration in politics and journalism



Nicolette Lotrionte

from the University of Delaware on May 30. Nicolette is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society and is a National Scholar Athlete. She was a member of the Varsity Women's Rowing Team at UDel and was a co-captain in her senior year. Her parents, Nancy and Nick, are extremely proud of her accomplishments and wish her a very successful future.

Best wishes for continued success to Lori Mazzella, who graduated from SUNY Binghamton on May 17 with a Bachelor of Science degree and is looking forward to a career in nursing.

Happy 17th birthday wishes to Winter Street's Johnny Mazzella on June 28.

City Island Reflexology advertisement for David Cook, 190 Fordham St, 718-885-1494. Includes an illustration of a foot being massaged.

Advertisement for graduation party balloons by SU-SU BALLOONS, 885-1834. Features a 'GOOD LUCK' balloon and a scroll.



On May 20, 2009, the kindergarten children from P.S. 175 had an incredible adventure! They walked to the senior citizen residence center at Pilot Cove Manor to read to the adults. Their purpose was to reach out to the community and make friends as they demonstrated their reading abilities. They all enjoyed the experience, thanks to their new friends, their parents and the teachers and assistants. It was a day to remember for everyone in this community of readers who participated in this event.

Congratulations to Francis Christopher McGuire, who graduated from Sacred Heart University on May 17, 2009. He graduated with a degree in business administration and will pursue a career in property management. Good luck to you, Francis. We love you and are very proud of you, from the McGuire and Sena families.

Congratulations to our daughter, Angela Acocella, on finishing her freshman year in high school with first honors. We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad and Dominick.

I wish my husband of 55 years a very happy anniversary on June 26. He is an original clam digger; in fact, we were both

in the American Legion band in the 1950s, which is where we first met. For a fun weekend, we would go down one of the streets to the beach and go swimming and gather up clams, which we ate on the beach. We now live in Florida, as do some of our children and grandchildren. We went over to the west coast of Florida, where we hooked up with two more clam diggers and we had a blast. So you see we are still around. Life is sweet. I'll love him forever and a day, Cindi DeTorres.

And a very happy Father's Day to all our deserving dads and grandpas.

Maria Swieciki

Clean Team

Continued from page 3

of empty storefronts. Even the politicians are pitching in. State Senator Jeff Klein donated the gallons of paint used to cover the graffiti on fences and other surfaces, and when the paint ran out, Steve Karabel of Bay Street contributed some more..

"Hopefully this gets people thinking about cleaning up their own streets," Ms. Hayes said. She and the other volunteers vowed to organize more clean-ups during the year and to urge all Islanders to pitch-in. They applauded the efforts of those business and restaurant owners who keep the areas in front of their own properties clean and attractive throughout the year.

So join them next time. It's amazing what a relatively small group can accomplish in just a couple of hours.



Photo by LILY FERTIK

Several beautiful planters filled with flowers appeared at the corners of Bay, Fordham and Hawkins Street early in May, thanks to the efforts of the Quality of Life Committee and the Garden Club of City Island.



The youngest member of the Clean Team, Mother Patty Alexander's son Peter, pitched right in.

Moving form with fields for name, old address, new address, and a note to return to Island Current.

Subscriptions form for The Island Current, including fields for name, address, phone, and rate information.

Advertisement for Amanda Bear DJ Party Rentals, listing services like tents, slides, chairs, and popcorn machines, with contact information for phone and email.