

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Good-bye, Mr. McConnell

By MIRIAM KLEINBERG



Photo by KAREN NANI

**Longtime P.S. 175 teacher Peter McConnell announced his retirement after 37 years with the New York Board of Education. He is shown above at his desk teaching social studies to some of his seventh-grade students.**

Those of us beyond a certain age may remember a book and a film entitled "Good-bye, Mr. Chips" about a beloved schoolmaster in an English boarding school. Well, no schoolmaster has ever been more beloved than Peter McConnell, and it seems right to adapt that title for an article celebrating the career of a man who has devoted his life to educating the young.

Thirty seven years ago, at the age of 27, Peter McConnell started teaching in the New York City school system, and for 25 of those years he has been on City Island. It doesn't seem possible to imagine the City Island School without Mr. McConnell, but he plans to make this year his last.

The first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of Mr. McConnell is his kindness. Indeed, one can't imagine this man even contemplating a cruel act or word. When he teaches, his love of the subject is unmistakable, but so is his love of the students. The kids know they are safe with him, no matter how smart they are, or how smart-mouthed and disruptive they might be. Either way, they know that Mr. McConnell is always on their side.

The McConnell family lives on Long Island, and his own children are now adults. His daughter, Erin, attends Hunter College, and his son Kevin teaches math at South Side High School in Rockville Center. His son Peter graduated from Farmingdale University on Long Island and is working as a manager at Snow House, while he waits to be called by the New York City Fire Department.

In every profession there are people who are born to do whatever the job calls for. Luckily for Peter McConnell and for the children he has taught, he was born to teach. Although he did briefly consider other fields, he chose education, thanks at least in part to his mother's encouragement. He was especially drawn to what we call Social Studies, a combination of history, geography, civics, map skills, citizenship and current events. And because he loves his subject, his students love it, too.

But loving your subject is only part of what it takes to be a good teacher. You also have to love the kids, and love is not too strong a word. The most important part of

what it takes to make a good teacher is the kind of human being you are. As Ena Ellwanger, former principal at P. S. 175, puts it: "Peter lives the values that matter the most—respect and responsibility. That's what makes him a great teacher and a beloved colleague."

In 1998, Alice Rotello, for many years a colleague on the teaching staff at the school, wrote a wonderful profile of Peter McConnell for *The Island Current*. I can't improve on her words: "Peter McConnell is an unsung hero who has never sought and never will seek the limelight. He is a true ambassador of good will and a quiet but intense crusader for children's rights. Islanders are thankful for this dedicated educator who enriches our lives with his presence."

The time comes in everyone's life when you know that you're done, that you can't continue to expend the same amount of energy you've been expending for years. If you're lucky, you'll have enough health and money at the end of your career to enjoy the time you have left. But no matter how much you realize that it's time to go, if you really loved your work, a part of you never leaves. Teachers always remember the faces of the children wanting to know what is coming next.

Even though teaching has been Mr. McConnell's life, he has done some serious thinking about his plans for life after he retires. In a few years he would like to move to North Carolina, where he feels that people live more civilized lives. He looks forward to having some spare time, and he'd like to learn Italian and maybe practice his woodworking skills.

But he will not easily forget his years on City Island. Indeed, he expresses his own sense of gratitude, reflecting ours for him: "I'm thankful that I was so fortunate in the people I met and the children I taught. I can't believe how quickly the time went by. It is very gratifying to see the children of children I have taught."

Although Mr. McConnell will not be physically present at P.S. 175 next September, the memory of this good man will continue to enrich our lives. We all wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement. He will be missed.

## Islanders Sound Off About Cell Phone Antenna Installation

By KAREN NANI



Photos by NANCY FRIEDMAN

**Islanders raised concerns in May 2007 over the multiple cell phone antennas and equipment being installed atop 205 City Island Avenue across the street from P.S. 175.**

The installation of more cell phone equipment on the roof of 205 City Island Avenue, across from P.S. 175, raised concern among parents, nearby businesses and residents during May.

Centre Street residents Helen and Nancy Friedman were awakened at 3 a.m. on May 22 by noise from a truck and work crew. The workers appeared to be "drilling and installing antennas or cell phone towers" on the roof of the apartment building above the Island Café and next to Chase Bank.

According to Dave Carman, the following day an unmarked truck and crane arrived and attempted to block the driveway of Carman's Service Station on the corner of Winters Street and City Island Avenue. When Mr. Carman told them they could not block his active driveway, they informed him they had a permit and needed to lift equipment onto the roof of 205 City Island Avenue. He argued with the driver, pointing out that the crane would be blocking not only his driveway, but City Island Avenue as well and that P.S. 175 would be dismissing students shortly.

When the crane crew would not leave, Mr. Carman called the police. A highway patrol police car arrived, at which point the contractor "tried to put the booms back fast and drive away," Mr. Carman told *The Current*. The police officer stopped them and asked to see a permit. Apparently the contractor had some paperwork authorizing work between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. It was after 2 p.m., so the police officer issued a summons and told them to move, according to Mr. Carman.

During the week, the contractor also went into Chase Bank on the other side of the building and told bank officers that they had to clear the parking lot so they could put up their crane. When bank staff questioned who had authorized this, the contractor said they had clearance from Chase security. Skeptical, the officers called their security division and found out that no such permission had been granted. "They were lying," a representative from Chase told *The Current*, and the bank staff refused to allow the contractor into the parking lot.

On May 24, an inspector from the New York City Buildings Department Crane Division came to the site and asked Mr. Carman what had happened the previous day. When he described the events, the inspec-

tor said that he would have issued many summonses, as no crane work is allowed near live power lines such as those along City Island Avenue near the site.

Meanwhile, some tenants in the 205 building voiced their concerns to building management. "We were notified that cell phone antennas were being installed on the roof, but we couldn't believe it when work began in the middle of the night," one tenant said. This tenant said they tried to ask building management about the safety of these installations and to inform them that there was a family with a baby living in the apartment right below the roof. "I was told: 'If you don't like it, move,'" the tenant said.

DGL Realty, whose name is in the lobby of 205 City Island Avenue, was contacted and asked about the installation. A representative from the realty company said that these are Verizon and AT&T cell towers, but that no new towers were installed. "They were swapping out equipment," he told *The Current*.

Verizon and AT&T were contacted to find out more about the installation, the contract with the building's owner, and the contractor hired to do the work. As this issue went to press, representatives from the two companies had not yet returned the calls, possibly because of the Memorial Day holiday.

The issue of cell phone tower installation near schools has been raised elsewhere in the city. When cell phone towers were installed by Nextel across from P.S. 122 in Queens, residents and politicians raised objections, according to a story in *The Daily News*. Assemblyman Michael Gianaris of Astoria was quoted in the article saying, "Right now we have no idea in the city how many of these things exist and where they exist. We don't know enough about the health risks. Until we do, our children shouldn't be exposed to a bombardment of radiation."

Last year, New York City Council member James Vacca, then district manager of Community Board 10, was quoted as saying: "We have no evidence that cell phone towers pose a health hazard, but we also don't have enough studies stating that they aren't hazardous in any way, either. Therefore, I believe a community board should be able to have some input on this matter before any construction occurs."

**BRIEFLY...**

**CI COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE:** It's not too late to get in your order for certified organic vegetables and herbs from Stoneledge Farm through City Island's own CSA. Members purchase shares in advance of the season (\$425 for a full vegetable share, \$220 for a half share, and \$200 for a fruit share) and then pick up on City Island their share of the weekly harvest from mid-June through November. Stoneledge Farm is a family farm located in the northern Catskills, where over 45 different vegetables and herbs are grown, including lettuces, beets, peas, squash, tomatoes, eggplant, melons, carrots, leeks and pumpkins. The first delivery to City Island will be on June 13, so register now by calling Dr. Carolyn Dean at 718-885-1104 or e-mailing her at [Carolyn@carolyndeandean.com](mailto:Carolyn@carolyndeandean.com).

**COMMUNITY WALL PART 2:** The P.T.A. of P.S. 175 is planning a second installment of the Community Wall, which was first unveiled to the community on Sept. 15, 2006, and is now on permanent display in the auditorium area of the school. All members of the community are encouraged to participate in this important public art project and fund-raising event. Proceeds will help support art, music and sports programs, as well as staff development. This year's tile painting party will be held on Wednesday, June 6, at P.S.175 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The suggested minimum donation is \$25. To reserve your tile in advance, post or drop off a check made payable to P.S. 175 P.T.A., 200 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464. For more information, contact project coordinator Susan Bellinson at 718-885-2109 or [Sbellinson@usa.net](mailto:Sbellinson@usa.net). Anyone wishing to view the Community Wall should call parent-teacher coordinator Tina Gisante at 718-885-1093.

**BLESSING OF THE FLEET** will take place on Sunday, June 10, at 1 p.m., sponsored by the City Island Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156. Clergy of various denominations will bless vessels from the Fenton Marine Dock near Fordham Street. Boats should assemble at the Hart Island Ferry Dock at 12:30 p.m. Communication on VHF 71 will begin at 12:30 p.m.

**SUMMER ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR,** sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place on June 2 and 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. More than 50 vendors will show and sell their works along City Island Avenue in this annual event, now in its 34th year.

**Harlem Loses Cannon Case**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Seven years ago, New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), responding to complaints from some residents living near the Harlem Yacht Club on Hunter Avenue, served the club with two summonses, with fines of \$350 apiece, for violating the noise code. The excessive noise was caused by a 10-inch cannon that the club has fired at dusk every boating day since 1883, a traditional means for alerting members to the lowering of the American flag. On May 10, the state Appellate Division upheld the city's position that the noise was excessive and ruled that the summonses did not violate the club's right to free speech.

Since 2000, the club has reduced the size of the chamber, but the noise is still excessive, according to DEP. According to the present commodore, Tex Stevenson, the club is willing to make certain concessions, such as blowing a horn or ringing a bell before the cannon is fired to alert the neighbors, but the membership is unwilling to back down on the issue. The next appeal would go to the state's Court of Appeals, whose decision would be final.

In a separate issue, the yacht club filed in 2005 to obtain permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation to construct a 266-foot pier extension that would provide slips for at least 30 boats. Neighbors have been protesting this move, which they claim would endanger the fragile ecosys-


tem of the Ditmars Street wetlands and bring noise and water pollution to the area.

Representatives of the yacht club attended the April meeting of the City Island Civic Association to present their case to the community, claiming that it was difficult for aging members to get in and out of the launch and that silting made it impossible to bring most boats in to the club's existing pier. An aide to Representative Joseph Crowley offered to look into the possibility of dredging the area in order to improve navigation, an effort that the club would definitely support.

The Harlem officers assured the residents that there was no intention on the part of the club to increase the number of motorboats but that they wished to retain their current ratio of 80 percent sail to 20 percent motor.

Many Island residents feel supportive of the club's efforts in both of these issues, because they feel that City Island's maritime character rests on the yacht clubs now that so many marinas have disappeared to make way for housing and restaurants. They feel that people moving to a nautical area should be willing to accept existing conditions.

As of press time, neither the Army Corps nor DEC have ruled on the pier-construction permits, and as for the cannon, the yacht club must make the next move, which is to appeal the case once again, this time to a higher court.



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 Display Advertising: 718-885-1636  
 or: [margci@aol.com](mailto:margci@aol.com)  
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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson  
 COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek  
 ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni  
 SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb

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STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Bill Clancy, Maria Swiecicki, Carol Koschak, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Miriam Kleinberg and Teresa Teto.

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# Father Challinor Named Pastor At St. Mary, Star of the Sea

By JUDY RAUH



Photo by MIKE RAUH

Helping to celebrate the installation of Father Michael Challinor as pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on April 29, 2007, were (l. to r.): Msgr. Edward Barry, Deacon Bill Mueller, Sister Bernadette Hannaway, Father Michael, and Father Augustus Onwubiko. In the rear: Father George Oonnoony.

The Rev. Michael Challinor was officially installed as pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on April 29, 2007. The ceremony of installation took place as part of the noon Mass, with Rev. Msgr. Edward Barry, regional vicar of the northeast Bronx, presiding. Father Michael will serve as pastor at St. Mary's for six years.

Nearly 200 people attended the ceremony, during which Msgr. Barry presented Father Michael to the congregation as pastor. Tom McMahon, president of St. Mary's Parish Council, read the letter of appointment from Edward Cardinal Egan. Representatives of the parish family presented Father Michael with symbols of the pastoral office: the keys to the church and school, the book of the Gospels, the baptismal shell, the purple stole, the holy oils and the altar.

The Rev. George Oonnoony, a classmate of Father Michael's at St. Joseph's Seminary, read the gospel. Father George is a judge at the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York. The Rev.

Thomas Lynch, a longtime friend of Father Michael's, gave the homily. Father Tom taught history at St. Joseph's Seminary and will be installed shortly as a pastor at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church. Also participating in the service from St. Mary's were Father Augustus Onwubiko, Deacon Bill Mueller, Pastoral Associate Sister Bernadette Hannaway, lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, and St. Mary's choir, under the direction of Ken Farnum. A reception for Father Michael was held after the Mass in the school gymnasium.

In his remarks at the Mass, Msgr. Barry noted that "God gives us a very special grace to accept the job of pastor." Father Michael has served as administrator of St. Mary, Star of the Sea for the past two years, and he expressed a liking for City Island from the start. "The greatest event in my life was becoming a priest," he said. "The second greatest event is being installed as pastor, particularly here. There's no place else I'd rather be."

# SHRIMP BOX REQUESTS OUTDOOR CAFÉ

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Residents of City Island attended a meeting of the Housing and Zoning Committee of Community Board 10 on May 15, 2007, to protest the approval of an application to construct a sidewalk café in front of the Shrimp Box Restaurant at 64 City Island Avenue, near Horton Street.

Stanley Schlein, an attorney representing the owner, Sam Chernin, explained that the café would consist of 11 tables and 38 seats on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant and that it would operate only during the summer months. He assured the committee that the application met all of the Department of Consumer Affairs requirements, such as sidewalk width (a minimum of 16 feet) and ample parking. The sidewalk is 93 feet long between Horton and Rochelle Streets, but only 73 feet would be used for the café, which would have canopies and umbrellas.

At least a dozen Island residents spoke up, either to ask questions or to give reasons why the outdoor café would be detrimental to the nearby residents. The primary issue was quality of life, because of the loud noise produced by restaurant patrons at the southern end of the Island, often as late as 4 a.m.

Jeff Wiener and Joe Valenti, who work for Mr. Chernin, expressed their willingness to work with the neighbors to try to

keep both the noise and their patrons under control. They said that the outdoor service would end by midnight on weekends and there would be no loud music, a claim that was questioned by a number of residents, who noted that live music was provided for special parties and often went on far into the night.

The Housing and Zoning Committee ultimately recommended to the Community Board that the restaurant's application not be supported in light of the residents' protests, and the board voted against it on May 17. The application will receive a public hearing on Wednesday, May 30, at the Department of Consumer Affairs, and several residents have expressed interest in attending in order to make their position known.

## Rudy Tuesday

Presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani held a fund-raising breakfast on Tuesday, May 29, at the Sea Shore Restaurant on City Island. Coverage of the event, which occurred after the newspaper went to press, will appear in the next issue of *The Island Current*.

# BP Presents PCs



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and TINA GISANTE

Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr. addressing the fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students at P.S. 175 in April 2007, during the official dedication of the wireless computers, computer carts and LCD projector that were purchased by a grant made possible by his office.



Eighth-grade students Kristina Dilorio and Hart Deese with Amy Lipson, principal of P.S. 175, and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr. in April 2007, after the students did a presentation for the Borough President on how wireless computers are used in the classrooms.



Mr. Adolfo Carrión meets with the co-chairs of the P.S. 175 School Leadership Team, Edmund Rothschild and Jeannine Holzmann, in April 2007 to discuss the need for the construction of walls in the upstairs open area at P.S. 175. Also in attendance was principal Amy Lipson and students Kristina Dilorio and Hart Deese.



Mr. Adolfo Carrión visits with students Toni-Jade Riley and Samantha Nagy at P.S. 175 during the official dedication of the wireless computers.

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**Those Were the Days!**

To the Editor:

My brother John Wright, a retired police lieutenant, took quite an interest in the stories about the proposed move of the NYPD's police academy, and with it, the pistol range.

John was part of the last class to enter the police academy at its location in Greenwich Village. In 1964 he was part of the first graduating class from the present 20th Street site.

Early on in his police career, he had summer duty at Orchard Beach. Since I was working there as a cashier, it was great fun for me to see him on the job. I also was able to get him occasional milk shakes!

When he came to the pistol range for his annual training, he would always come by my house to see his favorite nieces, Beth and Susie.

His take on the move of the pistol range: "College Point isn't that far away!"

**Judy Rauh**

**Play On!**

To the Editor:

I write to thank the P.T.A. of P.S. 175 for their efforts in renovating the playground behind the school. The playground is used by many of our children and is an integral part of our children's lives. I was so happy to see that repairs to the playground had been made and that our children could, once again, enjoy themselves in a safe environment.

A special thanks goes out to John Williams, Bob Adams and Dr. Ed Rothschild for donating their time and labor to make this happen.

**Natalie J. Sobchak**

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

U.S. Postal Service  
 Gentlemen:

This letter is to commend your staff, especially Ms. Robles of the City Island Post Office.

On March 20, 2007, I mistakenly mailed a banking deposit with a stack of mail that I put into the box in front of the post office. The next day I spent searching my home for the banking deposit, which consisted of two checks and \$500 in cash. It wasn't until the following day that one of the checks that was in my deposit was returned to me by the post office and it was then that I realized what had happened.

I went down to the post office and spoke with Ms. Robles who said she would immediately start a search for the lost money. On Wednesday, April 18, I received a call from Ms. Robles who informed us that our money was located. It was such a great feeling to know that someone was honest enough to turn this money in.

I would like to commend Ms. Robles for a job well done and to let her know how much we appreciate her hard work and commitment.

**John H. Ulmer**

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# Islanders Win BRIO Awards

By KAREN NANI

Three City Island artists have been named as 2007 BRIO award winners (Bronx Recognizes its Own) for their photography, paintings and crafts. The Bronx Council on the Arts will present the awards to Islanders Ron Turner, Lois Weingarten and Reina Brill on June 6 at the Longwood Art Gallery.

Mr. Turner owns the Focal Point Gallery and is celebrating his 33rd year on the Island. He submitted some of his wedding pictures and is very excited to be recognized with a BRIO. "I figured that some of my wedding work crossed over the commercial line into fine art," he told *The Current*. "Apparently the judges thought so, too."

Mr. Turner's work can also be seen this month at Focal Point Gallery, along with 30 artists from all over the New York area in the annual "Calling All Artists" exhibition.

Ms. Weingarten has lived on City Island for 19 years but has been an artist for even longer. "I can't remember when I didn't paint," she told *The Current*. She was a member of CIAO (City Island Arts Organization) and regularly displays her paintings at the Chamber of Commerce Arts and Crafts Fairs. She studied at Brooklyn College and received her B.A. and M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

She describes her work in this way: "There are few drawn images in my work. I use blocks of color to form shapes and boundaries. I am interested in the illusion of an image—somewhere between abstraction and realism, where the image is recognizable but not structured."

Reina Mia Brill is a former New York Foundation for the Arts award winner. Her work has been featured in two major exhibitions: "Needle Culture" in Flagstaff, Arizona, and "Twist and Shout: The New Needle Arts," which opened at the Florida Craftsmen Gallery in St. Petersburg and will continue to travel to museums across the country through 2007. She was one of five Americans invited to participate in the 12th International Triennial of Tapestry in Poland for 2007.

The work of all these artists will be featured in "BX1: The Second Bronx Artist Biennial." The exhibit will showcase the talents of Bronx artists who are featured winners of the borough's BRIO Individual Artist Fellowship, which is part of the mission of the Bronx Council on the Arts. The BX1 Festival is a celebration of these artists' continued dedication to excellence as well as a way of honoring those who have continued to live, work and produce art in the Bronx.

Since its inception in 1989, the BRIO Awards program has continued to provide support for the artistic development of Bronx artists. Over the years, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to 185 artists. The selection of the awardees is based solely on the artistic excellence of the work submitted and judged anonymously by a panel of professional artists (different panelists each year) from outside the Bronx and working in each respective field. BRIO awardees must complete a one-time public service activity to receive their complete cash award.

The council acknowledges another City Island friend on their Web site ([bronxarts.org](http://bronxarts.org)): "In today's day and age, with all the



Ron Turner's wedding photography (shown above) earned him a BRIO award in June from the Bronx Council on the Arts, along with the paintings and crafts of Islanders Lois Weingarten and Reina Mia Brill (shown below).



cutbacks, the arts are put on the back burner, but NYC Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo and James Vacca continue to support the arts and the work we do in our beautiful borough of the Bronx."

The Longwood Art Gallery is located at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. The ceremony starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information, go to their link <http://www.longwoodcyber.org/>.

# City Island Celebrates Memorial Day



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Despite some last-minute maneuvering for a permit, the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 delivered a spectacular parade on May 28, 2007 under sunny skies. The event featured a busload of sailors and marines from the USS Wasp, in New York for Fleet Week; the Navy Band Northeast; and the County Monahan Pipe Band. In addition to honoring America's veterans, City Island legionnaires celebrated the completion of the renovation of the Post, including the new siding. Post veterans served up hot dogs and other traditional favorites after the parade in front of the Legion Hall.



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During the month of June, the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, is celebrating its 33rd year with an exhibition of photography and paintings from more than 30 artists from all over the New York area. The exhibition will open with a reception on Friday, June 1, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and will run until June 30. For more information, call 718-885-1403.

### Bartow-Pell Activities

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road has a number of activities in store for June that may be of interest to City Islanders.

On Saturday, June 2, enjoy the beautiful grounds and fun sounds with Jim Keyes, who will use period instruments to play historic children's music. The fun begins at 1 p.m. and the fee is \$8 per adult and \$5 per child (under age 12). Please call to register at 718-885-1461.

On Thursday, June 7, the museum will hold its annual spring luncheon; for tickets and more information, call 718-885-1461.

Enjoy yoga in the garden on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on June 12, June 19, June 26, July 3 and July 10. Connect with the beautiful early 20th-century garden as you bring in the morning with yoga. It is necessary to register in advance for this program, which is presented jointly with the Pelham Art Center. Please call 914-738-2525.

Also on Tuesdays in June and July, learn traditional quilting techniques in the museum's Orangerie. Quilting classes, another joint program with the Pelham Art Center, will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on June 19, June 26, July 3 and July 10. Call to register at 914-738-2525.

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Photo by Janice Coco

Enjoying the annual Garden Club luncheon on May 23, 2007, were (l. to r.): Ken Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, Island resident Linda Baldwin and Garden Club vice president Barbara Hoffman.

# Brigadier General Robert G. Mennona

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

When Karen Nani asked me to do an article on a worthy veteran for *The Island Current*, I turned to Commander Dave Carman of our Legion Post 156, who is regarded as an oracle on Legion activity. Dave did not vacillate but right away suggested Robert G. Mennona, our present service officer. A wise choice, but I recalled that we had done an article on Robert already, and after doing some research, I found that the article appeared 10 years ago. Many new Islanders probably never met the general, so it's time to revisit some old events and cover the new ones.

Robert (known as Bob) was born in the Fordham section of the Bronx on April 30, 1947. His parents migrated to City Island the following year, and he received his early education at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and at P.S. 17. Bob then graduated from Mount St. Michael High School and went on to the New York Institute of Technology, where he received a B.S. degree in criminal justice. A perennial student, Bob accepted a scholarship to Columbia University and graduated with a master's degree in business.

In 1967 Bob married Islander Terry Libbey and settled on William Avenue. Bob and Terry had three children, Christine, Patricia and Robert. Unfortunately, Terry passed away in 1978. Bob subsequently married Carol Persico in 1981, and her sons Richard and Michael joined the family (which Bob affectionately calls the "Brady bunch") on William Avenue.

Bob's civilian employment was with the New York Police Department, which he joined in 1965 as a trainee and became a radio car dispatcher in the 46th precinct.

Following a stint of active duty in the Army, he returned to the Police Department in 1970, and after 20 years of service, he retired as a sergeant in 1984.

Bob's Army career began in 1966, when he withdrew an occupational deferment and was drafted. His Army career began at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and then Fort McClellan in Alabama. He applied for and was accepted to Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He graduated in August 1967 and was assigned to the Military Police Corps. Thirty years later, he was inducted into the Infantry School's Hall of Fame.

Over the years Bob received many decorations and badges, including, among others, a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal.

While he was on active duty, Bob had many interesting assignments, including Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Panama and myriad trips to the Pentagon in Washington. He saw duty at the Third U.S. Army



Brigadier General Robert G. Mennona

Headquarters at Ford McPherson, Georgia. Reporting to the famous general Tommy Franks, commanding general of the Third Army, Bob's brigade was responsible for the enemy prisoner of war operations. His deputy commander was a City Islander, Colonel Larry Lane, whom he describes as his best friend, a great soldier and a tough infantry officer. Bob left the brigade in 1999 and was on inactive status until his retirement in April 30, 2007.

Both of Bob's grandfathers served in the Great War (World War I). His father and an uncle, Frank Ramftl, served in the Big Deuce (World War II). An uncle, Ed Mennona, a career soldier, retired as a colonel and was chief of personnel at West Point. Bob's brother, James, was a Maritime Academy graduate and is now an employee of Stolt Tankers.

Bob has been a member of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 for 28 years, and as service officer, he oversees planning for the Memorial Day parade, as one of his many functions. He is chief chef for the annual servicemen's dinner and keeps tabs on our people in service. It is through his efforts that Christmas checks are dispensed to those on active duty.

Since his retirement from the Police Department, Bob has worked with Smith Barney as vice president of investments. In this capacity he provides both individuals and corporations with the professional expertise and resources they need to achieve their goals.

If you don't know the general but recognize his photograph in *The Current*, stop and say thanks to him for more than 30 years of service to his country. Certainly, few can boast of such an impressive tenure and record.

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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

Sat., and Sun., June 2 and 3, **Arts and Crafts Fair** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sun., June 10, **Blessing of the Fleet**, 1 p.m. off Fenton's Marine Dock, VHF Channel 71 beginning 12:30 p.m.

Thurs., June 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Pilot Cove Manor, 160 Pilot Street, City Island.

Mon., June 25, **Bronx Fireworks Spectacular**, 9:30 p.m. sponsored by Borough President Adolfo Carrion and State Senator Jeff Klein.

Tues., June 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., June 30, **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.).

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity's Sunday services are at 10 a.m. with Sunday school at the same time.

Some things are winding down, as we get ready for the lazy days of summer, but some activities are starting up. We are calling all campers between the ages of three and eight to join us at the annual summer bible camp, which will be held here at Trinity on June 2, 3, 5 and 6. The hours will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and the cost is \$25. Campers will have plenty of fun, and they will learn about the bible too! Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Budget Shop will be open on Tuesday June 5 and 19, as well as on Saturday, June 16. Look for our bag sales and for super sales on all general merchandise. If you would like to help us behind the scenes, please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7242. We always need volunteers, so try to look into your heart and spare some time.

Anne Sill

#### City Island Republicans

Finally, we have some nice weather. Hopefully June will not be too hot, since we will be going around City Island gathering signatures. Signing the party petitions is extremely important because we need a minimum number of signatures to make sure our candidates can get on the ballot. If we cannot get candidates on the ballot, then we have no chance of winning.

Speaking of candidates, the Republican Party, after considering several candidates, has decided to give the line to our current District Attorney, Robert Johnson. Our candidate for Bronx Civil Court is Christopher Quaranta, who ran for Supreme Court last year. The Civil Court race will be interesting, since this is a low turnout year, and Chris has already begun campaigning.

The party is trying to build up the registration numbers. Anyone who would like to switch to Republican can contact the club. Our contact information is below. We would like to remind everyone that dues are \$20 and that our dues help us to meet our basic expenses, such as our meeting notices and the printing of our newsletter.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post. Petitions will be distributed and an update will be given on what is happening with the party on the local level. Anyone interested in joining can also call Fred Ramftl at 718-885-0984 or e-mail the club at [Cirepublicans@aol.com](mailto:Cirepublicans@aol.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

Fred Ramftl

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

St. Mary's second annual Golf Outing will take place on Wednesday, June 6, at 8 a.m. at the Pelham Bay Golf Course. Tickets are \$125 per player, which includes breakfast and lunch at the course and a steak dinner at the Lido Restaurant. For more information, please call Jim Livingston at 718-885-3127 or John Livingston at 718-885-0903. We are all looking forward to a great day and we encourage all golfers to come and join us!

Several graduations will take place this month. Our pre-K youngsters will graduate on Wednesday, June 13, and the Kindergarten class will move up on Thursday, June 14. Our eighth-graders will hold their Graduation Mass on Friday evening, June 8, and will follow this with a party in the school gym. Graduation exercises will take place on Friday evening, June 15, at 7 p.m. in the church.

On Sunday, June 17, 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 at the Black Whale for a brunch on Sunday, June 24.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

#### 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. Our "Hugs 'n Stitches" ministry meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30, in the Parish Hall.

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

Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m.: Special guest speaker Willie Thomas, outreach coordinator for ICARE (Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment). Come learn more about how you can get involved in a "Circle of Care," developing supportive relationships with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women.

Sunday, June 10, 1 p.m.: The Blessing of the Fleet. Mother Patty will be on hand, along with the other faith leaders of City Island to bless the fleet from the dock of Fenton's Marine, 225 Fordham Street.

Sunday, June 17, 11:30 a.m.: Second Annual Father's Day Picnic, sponsored by the Children's Church School. All are welcome!

For more information about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

Rev. Patricia Alexander

#### Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be Monday, June 4, at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street at 10 a.m. The Garden Club Annual Luncheon in May was a huge success, and wonderful raffle prizes were awarded.

We would like to thank the following people who participated in the Parks' Day cleanup and planting at Hawkins Street Park on May 19: Barbara Hoffman, Phyllis Goodman, Lily Bryant, Ruth Collins, Dolores Robinson, Georgine Sheridan, John Devlin and Alina Rosado.

**Gardening Hint:** By now most of your summer annuals should be planted. Watering and weeding are now essential if you want to keep them looking good. Property owners and businesses can help make City Island much more attractive when they keep their areas clean. And dog owners, please remember to pick up after your dogs!

Phyllis Goodman



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Cub Scout Pack 211 ended their exciting year with their annual Blue and Gold Dinner in May. The scouts were given awards for their achievements throughout the year and the "Crossing of the Bridge" ceremony was held, in which the graduating Cub Scouts who have earned and achieved the Arrow of Light requirements finally become Boy Scouts. The scouts then cross the bridge and are greeted by the scoutmaster and a group of Boy Scouts. The dinner was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time. Arrow of Light recipients are shown above (l. to r.): Dan Green, Salvador Cornejo, Andre Brown, Cian Byrnes and Nicholas Bellocchio.

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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, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Indoor Community Tag Sale:** First and third Saturday of every month. Next dates: June 2 and June 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### NEW PROGRAM

**Ice Skating Ballet:** Off-ice jumping and conditioning and introduction to ballet. Our goal is to have each student gain a solid foundation in the sport of figure skating. Training off ice helps in posture and artistry and heightens jumping ability. We as skating instructors realize the importance of excellent off-ice training to build a solid skating foundation. The cost of the class per week per student is \$24. If you have any questions or to register, please call Gina Robinson at 914-715-3229 or Lindsay Palazzo at 914-844-5424.

#### Weekly Schedule

#### YOUTH PROGRAM

**Wonderkind Preschool:** Where learning is child's play. Ages 2 to 5 years. Monday through Thursday from 12 noon to 3; Friday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Eight-week sessions. Class size is limited to six children per session. To register and for continuous and up-to-the-minute information, go to [www.wonderkind-preschool.com](http://www.wonderkind-preschool.com).

**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](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

**Martial Arts:** Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Three days weekly, Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays. Ages 7 up, 5 to 6 p.m. (Saturday at 11 a.m.). Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

**Sally's Playground:** Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. \$6 per child; \$4 for siblings. Call 718-885-0349 for more information.

**Girl Scouts "Where girls grow strong" Troop #1075:** A place for girls to come together and develop strong friendships to last a lifetime. Camping, sweet-heart dance, Girl Scout cookie sale, Hall of Science and sleepovers are just a few exciting things that will take place throughout the year.

**Youth Center:** Saturday evenings 7:30 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-

885-2192 or Deana Weyhrauch at 917-418-1377 for more information. We are looking for volunteers to staff the nights. If you are interested in helping out, PLEASE CALL!

#### ADULT PROGRAM

**TNT (Tuesday Night Tap):** Adult jazz/tap classes. Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

**Belly Dancing with Miriam:** Thursdays at 7 p.m. Basics class 8 p.m. and Sunday evenings 6 p.m. Call Miriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

#### FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

**Wilma's Music Together:** Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Fridays 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.vilmasmusictogether.com](http://www.vilmasmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

**Knitting Club:** A club for women/children to learn and share their knitting skills. Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, "Your Shul by the Sea" at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multi-ethnic Jewish congregation with Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, June 1, and conduct the installation of our officers.

Aliza Erber, our rabbinic intern, leads the next Saturday torah study on June 2 at 10:30 a.m. Her services and discussions are warm, inspirational, lively and insightful. Come see how interesting Aliza's once-a-month service and torah study can be.

Learn ballroom dancing with Elaine Belasco, who offers lessons in basic ballroom and Latin dance that are open to the public. Classes are conducted on Wednesdays (from 7:30 to 9 p.m.) through June 13, 2007. Come and join us, and get ready for our Summer Dance by the Sea next month. No partner required for these lessons, which are free for TBE members; \$10 per session for non-members. Registration accepted until classes are filled. Call 718-885-2154.

Yoga / Tai-Chi classes continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. all through June. Marc Kaplan's exercises and humor will leave you more energetic and refreshed. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

For more information, visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Many people came to the Girl Scouts Mother's Day Plant Sale that took place on Saturday, May 12, outside Trinity Methodist Church from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Beautiful plants and delicious baked goods were sold to raise funds for the Girl Scouts. Here (l. to r.) in the back row are: Anne McIntyre, Kathy Lynch, Lorena Gonzales and Brenda Prohaska; middle row: Deirdre Spencer, Anastasia Geros, Dusty Prohaska, Juliana Gonzales, Emma Ramos, Shannon Saulnier, Grace Ramos and Katie Moore; and in front to the right: Megan Ploch, Madelyn Ploch, Briana Whelan and Sydney Saulnier.

#### Legion News

By the time this newsletter hits the street, our annual Memorial Day parade will be history. Islanders and off-Islanders will have devoured hundreds of hot dogs, along with liquid refreshments of their choice.

Chance books were distributed for the annual Memorial Day raffle, and three winners were chosen after the parade. Their names will be included with the next newsletter.

Plaudits to our chief bartender, Comrade Vincent Hecker, second Vice Commander—Activities. Vincent expedites the laborious task of stuffing the envelopes and oversees their distribution. I hope that you took a few minutes to read the quote from Ernie Pyle's book that Vincent included with the letter. Ernie was a Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent, who was witness to the London Blitz and who covered action in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and the Pacific. His stories were of unsung dogfaces in combat. Ernie met his untimely demise on Shima, off Okinawa, on April 18, 1945, killed by a Japanese machine gun.

This is Ernie's quote: "I heard of a high British officer who went over the battlefield just after the action was over. American boys were still lying dead in their foxholes, their rifles still grasped in firing position in their dead hands. And the veteran English soldier remarked time and again, in sort of a hushed eulogy spoken only to himself: 'Brave men, brave men.'"

I received my first edition of the Post Dispatch following a long hiatus. Should you have missed some of the scintillating items covered, the following will update you: The new roof has been completed, and work is in progress on the new siding. You might have noticed, too, the beautifully decorated U.S. Mail box that will serve as a repository for old flags awaiting proper disposal. Our local artist of repute, Mark Whitcombe, decorated the box with a patriotic theme. Engineers and Post kibitzers are offering advice on the proposed air conditioning project. Commander Carman reports that work should be completed before the hot weather rears its ugly head. On the back burner is replacement of the unisex restroom on the main floor with two state-of-the-art ladies' and gents' restrooms.

We apologize for the error advertising the date for Bronx Veterans and Family Day as Saturday, May 14, instead of May 19. A reader of the Post Dispatch brought the error to my attention.

We were chastised by citizen Frank Fitts for not flying the flag at half mast in recognition of Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week. We were not alone, since no other public building on City Island flew the flag at half mast. To the best of our knowledge, nothing appeared in the local press, so we feel entitled to absolution.

Comrade Ed Shipp raffled off two ladders to flag stewards. The lucky winners

were Rich Frey and Arthur Rauhauser. Russ Schaller requested retirement due to rigor mortis of the knees but said he would still partake as a grunt. Jim Livingston volunteered to fill the vacancy. Ed said that volunteers are always welcome. Call him on ext. 3183. For those needing replacements for weather-worn flags, the Post has a perpetual flag sale, only \$20 each.

The annual Post Memorial Service was celebrated on Sunday, May 20, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Commander Dave Carman reports that the service was well attended and that there were many favorable comments.

On Thursday, June 7, we will celebrate the outgoing Bronx County Commanders Dinner at JP's. A cocktail hour preceding this gala function will be at 7 p.m. The Bronx County Convention will be held at the Sam Young Post, Friday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Election of officers was held at the May 21 regular meeting. Since the present officers did an excellent job this year, all were elected for a second term.

We thank Dr. John Palumbo, M.D., for his generous contribution of \$500 for our Memorial Day festivities. We welcome any such help, since there are costs associated with bringing in our servicemen and women from the fleet, paying for the bands and, of course, presenting the gala celebration that follows the parade.

Regular meetings are June 4 and June 18; the executive board meeting is June 11.

Remember in your prayers Mort Livingston and Mike Bunyan. Linda Ulmer is recuperating at home, as is Mike Sarlo. We mourn the passing of comrade Robert Mennona's mother, Veronica, and comrade Russell's spouse, June. May they rest in peace.

The blessing of the fleet will take place on Sunday, June 10, at Fenton's Marine at 1 p.m. Clam diggers say that this ritual has been known to stop leaks for the boating season.

June is an important month for WWII veterans. June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end of the Third Reich. I was stationed at UK Station 465, a grass-covered airfield that had been vacated by the British to herald our arrival in April. No more training sorties; this was the real thing. Our assignment was the beaches named Omaha and Utah, troop movement, railroads, roads and bridges. The invasion was not far off. On June 4, no more passes to the sleepy hamlet of Charlgrove and no more visits to the local pub. Late in the evening of June 5, the air became alive with aircraft, first the bombers and fighters, then the troop carriers and then the gliders. I had a ringside seat. Dusk turned to darkness, but I couldn't sleep. It was D-Day. It is not possible to comprehend the carnage that was taking place just a relatively short distance away.

Russell Schaller



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# The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about  
Bronx County  
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

## The Scoop on Boop

It is no secret that the Bronx has been home to hundreds of famous people who have made an extraordinary contribution to this world in their chosen fields. One only has to walk south of 161st Street on the Grand Concourse and look at the plaques on each streetlamp to realize that the array of celebrated people who have hailed from the Bronx is vast and quite impressive. This is where you will find the Bronx Walk of Fame.

To be inducted into this elite group is perhaps the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Bronxite, and each year a few more names are added. Inductees include stage, screen and television actors; filmmakers and screenwriters; sports casters and professional athletes; rock, rap and Latin musicians; columnists and novelists; Broadway producers and newscasters; architects and astronomers; comedians and public servants.

Surprisingly, perhaps the most famous Bronxite of all is missing from this distinguished group. Her animated, caricatured image is a true American icon, more recognizable than Marilyn Monroe or Jimmy Dean and possibly rivaled only by Mickey Mouse. She is known the world over and her popularity spans the best part of a century. Indeed, her appeal seems everlasting.

I speak of Helen Schroeder, who was born on Aug. 4, 1903, to a German father and Irish-born mother in the Longwood section of the southeast Bronx. Helen attended St. Anselm's Catholic School on Tinton Avenue and 152nd Street, which is where young Helen got interested in show business by participating in all the school productions. In the mid-1920s, Helen married department store buyer Joseph Kane and took his last name professionally, but by 1928 the marriage had ended in divorce.



## Booksellers

Aside from loving film, I am also an avid reader. Therefore, films about people who sell books have a nice synergy for me. We begin with the epistolary tale **84 Charing Cross Road** (1987), the story of a correspondence between Helene Hanff (Anne Bancroft), an American writer of modest means, and Frank Doel (Anthony Hopkins), a British gentleman whose life's work is at Marks & Co., a London bookshop. The correspondence begins during World War II, when Helene is looking for inexpensive used books, and spans two decades as the friendship between these two people deepens via old-fashioned mail.

A long-time favorite is **Crossing Delancey** (1988), a delightful romantic comedy. It stars Amy Irving as Isabelle "Izzy" Grossman, who works in a fashionable bookstore, where she arranges for readings by famous authors in the literary world. When her grandmother, Bubbie (Reizel Bonyk), goes to a matchmaker (Sylvia Miles), Izzy is introduced to Sam Posner (Peter Riegert), who sells pickles for a living. Izzy yearns for a romantic life with the pompous, narcissistic writer Anton Maes (Jeroen Krabbe), but somehow Sam gets under her skin.

A remake of the Jimmy Stewart/Margaret Sullavan **Shop Around the Corner** (1940), and the subsequent Judy Garland/Van Johnson film **In the Good Old Summertime** (1949), is the 1998 film, **You've Got Mail**. The premise of all three films is that the two main characters start up a correspondence as anonymous "pen pals," without being aware that they have an unpleasant business association with each other. In the most recent film, Tom Hanks is Joe Fox, a bookstore tycoon whose latest endeavor could put Kath-

leen Kelly's (Meg Ryan) second-generation children's bookstore out of business. Joe and Kathleen are attached to other people (Parker Posey and Greg Kinnear), so they indulge in a secret e-mail romance. When they discover what they each do for a living, however, sparks really fly in this cinematic plea for the local business owner in a modern era.

For a change of pace, we have the psychological supernatural thriller **The Ninth Gate** (1999). It stars Johnny Depp as Dean Corso, a book broker who tracks down rare editions for serious collectors. He is hired by Boris Balkan (Frank Langella) to find "The Nine Gates to the Kingdom of Shadows," which according to legend was co-written by Satan. With a hefty suspension of disbelief, you will enjoy the fine acting and diverting plot of this film.

**Notting Hill** (1999) is a lovely romantic comedy starring the wonderful Hugh Grant as William Thacker, a quiet London seller of travel books. One day, a famous actress, Anna Scott (Julia Roberts), wanders into his shop, and a nice chemistry is stirred up. William has a scatterbrained sister Honey (Emma Chambers) and Spike (Rhys Ifans), a horror of a roommate. His best friends are Bernie (Hugh Bonneville), Max (Tim McInnerny) and Bella (Gina McKee). Bella is confined to a wheelchair because of an accident, and she has a charming interaction with a hotel desk clerk as William struggles to rethink a decision he has made. Can a romance between a celebrity and a common person succeed? You'll have to see the movie to find out.

In **Unfaithful** (2002), Diane Lane gives an Oscar-nominated performance (I think she should have won) as Connie Sumner, a New York suburban housewife who appears to be happily married to Edward (Richard Gere). However, when she stumbles on a windy Manhattan street in front of the SoHo apartment of Paul Martel (Olivier Martinez), she is thunderstruck. Paul is French and deals in rare books. After Connie's initial sexual encounter with him, she takes the railroad back to her perfect Westchester County home. On the train, we watch her face as she relives the experience and displays a myriad of emotions ranging from passion to fear. It is a memorable scene that stays in the viewer's mind long after the ending of this erotic thriller.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

for the cartoon "Any Rags." Her floppy poodle ears became hoop earrings, and her poodle fur became a bob haircut.

The Betty Boop cartoons of the early 1930s (before censorship set in) were brilliant, exhibiting sexuality and a dark surrealism missing from Disney's films. Betty Boop is noteworthy for being the first cartoon character to represent a sexual woman. Other female characters of the same period didn't have a full caricature of a woman's form; Betty Boop, on the other hand, reveled in her sexuality. She wore short dresses and a garter belt, her breasts were prominent, and she showed her cleavage.

Her cartoons also stood out from the competition, thanks to their upbeat jazz soundtracks. In addition to three cartoons with soundtracks by Cab Calloway, guest bands for Betty Boop cartoons included the bands of Louis Armstrong, Rudy Vallee and Don Redman. Ethel Merman, Irene Bordoni and Reis and Dunn also appeared in a few shorts as guest performers.

With the hardships of the Great Depression biting, the flamboyant world of the flapper soon vanished. Betty Boop's star began to fade as quickly as it had begun to shine. In 1934 Kane sued the Fleischer studio for allegedly stealing her trademark look, dancing and singing style, and the catchphrase "Boop-Oop-a-Doop," but she proved unsuccessful against the high-powered studio lawyers. She lost the favor of the moviemakers, who chose other singers for their films. During the 1930s, she appeared in only one stage production. She worked sporadically during the 1940s but made several television appearances in the 1950s and 1960s. Kane's final public appearance was on the Ed Sullivan television show on St. Patrick's Day in 1965.

For more than a decade Helen Kane battled breast cancer. She had surgery for the disease in 1956 and received more than 200 radiation treatments as an outpatient at Memorial Hospital. She died in her apartment at 77-12 35th Avenue in Jackson Heights, Queens, on Sept. 26, 1966, at the age of 62. She is buried in Long Island National Cemetery.

Helen Kane may not be a household name, yet the character she inspired remains one of the most enduring personalities in American pop culture, which launched an unprecedented merchandising phenomenon. So the next time you see that buxom little flapper with the kewpie-doll face and pixie hairdo, remember that this American icon is one of us—a Bronx girl through and through. Boop-Oop-a-Doop!

## Helen Kane's Discography

- 1) "Get Out and Get Under the Moon" (July

- 16, 1928)
- 2) "That's My Weakness Now" (July 16, 1928)
- 3) "I Wanna Be Loved by You" (Sept. 20, 1928)
- 4) "Is There Anything Wrong in That?" (Sept. 20, 1928)
- 5) "Don't Be Like That" (Dec. 20, 1928)
- 6) "Me and the Man in the Moon" (Dec. 20, 1928)
- 7) "Button Up Your Overcoat" (Jan. 30, 1929) from the musical *Follow Through*
- 8) "I Want to Be Bad" (Jan. 30, 1929) from the same musical
- 9) "Do Something" (March 15, 1929) from the movie *Nothing but the Truth*
- 10) "That's Why I'm Happy" (March 15, 1929)
- 11) "I'd Do Anything for You" (June 14, 1929)
- 12) "He's So Unusual" (June 14, 1929)
- 13) "Ain'tcha?" (29-Oct-1929) from the movie *Pointed Heels*
- 14) "I Have to Have You" (29-Oct-1929) from the movie *Pointed Heels*
- 15) "I'd Go Barefoot All Winter Long" (18-Mar-1930)
- 16) "Dangerous Nan McGrew" (12-Apr-1930) from the movie *Dangerous Nan McGrew*
- 17) "Thank Your Father" (12-Apr-1930) from the movie *Flying High*
- 18) "I Owe You" (12-Apr-1930) from the movie *Dangerous Nan McGrew*
- 19) "Readin' Ritin' Rhythm" (1-Jul-1930) from the movie *Heads Up*
- 20) "I've Got It (But It Don't Do Me No Good)" (1-Jul-1930) from the movie *Young Men of Manhattan*
- 21) "My Man Is on the Make" (2-Jul-1930) from the movie *Heads Up*
- 22) "If I Knew You Better" (2-Jul-1930) from the movie *Heads Up*
- 23) "I Taut I Taw a Puddy Tat" (between 1931-51) with Jimmy Carroll & His Orchestra
- 24) "Beanbag Song" (between 1931-51) with Jimmy Carroll & His Orchestra
- 25) "Hug Me! Kiss Me! Love Me!" (between 1931-51) with The George Siravo Orchestra
- 26) "Aba Daba Honeymoon" (between 1931-51) with The George Siravo Orchestra
- 27) "I Wanna Be Loved by You" (c. 1950?)

Note: Michael Shanley is a native, lifelong Bronxite and resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City specializing in Bronx County. Comments are welcomed at BxShanley@optonline.net.



## 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: **Archbishop Stepinac:** David Butterworth, Nicholas Euvino, Jack McCabe, Andrew Meys, Nicholas Peluso. **Art and Design H.S.:** Maria Radoman. **Astor Collegiate Academy:** Besnik Novovic. **Beacon H.S.:** Reese Werkhoven. **Blessed Sacrament/St. Gabriel:** Kristen Blich, Amanda Hefferman, Ryan Pena, Katherine Rosco, Michael Scotti, Rebecca Taffet. **Bronx High School of Science:** Hart Deese, Tomasz Wasik. **Cardinal Spellman:** David Anderson, Nicholas Dimauro, Melissa Pryor, Christopher Russo, Demi Salvo. **Eximius College Preparatory Academy:** Darryl Rodriguez. **Fiorello LaGuardia H.S.:** Ariana Joubert, Kayla Faccilongo. **Fordham Prep:** Nicholas Ivanov, Mark Lischinsky. **Grace Dodge Career and Technical Education H.S.:** Melanie Joseph. **Harrison H.S.:** Amanda Connell. **Herbert Lehman:** Mariah Freyre, Jonathan Labate, Amanda Tirado. **High School of American Studies:** Samantha Emmert, Alyssa Molloy. **High School of Fashion Industries:** Chanel Vazquez. **High School of Hospitality Management:** Alexandria Kerr. **Iona Prep:** Brandon Esola. **Maria Regina:** Marissa Ferris, Sarah Graves. **Mount St. Michael:** Salvatore Kulka (full scholarship). **Pelham Preparatory Academy:** Tristan Criveau. **Preston:** Romane Baker, Danielle Bufano, Julia Doyle. **Renaissance High School of**




**Musical Theater and Technology:** Gabriella Ruales. **St. Catharine Academy:** Natasha Ivanov. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** Henry Sanchez. **Salesian:** John Broughal, Alexander Miccoli, Vincens Miria, Sergio Zefi. **Sports Professions H.S.:** Stephen Caranante, Olaf Huerta. **Talent Unlimited:** Elizabeth Balfe. **Truman:** Imani Zelaya. **Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction:** Luis Lagos, Peter Longo. **Ursuline:** Kristina DiLorio (full scholarship). Still undecided is Polii Tas.








In addition, Elizabeth Balfe was accepted to the High School of American Studies at Lehman College; Hart Deese was accepted to Fiorello LaGuardia High School; and Kristina DiLorio received a full scholarship to Preston. Samantha Emmert received partial scholarships to both Preston and St. Catharine's. Salvatore Kulka received a partial scholarship to St. Raymond High School for Boys. Mark Lischinsky was accepted to the High School of Math, Science and Engineering. Tomasz Wasik received a partial scholarship to Iona Prep. Congratulations and good luck to all!

## St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade graduates, who will attend the following high schools in September: **Academy of Mount St. Ursula:** Kasandra Ramirez. **Blessed Sacrament:** Brittney Alston, Nicole Waters. **Cardinal Hayes:** Benny Santiago. **Cardinal Spellman:** Dylan Blake, Olivia Owens. **Fordham Prep:** Nicholas Forman. **Frederick Douglass Academy:** Danielle Mitchell. **Lehman:** Nathali Garcia. **Monsignor Scanlan:** Ashley Rivera, Whitney Whitaker. **Mount St. Michael:** Kyree Hurd. **Sacred Heart:** Bria Carter. **Salesian:** Francis Ortiz. **St. Catharine Academy:** Elizabeth Miles. **St. Raymond H.S. for Boys:** Jahsi Weste (\$750 scholarship). **Young Women's Leadership Academy:** Yasmine Garcia.

Congratulations and good luck to everyone in September!

ISLAND CURRENT JUNE 2007 TIDE CALENDAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
H = High Tide L = Low Tide						
3 H 12:59A L 7:40A H 1:39P L 7:36P	4 H 1:35A L 8:16A H 2:19P L 8:22P	5 H 2:20A L 8:59A H 2:59P L 9:11P	6 H 3:09A L 9:49A H 3:49P L 10:06P	7 H 4:03A L 10:36A H 4:43P L 11:06P	8 H 5:02A L 11:31A H 5:41P	9 H 6:06A L 12:30P H 6:43P
10 H 1:39A L 7:16A H 1:35P L 7:47P	11 H 2:52A L 8:30A H 2:49P L 8:51P	12 H 3:59A L 9:40A H 3:51P L 9:53P	13 H 4:58A L 10:42A H 4:53P L 11:05P	14 H 5:54A L 11:39A H 5:51P L 11:47P	15 H 6:46A L 12:34P H 6:46P	16 H 7:37A L 1:27P H 7:40P
17 H 1:35A L 8:27A H 2:19P L 8:33P	18 H 2:29A L 9:16A H 3:12P L 9:26P	19 H 3:24A L 10:05A H 4:05P L 10:21P	20 H 4:22A L 10:54A H 4:59P L 11:18P	21 H 5:21A L 11:43A H 5:53P	22 H 6:19A L 12:32P H 6:47P	23 H 7:16A L 1:22P H 7:40P
24 H 2:07A L 8:11A H 2:10P L 8:30P	25 H 2:59A L 9:03A H 2:56P L 9:17P	26 H 3:48A L 9:52A H 3:38P L 10:00P	27 H 4:33A L 10:37A H 4:16P L 11:03A	28 H 5:14A L 11:17A H 4:49P L 11:02P	29 H 5:51A L 11:51A H 5:22P L 11:26P	30 H 6:24A L 12:17P H 6:00P L 11:58P
TIDE CALENDAR JULY 2007 ISLAND CURRENT						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 H 6:54A L 12:42P H 6:41P	2 H 7:23A L 1:16P H 7:24P	3 H 8:01A L 1:56P H 8:10P	4 H 8:42A L 2:40P H 9:00P	5 H 9:26A L 3:28P H 9:53P	6 H 10:14A L 4:20P H 10:52P	7 H 11:06A L 5:17P
8 H 12:03A L 5:48A H 1:12:05P L 6:20P	9 H 1:29A L 7:03A H 1:14P L 7:30P	10 H 2:47A L 8:28A H 2:38P L 8:46P	11 H 3:53A L 9:40A H 3:52P L 9:55P	12 H 4:51A L 10:41A H 4:54P L 11:05:55P	13 H 5:45A L 11:36A H 5:50P L 11:50P	14 H 6:35A L 12:27P H 6:42P
15 H 12:40A L 7:22A H 1:14P L 7:30P	16 H 1:28A L 8:07A H 2:00P L 8:16P	17 H 2:13A L 8:48A H 2:43P L 9:00P	18 H 2:57A L 9:27A H 3:26P L 9:43P	19 H 3:40A L 10:00A H 4:08P L 10:26P	20 H 4:25A L 10:26A H 4:51P L 11:11P	21 H 5:15A L 10:52A H 5:37P
22 H 12:05A L 6:14A H 11:30A L 6:30P	23 H 1:07A L 7:17A H 12:19P L 7:29P	24 H 2:09A L 8:18A H 1:16P L 8:24P	25 H 3:05A L 9:12A H 2:21P L 9:13P	26 H 3:55A L 10:01A H 3:24P L 9:54P	27 H 4:40A L 10:43A H 4:16P L 10:28P	28 H 5:20A L 11:18A H 5:02P L 11:02P
29 H 5:56A L 11:47A L 5:54P H 11:40P	30 H 6:30A L 12:17P L 6:29P	31 H 7:04A L 1:12P	Tide Calendar by Tom Smith			H = High Tide L = Low Tide

ISLAND CURRENT AUGUST 2007 TIDE CALENDAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
5 H 4:28A L 10:44A H 4:55P	6 H 5:36A L 11:48A H 6:04P	7 H 7:09A L 1:19P H 7:34P	8 H 8:33A L 2:46P H 8:55P	9 H 9:39A L 3:53P H 10:00P	10 H 10:36A L 4:51P H 10:55P	11 H 11:26A L 5:43P H 11:49P
12 H 6:18A L 12:12P L 6:30P	13 H 7:01A L 12:54P L 7:14P	14 H 7:40A L 1:33P L 7:53P	15 H 8:14A L 2:09P L 8:29P	16 H 8:39A L 2:38P L 8:58P	17 H 8:52A L 3:04P L 9:20P	18 H 9:14A L 3:32P L 9:50P
19 H 3:58A L 9:50A H 4:09P L 10:32P	20 H 4:42A L 10:34A H 4:54P L 11:23P	21 H 5:36A L 11:24A H 5:46P	22 H 6:16A L 12:22P H 6:47P	23 H 6:22A L 1:28P H 7:57P	24 H 6:17A L 2:42P H 9:02P	25 H 3:59A L 10:00A L 3:47P H 9:53P
26 H 4:42A L 10:36A L 4:40P H 10:37P	27 H 5:21A L 11:11A L 5:27P H 11:20P	28 H 5:58A L 11:48A L 6:12P	29 H 6:36A L 12:27P L 6:57P	30 H 7:15A L 1:30P L 7:44P	31 H 7:56A L 1:55P L 8:34P	H = High Tide L = Low Tide
TIDE CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2007 ISLAND CURRENT						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
H = High Tide L = Low Tide						
2 H 3:16A L 9:31A H 3:36P L 10:37P	3 H 4:17A L 10:29A H 4:38P	4 H 5:10A L 11:52A H 5:41P L 6:05P	5 H 6:16A L 1:13P H 7:43P	6 H 7:29A L 2:44P H 8:54P	7 H 8:30A L 3:46P H 9:52P	8 H 9:23A L 4:40P H 10:44P
9 H 5:12A L 11:06A L 5:28P H 11:30P	10 H 6:05A L 11:51A L 6:12P	11 H 7:01A L 12:29P L 6:52P	12 H 7:51A L 1:09P H 1:04P L 7:27P	13 H 8:36A L 1:53P H 1:31P L 7:56P	14 H 9:15A L 2:46A H 1:50P L 8:19P	15 H 2:12A L 8:01A H 2:11P L 8:33P
16 H 2:37A L 8:31A H 2:42P L 9:06P	17 H 3:12A L 9:10A H 3:20P L 9:47P	18 H 3:55A L 9:55A H 4:05P L 10:37P	19 H 4:46A L 10:47A H 4:57P L 11:35P	20 H 5:46A L 11:46A H 5:57P	21 H 6:57A L 12:53P H 7:05P	22 H 8:12A L 2:08P H 8:15P
23 H 3:08A L 9:07A L 3:19P H 9:17P	24 H 3:58A L 9:52A L 4:16P H 10:09P	25 H 4:42A L 10:35A L 5:06P H 10:57P	26 H 5:24A L 11:17A L 5:54P H 11:43P	27 H 6:06A L 12:00P L 6:52P	28 H 7:09A L 12:45P L 7:31P	29 H 1:17A L 7:33A L 1:32P L 8:23P

## Obituaries

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

### Jens Viking Meyer

Jens Meyer, a City Island resident for 32 years, passed away on March 7, 2007, at the age of 80.

Jens was a veteran of World War II and served with honors in the Pacific theater. After the war, he worked as a carpenter until he joined the New York Police Department, where he served most of his 22 years in Motorcycle 1, now known as Highway 1.

A Mason for 32 years in Pelham Lodge 712, he was appointed to the Grand Lodge as staff officer in 1988. Although he was then living in Swan Lake, New York, he made the 210-mile round trip to the Bronx several times a week.

His hobbies included speed cycling, hunting, fishing and the New York Mets baseball.

Jens Meyer is survived by Antoinette, his wife of 60 years, and four children: Dawn, Scott, Julene and Nanette, along with five grandchildren: Erik, Brian, Stacie, Michael and Alyssa.

He was buried in Pelham Cemetery, where he received full NYPD and U.S. Naval Honors.

### Mary McDonnell

Mary J. McDonnell, a longtime City Islander, passed away on Feb. 16, 2007, at the age of 84. She was born on Dec. 25, 1922, and lived on Hart Island during the 1930s and 1940s, where her father, Thomas McDonnell, worked as the warden.

Mary graduated from P.S. 17 and attended Villa Maria High School; she



**Mary McDonnell**

received her B.A. from Hunter College and then went to Fordham Law School. She was soon admitted to practice law before the New York courts and was eventually admitted to practice in federal court and then in the Supreme Court.

Mary began serving in the legal bureau of the New York City Police Department in January 1952 and within nine months she achieved the rank of detective. She represented the Police Commissioner, members of the department and the department itself in lawsuits brought by and against the Police Department in both state and federal courts. She also provided legal advice and guidance to assist the police in carrying out their official duties, and she prosecuted criminal cases.

After serving as a lawyer for 21 years, during which she was one of the very few women with the rank of detective, Mary retired from the Police Department's legal bureau in 1973 to work in a private law practice. She opened offices on City Island, where she earned a reputation for integrity

and ability. She handled many interesting and famous cases involving maritime law and riparian rights, as well as family matters that involved the care and custody of children and those too old or infirm to take care of themselves. She was a member of the Bronx County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association, as well as a member of the Bronx Board of Realtors.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Mary had a particular interest in aviation. She completed an AOPA Pinch-Hitter Achievement Award by taking over controls of an aircraft in flight, navigating it to an airport and landing it unassisted.

She is predeceased by her parents, Johanna and Thomas McDonnell; her husband, Daniel McEnery, and her brother, Raymond McDonnell. She is survived by her daughter, Maureen (McEnery) Hraska, and son-in-law, William Hraska, of City Island; her son, Cormac McEnery, and daughter-in-law, Mary Pat Thornton; and two grandchildren, Thornton McEnery of Brooklyn and Claire McEnery, who lives in Austin, Texas.

Donations in Mary McDonnell's memory may be sent to Calvary Hospital, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10464.

### Speed Hill

Longtime resident of Tier Street Speed Hill died on May 7, 2007, after a long illness.

Born William Speed Hill in Louisville, Kentucky, on Jan. 19, 1935, Speed graduated from Princeton University and obtained his Ph.D. in English literature from Harvard. He was for many years professor of English at Lehman College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he specialized in English literature of the Renaissance and in textual studies.

He was the general editor of the Folger Library Edition of the Works of Richard Hooker, a monumental, multivolume, scholarly edition of the writings of the English Renaissance theologian. He was co-founder of the Society for Textual Scholarship and co-editor of its publication "Text" (now "Textual Cultures").

After his retirement from teaching, Speed continued to be very active on the academic circuit, often giving papers under the auspices of such professional organizations as the Modern Language Association of America and the International Association of Professors of English. He served as advisor to numerous scholarly institutions, including the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Speed was also an enthusiastic and expert tennis player and a devoted father, grandfather and uncle. He is survived by his wife, Linda, to whom he was married for 23 years; by his children, Julie of Southport, Connecticut, Christopher of Conway, South Carolina; and Madeleine, who lives in Arles, France; and by seven grandchildren.

### Veronica Marie Mannona

Veronica Mannona, former resident of City Island, passed away on May 1, 2007.

She was born Veronica Marie Molinari on March 28, 1923, in the Fordham section of the Bronx to Angelena and Vito Molinari. She graduated from St. Simon Stock in 1940 and the Grace Institute. She had an enjoyable career with the FMC Corporation and the United Way.

Veronica married Robert Mennona in 1946 and together they raised three children on City Island. She was fond of those years spent by the water and shared special stories of them with her family.

She decided to continue her education at the age of 59 and graduated from SUNY college in Oneonta, after which she taught kindergarten. Before leaving City Island she was a faithful and devoted member of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, and in Oneonta she was a member of St. Mary's Church, an active member of the Oneonta Country Club, the Elks Club and AARP. She loved to dance, play cards and have an



**Veronica Marie Mannona**

occasional Gibson but most of all she loved children.

Her family and faith were the driving forces in her life; she was always there for her family and friends, in good times and bad, with a compassionate smile and a strength of character that could calm even the roughest sea.

In her last years her health brought her to Monroe, New York, to be near her grandchildren, Christine and Tricia, whom she called her nurse and secretary.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 25 years, Robert G. Mennona; her husband of six years, Ralph Mannona, her daughter Nancy Ann Peters, her daughter-in-law Terry Mennona, her son-in-law John R. Peters and her brother Joseph Molinari.

She is survived by her sons, Robert G. Mennona and his wife, Carol, of City Island; James J. Mennona and his wife, Maureen, of Fairfield, Connecticut; her daughter-in-law Patricia Peters of City Island; her sister Carmelia of City Island, and brother Peter Molinari and his wife, Rosemarie of Sarasota, Florida, and by nine grandchildren and eight great-granddaughters.

The family would like to give special thanks to the St. Anthony's Hospital staff for the extraordinary care they gave to Veronica and the Schuyler Hill Funeral Home for their help and compassion. A funeral service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on May 4, 2007. Memorials may be made to the Donald L. Perry Foundation for Cancer research, P. O. Box 7086, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404 in the name of Veronica Marie Mannona.

### Dolly Vought

Dolly Vought, a resident of City Island for 35 years, passed away on May 10, 2007.

She was born Angelina Pieretti in Manhattan on Aug. 17, 1914. When a neighbor of her parents saw her as a newborn, she remarked how lovely she was and told Angelina's mother that she was a doll. Her mother was just learning English, and whenever she met other neighbors she told them that her baby was her dolly. And the name stuck for over 92 years!

Dolly's husband Laurence Vought, a civil engineer, died on April 9, 1963, and when their daughter, Jane, married Islander Peter LaScala, Dolly moved to City Island to be near them.

Dolly was devoted to her family and friends, who remember her as always willing to lend a helping hand, to drive anyone anywhere. She loved a good time and became known as the family's "queen of etiquette" because her dress, makeup and hair were always perfect.

But her family was her greatest treasure. She delighted in her granddaughters, Lauren and Anita, and was very proud to be great grandmother to Lauren's daughter, Charlotte Jane.

Dolly was the epitome of grace and style, and those who knew her will always remember her as young at heart.



### Bird Watching

Here it is June already, and the new City Island club for birders is gearing up for its fourth walk. We've gotten to know shorebirds, warblers and the rest by sight and sound, thanks to the leadership of the club's de facto president, Jack Rothman. Jack's laid-back style keeps the birding both fun and informative. The American kestrel we saw on the first walk was amazing! To find out more, check out Jack's Web site: [www.cityislandbirds.com](http://www.cityislandbirds.com).

Meanwhile, we've been up to a little extra birding of our own. For example, on one recent impromptu excursion along the very sandy beach at Rodman's Neck, we came across a plover (probably a semi-palmated plover), a yellow warbler and lots of pesky barn swallows and red-winged blackbirds. We also heard but did not see a Carolina wren, a chickadee and what may have been a tufted titmouse.

The highlight, however, was the flock of swans and geese. There were five recently

hatched cygnets and four goslings. All were busily pecking for food or exercising their wings. One little fellow was even getting in some swimming practice in a tiny tidal pool. It was all very cute and very interesting, especially for the fact that the adults did not seem to mind how close the other birds were.

How close the people were was another matter altogether. As we approached—not realizing at first what it was exactly we were approaching—one of the geese uttered a nasty hiss. The swans, while remaining mute, eyed us most particularly. When we realized why, we backed off hastily.

It was comforting to note that the few fishermen who were there on the same stretch of beach were also giving the birds a wide berth. Here's hoping all such encounters this summer play out as thoughtfully.

Keep us posted at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com).

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Photo by THERESE SIMPSON

Sean Lyons and Alana Pecorelli of the Jack's Bait & Tackle team.



Photo by ELIZABETH LYONS

Brandon Esola, pitcher for the New Yorker Contractors.



As I submit this column, we have just passed the halfway mark of the season. Most of the League has played against each Astor team at least once and has a good read on the opposition. Here are some notes from around the League:

**Minors:** Both AER Raiders and JP's Restaurant teams continue to impress their coaches (and the opposition) with timely hits. Their fielding has been sharp enough that the Junior Majors have begun scouting the ranks for next year's players.

**Junior Majors:** It was bases loaded with two outs, and Jack's Bait & Tackle needed a big play to retire the Astor Yankees, when one of their big hitters slammed a beauty to center field. We held our collective breath until center fielder Emmett Shanley snatched the ball out of the afternoon sky to end the inning. The Yankees went on to win but only by one run. In their next game under the lights on May 9, home team Jack's took advantage of last licks by rebounding from a 9-2 score to tie the Astor Padres. The rally, sparked by a lead-off single by Dan Green, was followed by single, double, double by Mike Bellochio, Mike LaBriola and Tommy Wright, respec-

tively, which helped tack on the seven runs to tie it up.

Sammy's Fish Box continues its pitching dominance with Danny and Mike Pirraglia on the mound. Catcher (and relief pitcher) Austin Cottam displayed his strong arm by throwing out a runner on a steal at second base.

**Majors:** Cross-town rivals American Legion beat Ruggiero and Sons 18 to 17 just before midnight on April 20, 2007. The weather was downright cold, and there were too many timely hits and great fielding performances for us to describe here in this space. The Legion beat the Rockies 1 to 0 in a pitchers' duel on April 30. Winning pitcher Daniel Clancy had a perfect game until he gave up the one and only hit by the Rockies in the fifth inning with two outs. Kyle Kreig had an admirable pitching outing with 12 strikeouts against Ruggiero's; final score 10-7. The game was close until the sixth inning, when Legion scored three runs.

Ruggiero's is not only sponsored by F. Ruggiero and Sons Funeral Home, but Bob Ruggiero also serves as assistant coach to skipper Joe Nochese. Ruggiero's has played 11 games with several tight finishes. We have seen some great hitting from outfielder Andre Brown and first baseman Nicholas Connolly, and solid pitching from starter Rob Pirraglia and reliever Dylan Cullen, with Joe Nochese catching for both.

**Juniors:** New Yorker Contractors (aka the CI Sharks) are currently in second place with a 8-4-1 record. Pitcher Brandon Esola had a first-rate outing (and a double) against Co-op City last week. The infield, with Kieran Spencer behind the plate, Sal Kulka on first, Danny Masterson on second. Ryan Clark playing shortstop and Kevin Whelan on third, held off any hits to the outfield and secured the 3-2 win.

T-ball began early on April 28 with a big turnout. The program, which is run by Larry Saulnier, is on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 at St. Mary's schoolyard. City Island Little League would like to thank St. Mary's and Father Mike for providing this venue for our future All Stars. For more information, visit our Web site <http://teamz.active.com/cityisland/>.

Elizabeth Lyons

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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 St. Mary's Deacon Bill Mueller, who celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the Deaconate on May 1.

Happy birthday on June 23 to the Sailmaker's John Iovieno, with love from Stephen, Bobby and little Maria.

Happy June birthdays to Judy Rauh and John Wright, and especially to their mom, Vera Thompson. And get-well wishes to their stepfather, Red Thompson.

Congratulations and best of luck to Gloria Cullen, who is retiring from the Bronx District Attorney's office on June 30 after 35 years of dedicated service.

Happy 40th birthday greetings on July 1 to my brother James ... from your MUCH younger sister, Ann-Marie.

Congratulations and God bless all the girls and boys who made their First Communion at St. Mary's on May 5.

Happy birthday to Rose Kolb, who celebrates her big day on June 4. With love from your family.

Best wishes for continued success to Hawkins Street's Jillian Lotrionte, who graduates this month from Ursuline. We are all so proud of you! Love, Grandma, Uncle Donald and Aunt Rose, Donny, Chris, Lily and Bella.

Extra congratulations to Jillian (J Lo) Lotrionte on your high school graduation from the Ursuline School. We hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities and to the most special places your heart has ever known. You have made us all so proud! Good luck at SUNY Albany. With love from Mom, Dad, Nicolette and Briana.

Belated birthday greetings to Pilot Cove's Terry Carmody, who celebrated her big day on May 8.

Happy birthday on June 29 to Marine Street's Ann Butterworth, with love from Chuck, Matt, Chris and David.

Happy June 6 birthday greetings across the miles to Jill Doyle with love from your family.

Happy Father's Day to the best dad in the whole world, Minneford Avenue's Jack Doyle, with love from your daughters.

Father's Day greetings to our hardworking dad, Marine Street's Chuck Butterworth, with love and appreciation from Matt, Chris and David.

Congratulations and best wishes for a successful high school career to David Butterworth, who graduates from P.S. 175 on June 22 and is heading off to Stepinac High School.

Best wishes to all the eighth-grade

graduates of both P.S. 175 and St. Mary's. We are very proud of you.

Happy 21st birthday greetings on June 5 across the miles to Christin Mooney in Florida, with love from your family.

Best wishes for continued success to Cross Street's Jobeth S. Arceo, a sophomore who was recently selected for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. Jobeth, the daughter of Elizabeth Sosa, R.N., is currently attending Cardinal Spellman High School on a full scholarship. She is also a member of Fordham University's Science and Technology Entry Program, where she attends classes on Saturdays. She is planning a career in the medical field.

Happy 11th birthday wishes to Hillary Ellen Sosa Fajardo, who will celebrate her big day on June 24.

And hearty congratulations to Tier Street's Fernando Henriquez, who became a U.S. citizen on May 18. With love from Nancy and Robert.

Birthday greetings on June 4 to Ginger Danegger and to Karen Nani on June 7 with best wishes from the staff of *The Island Current*.

Jeannine and John Cito are proud to announce the Feb. 18 birth of their daughter, Ella Marie. Thrilled big brother is Nicholas and beaming grandparents are Dolores and Tony Mazzella and John and Anne Marie Cito.

A belated happy birthday on May 29 to Pilot Street's Joe Ewell from your Carroll Street nephews.

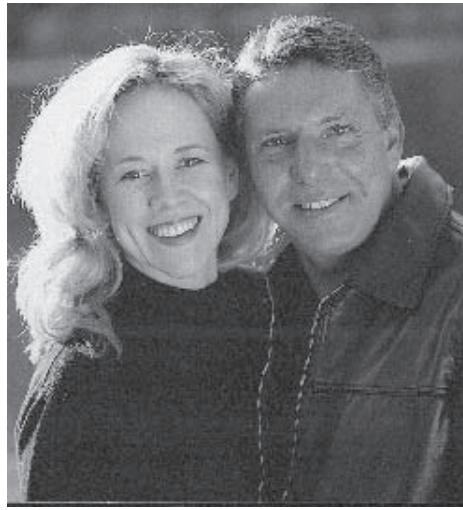
Congratulations to Buckley Street's Bette Lacina, who was honored at the Villa Maria Academy's Decades of Achievement Dinner on May 19. More than 200 alumni joined Bette's friends and family at the awards ceremony. We love you and are so proud of you! Charles, Natalie and Anastasia.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Consolidated's Fernando Banhara and his bride, Francine Douwes Whitney, who were married on April 14 at Beckwith Pointe. The happy couple resides on Winters Street.

Tom (Mot) Schaller has joined the coaching staff of Pace University as defensive line coach. This is Mot's fourth college coaching position; he has been on the football staff at Fordham University, Iona College and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Tom wants his many friends to know that this is college football and not pee-wee football!

Happy Birthday to Briana (Bri Lo) Lotrionte, who turned 15 on May 28. May all your dreams come true! With love from your family and Amber Jo.

Maria Swieciki



Islanders Francine Whitney and Fernando Banhara were married in May 2007.



Joe Bartels, who grew up on City Island, celebrates his birthday in June.

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