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One Dollar

LADDER 53 STAYS ON CITY ISLAND!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

City Island came out in force on several occasions to save Ladder Company 53, including this "candlelight march" to the fire house on Jan. 9, 2009, where Council Member James Vacca and several other elected officials joined Island residents in protesting the budget cuts that would have eliminated it for good as of July 1, 2009. Although the Mayor and the Fire Commissioner never acknowledged the dangerous situation in which City Island would have been placed and remained determined to eliminate as many as 16 fire companies, the City Council chose to use its discretionary budget to provide funding, and the Mayor finally agreed to keep them in service.

Just two weeks before Ladder Company 53 on City Island was set to close permanently on July 1, Council Member James Vacca was delighted to be able to tell the community that the City Council will restore \$17 million in funding in order to allow the Fire Department to continue the full-time operation of all 16 fire companies slated to disband over the next year, including Ladder 53.

The budget deal, which was reached on Monday, June 15, after extended talks between the Mayor's Office and the City Council, was formalized later in the week in a Council vote. It will forestall the closure of any engine or ladder company for at least one year and restore normal operations at the four companies that have been subject to nighttime closure since January: Ladder 53 on City Island in the Bronx, Engine 4 in Lower Manhattan, Engine 161 in South Beach, Staten Island, and Engine 271 in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. The remaining 12 companies that would have faced closure as early as January have not been identified.

"This agreement is vindication for the thousands of City Island residents and supporters who have been fighting for seven months to preserve basic life-saving services in this remote community," said Mr. Vacca, who as chair of the Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee of the City Council led the Council's advocacy for the restoration of funds.

"We have argued from the beginning that taking away Ladder 53 could have dangerous and possibly even deadly consequences, and I am proud to say that my colleagues in the Council heard our message loud and clear. This victory belongs to the thousands of residents who showed up at rallies, signed postcards to the Mayor, and let everyone know that this was a fight we were never going to give up on.

"I am indebted to those of my colleagues who drew a line in the sand when it came to fire cuts, to the union officials who stood firm in advocating for New York-

ers' continued safety, and to the everyday citizens who stood to lose the most from these cuts. Without their letters, petitions and appeals to the press, this issue would not have received the attention it deserved. This is a powerful reminder of the public's power to influence the budget process."

Mr. Vacca and City Island leaders have consistently opposed the closure of Ladder 53 since it was announced in December as part of the FDNY's midyear budget cuts. Without Ladder 53, response times on the Island would have jumped from under 5 minutes to over 10 minutes because the nearest firehouse is more than four miles away in Co-op City.

The FDNY announced its company-closure plan in January after being ordered to cut its budget by 7.5 percent. Fire services were not exempt from across-the-board cuts despite the fact that New York pays less per capita for fire protection than most other American cities, according to a March study conducted by the Department of Finance and Management in Columbus, Ohio, which found that the FDNY, despite being the largest and busiest fire department in the country, spends just \$157.56 per person, less than half of San Francisco's \$315.81 figure.

City Island residents expressed their gratitude to Mr. Vacca and his staff, especially Bret Collazzi, who helped stage rallies, press conferences and protests at City Hall, painted signs and helped get signatures on the thousands of postcards that were delivered to the mayor's office.

Residents were also immensely grateful to Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who took time from her busy schedule to visit City Island to meet with community representatives, who told her about the issues that adversely affect quality of life here. The most immediate threat was clearly the issue of fire protection, however, and she was crucial in helping to persuade the City Council to support the restoration of budget money to keep the fire houses intact.

City Island Little League Honors Frank Sena's Legacy

By SALLY PAGE CONNOLLY



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Surrounded by members of the Sena and McGuire families, Tom McMahon gave a warm tribute to the late Frank Sena, in whose memory the City Island Little League dedicated its clubhouse on closing day, June 27, 2009 (photo above). Standing by the plaque are (l. to r.): Tina, Francesca and Frances Sena, Virginia, Chris, Francis and Christina McGuire; seated is Michael Sena holding his daughter, Mia (bottom photo).

This year the highlight of the closing day ceremony for City Island Little League was the dedication of the clubhouse to Frank Sena, a well-loved man who played a very important role during his many years of volunteering for the League. He not only served as the League's president, manager and coach. As a father, he taught his own children, Virginia, Michael and Francesca, how to swing a bat, and then as a grandfather, he passed on his love of the sport to his grandchildren; Francis, Christina, Andrew and Mia. He died on April 30, 2009, on his 81st birthday.

Frank "Chezy" Sena was born in 1928 on 225th Street in the Bronx, attended P.S. 78 and Evander Childs High School, played college baseball for Iona and earned his law degree at Fordham University. As a talented young baseball player, Mr. Sena went on to play "Triple A" baseball. He was a scholar athlete who loved the law, baseball and, most importantly, his family. He believed deeply in helping his community and he led by example. He and his wife, Frances, moved in 1967 to City Island, where he immediately immersed himself into the local Little League, the Civic Association, the Community Board and the City Island Volunteer Ambulance

Corps.

Baseball was always a passion for Mr. Sena, and his contributions to the City Island Little League were extensive. He served as president from 1997 to 2000, and during that time his son-in-law, Chris McGuire, built the clubhouse, which is the League's centerpiece. They hold meetings there, store their equipment, teach strategies to players, and serve hot dogs from its concession stand.

It was during Mr. Sena's involvement in the City Island Little League that he developed a reputation as a force to be reckoned with in the Bronx community. His love of baseball was evident in his knowledge of innumerable baseball statistics, which included everything about the Yankees.

Baseball was not just a sport for Mr. Sena but a way to teach others about life as well. According to his friends, he constantly referred to the lives of such famous baseball figures as Billy Martin, Lou Gehrig and Pete Rose to explain to our young people how through dedication and hard work one can achieve greatness and overcome life's curve balls. Mr. Sena stressed that the most important lesson

Continued on page 9

BRIEFLY...

SUMMER ART FOR YOUNGSTERS 14 AND UNDER will be offered every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, July 7 through Aug. 27 at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. The fee is \$5 per day or \$70 for the season. Activities will include drawing, painting, clay, collage, mosaic, etc., in a flexible, low-key program. Older students who wish to work on an extended independent project are welcome. Children 6 and under must be accompanied by a responsible caregiver. Caregivers may participate free of charge. All students must be members of the Community Center. Smocks, materials and space will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 for more information.

BENEFIT AUCTION AT C.I. YACHT CLUB: On Saturday, July 18, a live art and sports/music memorabilia auction will be presented by A.J. Ross Auctions at the City Island Yacht Club at the west end of Pilot Street. A sampling of the fine art, sports, entertainment and music memorabilia may be viewed at www.ajrossauctions.com. The auction house has already reserved for the auction a signed serigraph of an America's Cup race by Leroy Neiman. There will also be raffles and a silent auction, which will include Al Leiter's signed and framed Mets jersey. Proceeds will benefit both the City Island Yacht Club and the City Island Nautical Museum. The preview will run from 7 to 8 p.m., and the live auction will begin at 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple, which includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese tasting, coffee and cake. Cash bar available. Music for the event will be provided by Elliot Glick and his talented students. Seating is limited, so advance purchase of tickets is advised. Call 718-885-2487 for information and to buy tickets.

BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM CONCERT: Celebrate the Fourth of July weekend with a free ride on Friday, July 3, on the Bronx Seaside Trolley to Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum and listen to Jared Woods, acoustic guitarist and songwriter voted "Best Singer in Anchorage, Alaska" by the Anchorage Daily News. Jared's rich acoustic sound has earned him praise from fellow musician Kenny G, among others. Enjoy the music, tour the mansion, partake of light refreshments, and take a walk through the gardens before hopping back on the Seaside Trolley to enjoy a meal at one of City Island's many restaurants. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and children 6-17. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or info@bpmmm.org.

FREE SHOW FOR CHILDREN: On Saturday, July 11, at 1 p.m. the City Island Theater Group will present "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf" by Joseph Robinette, directed by Eileen Marcus, on the lawn in front of Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street. Bring your own chair or blanket. For more information, visit www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2009. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

May and June

- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - BURGLARY
- 2 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY (AUTO)
- 2 - PROSTITUTION

Police report the following incidents for the months of May and June 2009:

5/11 - Police from the 45th Precinct arrested two off-Island males for committing a burglary at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue.

5/11 - Police are investigating the theft of an auto from the parking lot of a City Island restaurant.

5/15 - At 7:30 p.m. police arrested an Island male, 19, and charged him with assaulting a police officer. The defendant had been observed exchanging money for possible drugs and was observed carrying a firearm in his waistband. The defendant attempted to flee on foot (see story in the June Current).

5/19 - On Reynolds Street, police responded to a resident's call to 311 with a report of graffiti. Photos were taken, but no arrest was made.

5/22 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 25, and charged him with assault at the corner of Fordham Street. The defendant allegedly interfered with a motor vehicle stop and refused to leave the scene after being told to vacate by police.

5/23 - An Island male, 33, was arrested and charged with DWI at Cross Street and City Island Avenue.

5/31 - Police arrested a male, 27, on City Island Avenue and Carroll Street and charged him with DWI.

6/6 - At 632 City Island Avenue, police from the 45th Precinct made two arrests for prostitution and one arrest for unlicensed massage at the Sun Spa Massage Parlor (see story this issue).

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Photo by TOM HOULIHAN

This decapitated chicken was found at the Fordham Street beach on May 6, 2009, along with other objects, including coins, beads, coconuts, watermelon and corn cobs, arranged in a way that suggests ritual offerings. This is not the first time City Island beaches have been used for ritual purposes, and residents are advised to be aware of this activity during the summer months.

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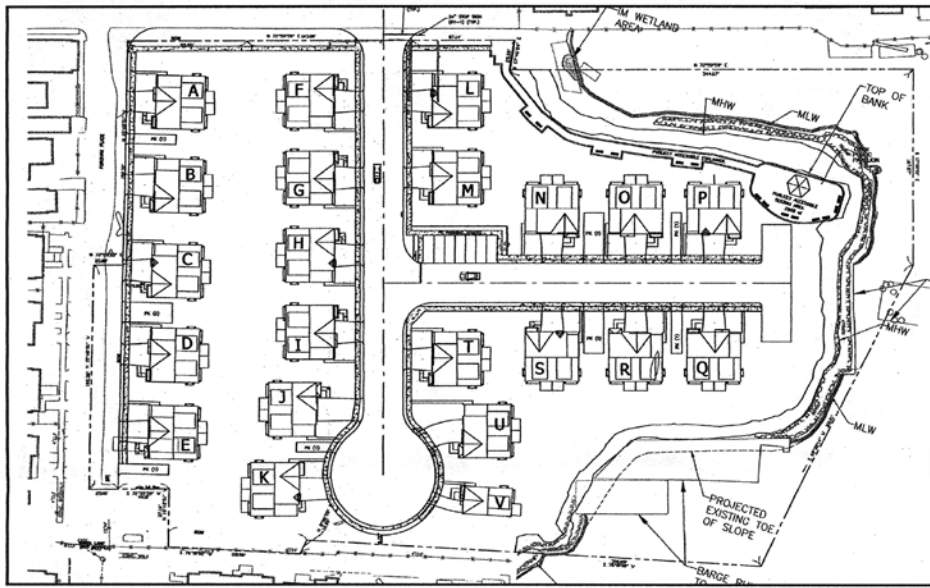
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Community Board Approves IUC Development

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Plans courtesy of MASSEY KNAKAL

At the general monthly meeting of Community Board 10 on Thursday, June 18, members of the board approved two of three applications made by City Island Estates LLC to develop the property at 226 Fordham Street, formerly the site of International Underwater Contractors (IUC). The approved applications included rezoning the site from light manufacturing (M1-1) to residential (R3A) and a permit to build two-family houses side by side rather than one on top of the other. The third application, a request to build 17 of the 22 buildings to a height of 41.5 feet, rather than the 35-foot limit specified in the City Island Special District Zoning, was not approved, with 13 voting against, 11 in favor and 2 abstaining.

The Community Board had held a public hearing at the City Island library on June 2, and a number of residents expressed their objections to certain aspects of the development, such as garbage removal and the building height, or raised concerns about such issues as traffic and parking along Fordham Street and adjacent roadways and obstructed views of the waterfront.

Only a handful of residents attended the subsequent meeting of the Community Board's Housing and Zoning Committee on June 12, when lawyers for the developer, Tony Errico, presented revisions to the plan that addressed residents' concerns, including a solution to the garbage issue and the addition of parking spaces within the development and along Fordham Place. The site will now be able to accommodate 122 cars, and Fordham Place will be widened to accommodate ten on-street parking spaces for the community. The placement of the buildings along Fordham Place were adjusted somewhat to allow an unobstructed view of the water.

Members of the committee were quick to question the developer about an advertisement that had appeared on the website

of real estate broker Massey Knakal offering the property for sale, either "as is" for \$8 million or with plans and permits for \$10 million. The developer and his attorney Stanley Schlein apologized for the ad, explaining that it was "too aggressive" and that they had no intention of withdrawing their own interest in the property. Mr. Errico pointed out that his business was construction, not real estate marketing, and that Massey Knakal had been approached to handle the latter aspects of the development.

When the committee members expressed concern that if another entity were to purchase the property after the rezoning, the number of units could legally be increased to 76, the developer and his attorneys agreed to restrict the deed to a maximum of 43 units, as specified in the present plan. He has also agreed that none of the units can be subdivided into smaller units and that he would not rent them out on a short-term basis. His attorneys told the Community Board, however, that unless the application to build up to 41.5 feet was approved, they would not place the 43-unit restriction on the deed. As of June 28, the Massey Knakal website ad remains unchanged.

Although a few residents continued to complain to each other about the development, only three Islanders spoke at the general meeting, including realtor Jackie Kall, who felt that the developer was missing the real market for these high-priced units by making them unsuitable for older buyers, who would prefer one-story living spaces rather than those requiring several sets of stairs.

The next step in the process for the developer is to obtain approvals from the Bronx Borough President and the City Council. The Community Board vote is only advisory in nature, so the request for the increased height limit may in fact be granted in due course.

A SHIP IS LAUNCHED ON CITY ISLAND

By DR. ED ROTHSCHILD and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Ed Rothschild (left) and Bob Adams unveil their replica of Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* in the front garden at P.S. 175 on June 12, 2009, as part of the school's commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Hudson's arrival in what would become New York City.

It has been more than 30 years since a boat built by City Islanders was launched here, but on Friday morning, June 12, 2009, history was made again with the unveiling of a replica of *Half Moon*, a small ship that carried Henry Hudson and his crew in 1609 to what would become New York City.

The eighth grade and staff of Public School 175, one of only three public schools in the city to be named an official Quadracentennial School as part of the 400th anniversary of Hudson's arrival, watched eagerly as the builders of the replica, Bob Adams and Ed Rothschild, pulled the tarps off the small vessel that they built over the past several months. Only a few bystanders were aware of the ironic fact that this took place on the original site of Nevins Shipyard, which launched its last yacht in 1962.

In December 2008, Lisa Fine, co-president of the school's PTA, ran into Bob Adams, father of eighth-grader Abby, and asked him if he would be willing to undertake the building of a small model of the *Half Moon*. Bob, a highly skilled professional wood craftsman, recruited Ed Rothschild, father of eighth-grader Anna, to work with him. Little did they know that they would be engaged in the project for over four months and hundreds of man hours.

There were no plans of the original 1609 ship or of the replica that had been made during the tricentennial commemoration in 1909, and there were only some photographs and side elevations of the 1989 replica now touring the Hudson River. Ed assembled and developed some

plans and constructed a half model for the hull, and Bob undertook the daunting job of translating these limited sources into the complex nine-foot wooden ship now installed in front of the school.

According to the two men, many and frequent revisions were required during the course of the construction, and parts were often built and rebuilt. There are more than 200 separate wooden parts in the final ship, for which Bob devised an innovative system of handcrafted and water-soaked dowels to define the hull's complex shape.

The detailed rigging and ratlines were Ed's creation, and Bob crafted the figure-head and stern castings. Tom Nye, a sail maker by profession and former school parent, designed and installed the sails and flags. Another school parent, Han Yu Hung, together with students from the school, planted the garden beneath it in order to frame the ship, which is open to allow plant growth and viewing.

During the course of building the ship, as the builders tell it, the ship evolved into an almost living thing, not surprisingly since the basic structure resembles a vertebrate skeleton. The men became emotionally and spiritually involved with her, and after its completion, when they ventured to Mystic Seaport, they were amazed to discover that many historic ship design and construction problems had been met and solved in ways similar to those they had naively invented.

At the launching on June 12, they expressed the hope that this *Half Moon* will inspire others to their own new and exciting adventures.

CHAMBER CHANGES LEADERSHIP

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

After serving for 21 years as president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, Peter La Scala stepped down from the position last month and turned the reins over to Skip Giacco, proprietor of Lickety Split Ice Cream, which is located on City Island Avenue next to Hawkins Street Park.

Under Mr. La Scala's leadership, the Chamber worked successfully with local businesses to enhance the appearance of City Island Avenue and bring visitors to the Island. Among other accomplishments, the Chamber published a useful directory of local businesses, established a website and organized a biennial arts and crafts fair to give regional artists and artisans an opportunity to display and sell their work.

One of the Chamber's most notable annual events has been the Awards Dinner, where individuals who have contributed to the quality of life on City Island are honored. A of the high point of the dinner in recent years has been the music supplied by Mr. Giacco and his band. "I guess I'm going to have to give up that gig," he laughingly told *The Current*, "and take over as emcee!"

On a more serious note, he expressed his appreciation for Mr. La Scala's years of service and said that he intended to expand on what he has done and take it to the next level. "I am committed to working with the other organizations here in order to make City Island a place where people want to live as well as shop."

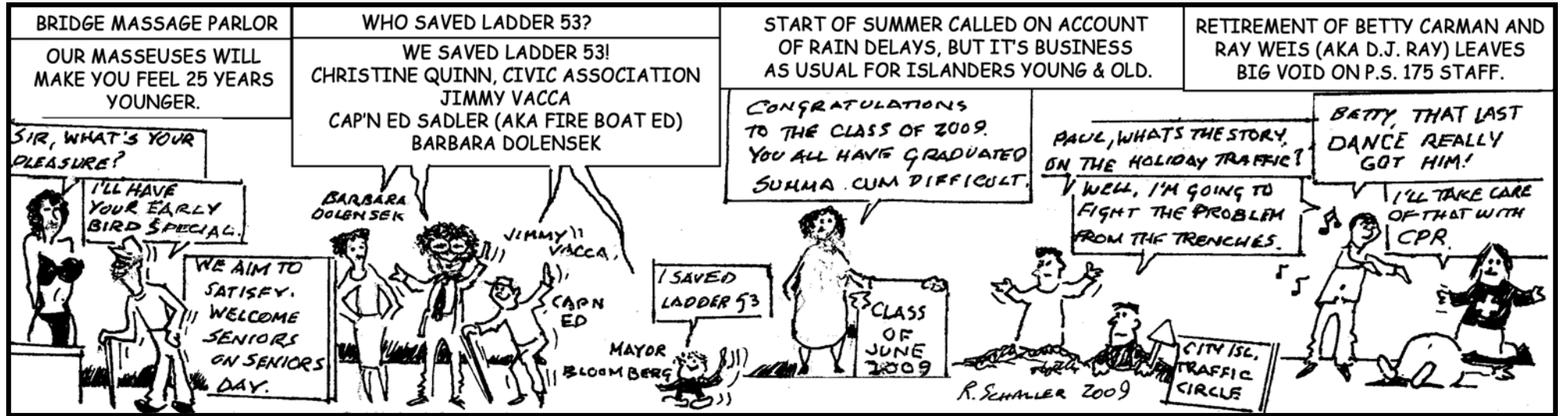
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Fair Winds or Foul: an editorial column

The month of June was one in which the City Island community proved that it could work together for the benefit of everyone, not just a few special interests. By joining together with determination, good organization, and the support of our elected officials and city agencies, we managed to convince New York City to keep Ladder Company 53 in our firehouse, our beloved dolphin in Hawkins Street Park, our branch library open six days a week and our express bus running on schedule. For too long, City Island was considered a community in which few people could agree on anything, but we made it clear to the powers-that-be in City Hall that we are serious about maintaining our quality of life. The New Yorker may call us an illegitimate child of Nantucket and Hunts Point and the New York Post may imply that we are a haven for narcotics and prostitution, but we know better. We are a very special community with our own character, and we will go to great lengths to preserve it. In recent weeks we have seen groups of dedicated volunteers cleaning up City Island Avenue, planting flower boxes, attending hearings, signing petitions or postcards and sending letters and e-mail messages expressing our ideas in unison. By showing respect for each other, we have been able to accomplish a great deal, and for that we all deserve a pat on the back. Well done, City Island!



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

Thanks to a Generous Community

Dear friends and neighbors,

We would like to thank everyone who came to Steve Schmitz's benefit on May 29. It was a great success and we are so grateful to everyone who came.

We have to thank Mary Jane's best friend in the world, Maureen (McEnery) Hraska, for helping me sell so many tickets for the 50/50 raffle, as well as these businesses: Buddy's Hardware, Papa John's Deli, Jackie Kall, Jack's Bait and Tackle, Exotiq, Bob Carmody and Debbie Baits. The list goes on and on. Buddy's Hardware was our best seller (thank you, Lucy, Joey and Mary Booth).

We also want to thank all the restaurants, including Sammy's Fish Box, the Black Whale, Portofino, Johnny's Reef, Seafood City, the City Island Diner, the Lobster House, To-Go Express, Artie's, JP's, the Sea Shore, Jack's Bait and Tackle (for a gift certificate), Exotiq, the Yonkers Raceway Dinner and all who donated lovely baskets, including Joannie Lyons, Ginger and the list goes on.

Great thanks to our friends Terry Stanton, Rosemary Bosco, Angela D'Allara and Regina Warner for running the raffle ticket tables. And we are also grateful to the American Legion's Jim Livingston, Joe Goonan, Bob Mennona, Tom McMahon and Peter Booth for making it so easy for us by setting up everything. They are truly amazing men.

And of course PePe and John had everyone dancing all night with their Magical Music. Thank you, too.

Steve and Monica and Steven are forever grateful.

We will be doing the 50/50 Raffle on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the American Legion's clambake. The date on the tickets is June 27, 2009 but there are more tickets to sell and

we can increase the size of the pot.

And thanks to *The Island Current*. Without you, we wouldn't have such a turnout. God bless you all.

Mary Jane Waring Edgar
and Bob Edgar

A Bad Rap

To the Editor:

I just wanted to reach out to my fellow islanders on the article that appeared in the New York Post on June 10 with the headline "Bronx Paradise Lost: City Island Going to Pot and Prostitutes." Of course it is very upsetting. We know we have our problems here, and I am very happy that many Islanders are getting involved in fighting against our drug offenders and all the undesirable elements in our neighborhood. The attendance at the 45th precinct meeting was really fabulous and that was a great move in the right direction.

I have gotten a few calls and a few responses on this article. One very passionate Islander was very upset about it; "How could they write this?" he said. "It took the Bronx over 30 years to get past the stigma of Fort Apache-the Bronx is burning." I didn't think of it, but he has a very valid point, one that crossed my husband's mind right away: it gives City Island a bad rap.

Although we don't want to ignore our problems, and we want to get everyone's attention about the problems we do have, the negative press could hurt us in a big way. This was a response to an e-mail with the article from another Islander, someone I consider to be an asset to our community: "I don't know Brenda. Is it time to go?"

That's scary. We don't want to scare off the people who love and value this Island and contribute to its being a safe and desirable place to live and to raise children. If people who don't want to live in a place full of drugs and prostitutes decide to leave, who do we have left? If a nice person, or a couple or family decides to look into City Island as a place to move from Manhattan, or Westchester, or anywhere, and they Google it and come up with this type of information, would they chose it as a place to live? Our property values and the element of people moving into this community are at risk with this kind of publicity.

During the past few years, there have been countless articles on what a great place this is. We don't want outsiders to think it has gone downhill. The fight is to eliminate the bad element, but I don't think a lot of

bad press is the way to go about it. An additional response from a local realtor: "This bad press is terrible for City Island. I think it's way over-exaggerated, and the papers are just trying to sensationalize it. It is doing tremendous damage to real estate. I've had clients mention it."

Brenda Prohaska

City Island Traffic Agents

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

John Cassidy
Acting Chief of Transportation
New York City Police Department
(NYPD)
One Police Plaza.
New York, New York 10038

Dear Chief Cassidy,

I am writing to you today on behalf of my constituents in the City Island community, who have communicated to my office for a long time their concerns regarding unmonitored traffic. Island residents understand that heavy traffic is an unfortunate side effect from being a popular tourist destination.

That being said, Island residents are also entitled to basic safety by having traffic laws enforced. With this in mind, I respectfully request that you look into the placement of traffic agents on City Island during the weekends of these busy summer months (June through September). I believe that an increase of traffic enforcement in this area would lead to a dramatic improvement in the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

Should you require any additional information, please call John Doyle in my Bronx District Office at 718-822-2049.

Sen. Jeffrey D. Klein

Help Solve a Murder

To the Editor:

Rita Fioretti is missing. She has been missing since August of 1986, and the prime suspect in her disappearance was released from prison on May 14, 2009.

It is with an extremely heavy heart that I report this disappointing news to you. Robert Fioretti—one-time City Island resident, convicted bank fraud and sex offender, former NYPD police officer and my stepfather and abuser—is back among the general public. Robert's new home is a halfway house in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

Rita, on the other hand, has no home. Years ago, she was declared dead, although her body was never found.

What Robert Fioretti did to my sister and me is only half of the story. Sadly, many of you fellow City Islanders know the rest. Robert was married to Rita Fioretti and they had two sons. When she went missing 23 years ago this summer, he was considered a suspect in her disappearance, but there was never enough evidence to indict him. This mother of two never had a chance to see her sons graduate from high school, get married or become parents themselves. And, equally sadly, these two boys had their mother taken from them at a very young age. The mystery of her disappearance and the pain of her ab-

sence will never go away.

There is no statute of limitations on murder, and Rita Fioretti, former member of the City Island community, deserves to have a final resting place. And we all deserve to know the truth. If you remember Rita, if you knew her at all, or even if you have been touched by her story, please contact *The Island Current* or the TIPS hotline with any information that you have. Remember that any detail that exists in your memory, no matter how small, could be the key to helping the state discover what actually happened to Rita back in 1986. The more we continue to talk about her, the more she will be remembered. She deserves that. And as we remember her, we come closer to bringing justice to her killer.

Call 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or text TIP577 (plus your message) to CRIMES (274637).

Christina Brooks

Grateful Firefighter

To the Editor:

Thousands of people each year visit City Island for our numerous seafood restaurants and charming antique stores. Sometimes forgotten by these tourists are the year-round residents of this small maritime community. This week Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council wisely decided not to turn their backs on City Island and restored \$17 million in funding to save 16 fire companies citywide, including City Island's Ladder Company 53. The Uniformed Firefighters Association and many local Bronx residents called on the Mayor through postcards and protests, and he responded. Having worked in Ladder 53, I personally know how important a ladder company is to the community. Without a truck on City Island, it is a matter of when, not if, there will be a fatal fire because of the added response time of a truck coming from off the island. This is just another reminder of Mayor Bloomberg's ability to make vital decisions that are important to us in a tough economic time.

Michael Rendino,
FDNY Retired Ladder 44

Dolphin Rescue

To the Editor:

A note to tell you and your readers how pleased I was to read of the "rescue" of the dolphin and its place in Hawkins Street Park. I was one of the group, called Pride Unlimited, that installed the dolphin there in the 1970s. It became a magnet for children and families. Later in that decade there were problems in the park and it was used as a hangout for undesirable persons and drug-dealers. The one thing that stopped all that was when the parents and children "took back the park" by hanging out there at all hours, discouraging those who had taken it away. I hope the seals are staying there! The Garden Club and Islanders have worked long and hard over the years to make this tiny park and memorial a special place for everyone.

And to the *Current* staff: keep up the great work. You are very special to me, and while I miss you all, and the Island, you are never far from me in my heart.

Sara (Sally) McPherson
Appleton, Wisconsin

POLICE STEP UP ACTIVITY ON CITY ISLAND

By KAREN NANI

On Thursday, June 4, more than 65 residents of City Island joined together to attend the monthly meeting of the Community Council of the Police Department's 45th precinct in order to present their concerns directly to the commanding officer, Captain Dimetrios Roumeliotis. The police officers at the meeting heard stories about crime, ranging from drug sales and traffic violations to graffiti and excessive noise, as well as pleas from Islanders to address these issues, even if it meant arresting Island residents who were caught breaking the law.

Before the meeting was even over, more than six police cars were seen on City Island Avenue near Fordham Street breaking up a fight and arresting an Island youth, and during the days that followed, police cars were omnipresent, giving summonses for various different offenses. Although many residents complained that there were no officers handling the overwhelming traffic on Sunday, June 14, at least half a dozen police, and the NYPD helicopter, were seen at Tony's Pier responding to reports of a gunshot at about 7:30 p.m. that evening.

Led by Civic Association president Bill Stanton, a former NYPD officer, the City Islanders at the Community Council meeting represented many different groups, including the P.S. 175 PTA, the Community Center, the Chamber of Commerce, members of the clergy and the Little League, among others. At a meeting usually attended by very few precinct residents, the overwhelming numbers of Islanders and their obvious unanimity of purpose clearly impressed Captain Roumeliotis, who promised his cooperation as well as fuller disclosure to the community of police activity on the Island.

Larry Saulnier, himself a former police officer, spoke for many of those present when he said that he hoped the NYPD would step up their vigilance, especially regarding drug sales and vandalism, even if it meant arresting Islanders. Too often in the past, he said, residents were reluctant to report crimes perpetrated by Islanders but that many were now determined to cooperate with the police in order to bring order to the community.

Off-Islanders were also seen to be the source of trouble, especially cars and motorcycles that speed down the fire lane, run red lights, play excessively loud music and otherwise disturb quality of life for residents, especially early in the morning after police have left the Island. The captain, who reported success in the past confiscating illegal motorcycles, acknowledged that devices for measuring sound were not used by the precinct, but he agreed to increase foot patrols and to support City Island's request for traffic agents to control traffic, rather than using police officers.

Earlier in the day on June 4, Bill Stanton and Paul Nani, chair of the Civic's traffic committee, met with restaurant owners and residents at the south end of the Island, where noise and intimidating behavior by off-Islanders has increased over the past few years as police presence has become less apparent in the area. No Parking signs have been removed from Rochelle Street; disorderly individuals have been seen urinating on front lawns and otherwise making life miserable for the neighborhood.

John Doyle, who is on Senator Jeff Klein's staff, organized the meeting, to which he invited two traffic agents and a representative of the Department of Environmental Protection, which regulates excessive noise. They listened to the residents' complaints and agreed to try to help remedy the situation. The managers of both Johnny's Reef and Tony's Pier agreed to put up more visible signs regarding loud music and otherwise cooperate with the community. Anthony Palumbo of Tony's reported

that he had hired security guards and installed security cameras to try to control activity in his parking lot but that this was extremely difficult to accomplish without obvious police presence at Belden Point.

Other efforts have been made by residents to control problems caused by off-Islanders on summer weekends. A bikini motorcycle wash at City Island Auto Body had been scheduled for Sunday, June 14, but the owners recognized that the community was very unhappy with this and canceled the event, although many motorcycles came to the Island anyway. Residents of Minneford Avenue were very disturbed by the stream of motorcycles and cars that raced down their street in an attempt to avoid heavy traffic on City Island Avenue. They vowed to continue their efforts to persuade the Department of Transportation to install stop signs and speed bumps, requests that DOT has rejected in the past.

One result of the Community Council meeting that made some residents unhappy was an article that appeared in the New York Post on Tuesday, June 9, implying that City Island had become a haven for narcotics and prostitution. But most of those attending the meeting had been very surprised to learn that the 45th precinct had made arrests in the summer of 2008 for prostitution allegedly taking place at the Sun Spa massage parlor at 632 City Island Avenue. During the week of June 9, more arrests were made at the parlor, which closed briefly but quickly reopened for business.

Longtime residents of City Island told *The Current* that they are delightfully surprised by the new community spirit that finds Islanders working together instead of at cross purposes. Clearly this trend is having a noticeable success, with the saving of both Ladder Company 53 and the dolphin and the efforts being made to improve the appearance of City Island Avenue.

But there is more to be done. As Bill Stanton puts it, "We have to keep up the pressure, not just on the police but on all Islanders, who must do their part by reporting drug sales and graffiti and noise and traffic violations whenever they see them. If we allow the minor criminals to get away with this kind of thing, it will have serious repercussions for City Island, which will be seen as a haven for illegal activity."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If you see any suspicious activity, ie: graffiti, drug sales or use, underage drinking, theft or robbery, fighting, weapon possession, speeding vehicles – **call 911 immediately.**

If the activity is no longer in progress, **call 311 and be sure to get the reference number** after the complaint has been filed. If you wish to remain anonymous, just say so. The complaint will still be filed and the appropriate department will be obliged to respond, if not right away then within a month.

In addition, you may also **alert the Community Police officers** at the 45th precinct by calling 718-822-5449 or e-mailing cao45pct@aol.com. If you speak with an officer at the precinct, be sure to make a note of the name.

Follow up: When you get the reference number or the name of an officer, be sure to send it, along with a description of your complaint, to the Civic e-mail address at city.island.civic@mac.com or mail it to the City Island Civic Association at P. O. Box 117, City Island NY 10464. This way we can monitor the complaints and follow up with the appropriate authorities.

Two Who Cared for Students Retire from P.S. 175

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

Two longtime P.S. 175 staff members, Betty Carman and Ray Weis, retired at the end of the 2009 school year in June. Betty (shown above in the health office) was the health intern for 19 years, and Ray (shown below with Betty in front of the school) was the speech therapist since 1986. The two were honored for their many years of dedicated service on June 5, 2009, at a party at the City Island Yacht Club.



When the school year came to an end at P.S. 175 on June 26, 2009, it was the last day of work for two special staff members: Betty Carman, the longtime Health Intern, and Ray Weis, the Speech Therapist. Both are Island residents and had cared for the health and welfare of thousands of students over their combined 42 years serving at the City Island School.

Born Elizabeth Costello in the Harlem section of Manhattan, Betty moved with her parents, Ed and Betty, to the Morris Park neighborhood in the Bronx (she is a fifth-generation Elizabeth in her family). She attended Grace Dodge High School and then worked as a dental assistant and hygienist.

So how did she come to City Island? She met clam digger David Carman on a blind date through her friend Patty Braun, and they were married in 1969. "He was such a gentleman. He still holds doors open for me," she told *The Current* when asked what first attracted her to Dave.

After her children, David and Cynde, were born and in school, Betty decided to go back to work. Because of her medical background, she trained as a health intern at P.S. 103 in the Bronx, and in 1990 she was hired by Ena Ellwanger, who was then principal of P.S. 175, to take over the position once held by longtime Islander Rosalie Phillips.

In addition to nursing students' daily stomach aches and pains ("I get to be the Band-aid"), Betty was in charge of vision and hearing testing. This is the work that

she speaks of with great pride. "I would test their vision and examine them for amblyopia, which, if not caught by second grade, can result in lifelong vision problems. I caught a few cases, which were treated in time."

Students knew they could count on Mrs. Carman for comfort and solace. The health office became cheerful place to recuperate from whatever ailments students came down with. Betty brought in her own stuffed animals and covered the drab "sick bed" with colorful character sheets. Some P.S. 175 faculty members joked that it was almost too nice a place to go to, and occasionally there was even a waiting line to see Mrs. Carman, especially at the start of the school year.

Her caring and cheerful nature was highly valued by faculty and administration at the school. "The first word I think of when I think of Betty is nurturing. She understood and cared for every ailment that walked through her office door whether it was physical or psychological. She knew instinctively what to do," Mrs. Ellwanger told *The Current*.

Mrs. Ellwanger and other faculty members also applauded the many years of dedicated service of Ray Weis, who has worn two hats at the school for many years: his work with hearing- and speech-impaired children and his musical contribution as "DJ Ray."

Raymond Weis was born in the Bronx in 1951 to Agnes and Fred Weis. He

Continued on page 8

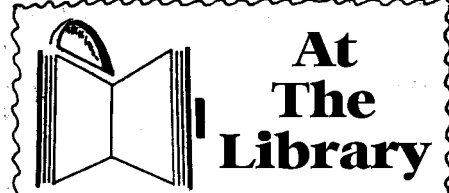


If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

In February 2008, Dr. Ivis Getz opened **Caring For Kids Pediatric Dentistry** in order to provide high-quality dental care in a kid-friendly atmosphere. Dr. Getz hopes that with her warm, compassionate approach, her patients will make a commitment to regular appointments and, as a result, have healthy teeth for a lifetime. A board-certified pediatric dentist, Dr. Getz cares for the oral health of all children, including those with special needs. She educates her patients on prevention and effective hygiene and offers restorative treatments, nitrous oxide and white fillings, as well as intravenous sedation. Designed to appeal to kids, each treatment room has a television where they can watch their favorite shows or DVDs. Caring For Kids Pediatric Dentistry offers extended evening and Saturday hours, accepts several insurance plans and offers ample parking. Caring For Kids Pediatric Dentistry, 140 Lockwood Ave, Suite 315, New Rochelle; 914-355-2265; www.caringpediatricdentistry.com. Dr. Ivis Getz is married to Matt Getz, a former City Islander who currently works as a lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department. They live in the Bronx with their daughter, Elena.

The **City Island Chamber of Commerce** is pleased to announce the launch of a new Community Calendar, which will be available for the listing of all Island-related events. Individuals may also list personal tag sales. If you have an event that you would like to list, please e-mail your request to chambercalendar@gmail.com. All notices must be received at least two weeks in advance of the event date and will be subject to Chamber approval.

The **Starving Artist Gallery**, 249 City Island Ave., City Island, NY 10464-1529, 718-885-3779, will feature acoustical guitarist Jared Woods on Sunday, July 12, at 3 p.m. Jared was voted Alaska's #1 acoustical guitarist, so come on our to hear his groove.



We are happy to report that our library will remain open six days a week, thanks to those who wrote letters and made donations to the Keep Our Library Open campaign. Celebrate with us by visiting our new outdoor reading room and garden, which are open to the public.

Adult Programs

Basic computer instruction: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian.

Camaleon/Chameleon: Brazilian concern performing choros, sambas, bossa nova, merengues and more. Saturday, Aug. 22, at 1 p.m.

Children's Activities

Reading Out Loud Picture Book Program: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. July 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, 28-29; Aug. 4-6, 11-12, 19-20.

Multicultural Stories from Around the World: Recommended for children of all ages. Monday, July 13, at 1 p.m.

Arts and Crafts for Children, K-6. Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on July 15, 22, 29; Aug. 5, 12, 19.

Young Adult Programs

Game On: Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27.

Yu-Gi-Oh: Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m., July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26.

Graphic Novel Rewrite: Mondays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Manga Overdrive: Tuesdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Hip-Hop Music and Dance, Friday, July 31, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

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

ALCOHOL TOXICITY: A Talk with Teens

By TONI KAVANAGH, RN, MSHA, MBA

As many of us know, alcohol use and overuse are very big issues with today's youth. Not only do more kids drink, and at younger ages than ever before, but the quantity of alcohol consumed has also increased. The dangers of binge drinking (drinking too much too fast) are very serious, and they affect many communities, even City Island.

As a representative of Nurses Network of America, I shared with a group of Island teens at Grace Church on Sunday, June 14, a program entitled "Project Rewind," a down-to-earth, no-nonsense presentation that addresses alcohol use among young people. As a registered nurse, I have had the opportunity to collect good, solid information about alcohol and its effects on the body and the brain.

Many myths exist about alcohol. Does coffee really help make you sober? Do cold showers help? Teens, young adults and parents in most communities believe that the answer to these questions is "yes." But in reality these attempts to sober up someone who is suffering from alcohol poisoning can actually cause death in some cases. Allowing individuals to "sleep it off" can even put them in danger if they slip into unconsciousness and stop breathing.

There are four common symptoms of alcohol poisoning in those who are known to have consumed large quantities of alco-

hol in a short period of time. First, an individual will lose consciousness, a sign that the brain is poisoned. People often become cold and clammy, and the skin may become pale. Breathing becomes slow, shallow or irregular, and vomiting occurs in most cases, sometimes while the person is unconscious, which can result in choking. But not all of these symptoms have to be present to indicate that someone is in trouble. Even one of these symptoms can signal possible danger.

Participants in the program at Grace Church were urged to recognize the symptoms of alcohol poisoning and to react in the most effective way, which is to call 911. They should also call a responsible parent. The best advice I could give, however, was to recommend that they put off drinking until the legal age of 21, and then to drink alcohol in a responsible fashion.

Molly Schroeder, Ph.D.
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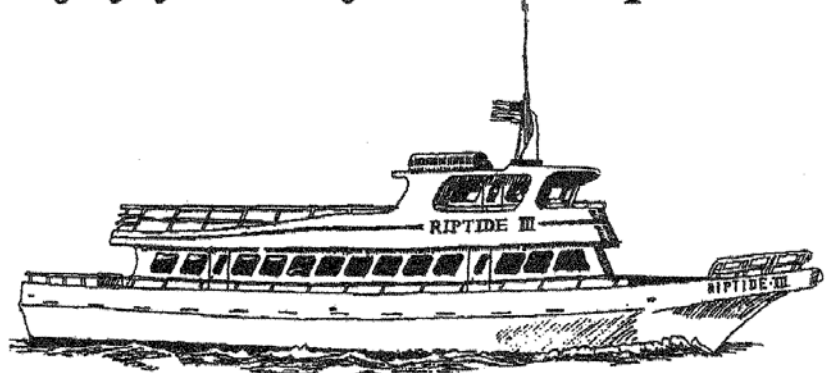
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Photo by 3M PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the 2009 graduating class of Public School 175. First row, bottom (l. to r.): graduates Ryan Henning, Johnathan Mora, Benjamin Beruh, Nicolas Santiago; faculty Katherine Goullian; Deana Crawford, administrative intern; Amy Lipson, principal; and Karen Heil; graduates Anna Rothschild, Kyle Kreig, Adrian Pena, Brian Devlin, Kevin Saulnier. Second row, faculty Jeanne McDonald, Ann Shandley; graduates Shaylin Scott, Brianna Ragucci, Marcus Lopez, Raeann Grimes, Dylan Cruz, Frances Robles, Austin Albert, Abigail Adams, Sean Moran, Jeanette Leonard, Mariol Rama, Nancy Navarro, Shannon Monaghan; faculty Wayne Lafreniere. Row three: Hannah St. Furcy, Kenny Rosa, Nicole Dammacco, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Luna Sepulveda, Cray Garza, Jennifer Branley, Robert Pirraglia, Jordanna Lubelli, Brandyn Reilly, Kylie Negron, Brandon Olivo, Gabrielle Vitiello. Top row: Lirijana Novovic, Justin Robinson, Alyssa Cambria, Denis Curtin, Athena Darretta, Edward Carey, Melissa Scott, Steven Schmitz, Marlyn Sanchez, Ian Campbell, Juleit Rossi, Omar Viguera, Veronica Weyhrauch.

GRADUATION DAYS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

At St. Mary's graduation on June 12, principal Jane Dennehy made the following presentations.

The General Excellence Awards, with \$50 checks donated by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, were presented to Johnathan Mendez and Korinna Lane.

The American Legion Award with a savings bond from Post 156 for the best essay entitled "How Can I Serve My Country?" was presented to Devin Navarro. A bond was donated by the Ladies Auxiliary of Leonard Hawkins Post 156 to Samantha Garcia for the best essay entitled "What Can I Do for My Country?"

Awards were also given in individual subject areas, including the Religion Award to Erik Candelaria, the Mathematics Award to Amir Smith, and both the Reading Award and the Computer Award to Joshua Williams. Malik Dixon received the Science Award, and the Creative Writing Award was presented to Devin Navarro. The recipient of both the Language Arts Award and the Art Award was Samantha Garcia; the Music Award went to Liana Billings, and Birla Gonzalez received the Physical Education Award.

The AARP Chapter 3303 Most Improved Student Award and check were given to Samantha Garcia, *The Island Current* Catherine Scott Literary Award and a \$50 check were presented to Liana Billings, and the recipient of the Gold Medal donated by St. Mary's School for altar service was William Ortega.

The State of New York Office of the Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli Certificate of Recognition for Leadership Potential and Commitment to Service was presented to William Ortega and Korinna Lane; the Comptroller of the City of New York William C. Thompson Jr. Certificate of Recognition of Outstanding Achievement was given to Malik Dixon and Amir Smith; the Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto Award for Perseverance went to Jerome Smith.

Korinna Lane and Liana Billings were recipients of the St. John's University

Women in Science Society Certificate of Recognition; a check from Computar Incorporated for the 2009 Student of the Year was presented to Johnathan Mendez; the Computer Typing Contest for Speed and Accuracy plaques were given to Evan Spencer, Amir Smith and Amber Tudor.

The Peter M. Caddell Memorial Award for Service to School and Community, donated by Mrs. Grace Caddell in memory of her husband, was presented to Birla Gonzalez, Devin Navarro and Amber Tudor. The Principal's Award (gold medal and check), for the student who exemplifies the true spirit of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, went to Ashley Morales.

Congratulations to all the award winners and all the 2009 graduates!

Public School 175

At the June 24 graduation ceremony, principal Amy Lipson made the following presentations.

The Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was presented to Denis Curtin. The City Island Chamber of Commerce Award for General Excellence was given to Melissa Scott and Veronica Weyhrauch; the Principal's Award for Excellence went to Abigail Adams, and Jordanna Lubelli was the recipient of the Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance.

At the Awards Dinner on June 18, the following presentations were made: the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement and Character to Nancy Navarro; the American Legion Essay Contest Award from the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 to Denis Curtin, and the award from the Ladies Auxiliary to Jordanna Lubelli.

The NYS Senate Assemblyman Jeff Klein Civic Award for Student Leadership went to Melissa Scott; the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Perseverance Award for Academic Achievement was given to Alyssa Cambria; the NYC Comptroller Achievement Award for Special Scholastic Achievement was presented to Adrian Pena, and the NYS Comptroller Achievement Award for Commitment to Public

Service went to Anna Rothschild.

Jeanette Leonard and Frances Robles received the City Council Speakers Achievement Award; the City Council Citation for Achievement was presented to Luna Sepulveda; the City of N.Y. Commission on Women's Issues Leadership Award was given to Marlyn Sanchez, and the CSA Award for Outstanding Leadership went to Jeanette Leonard.

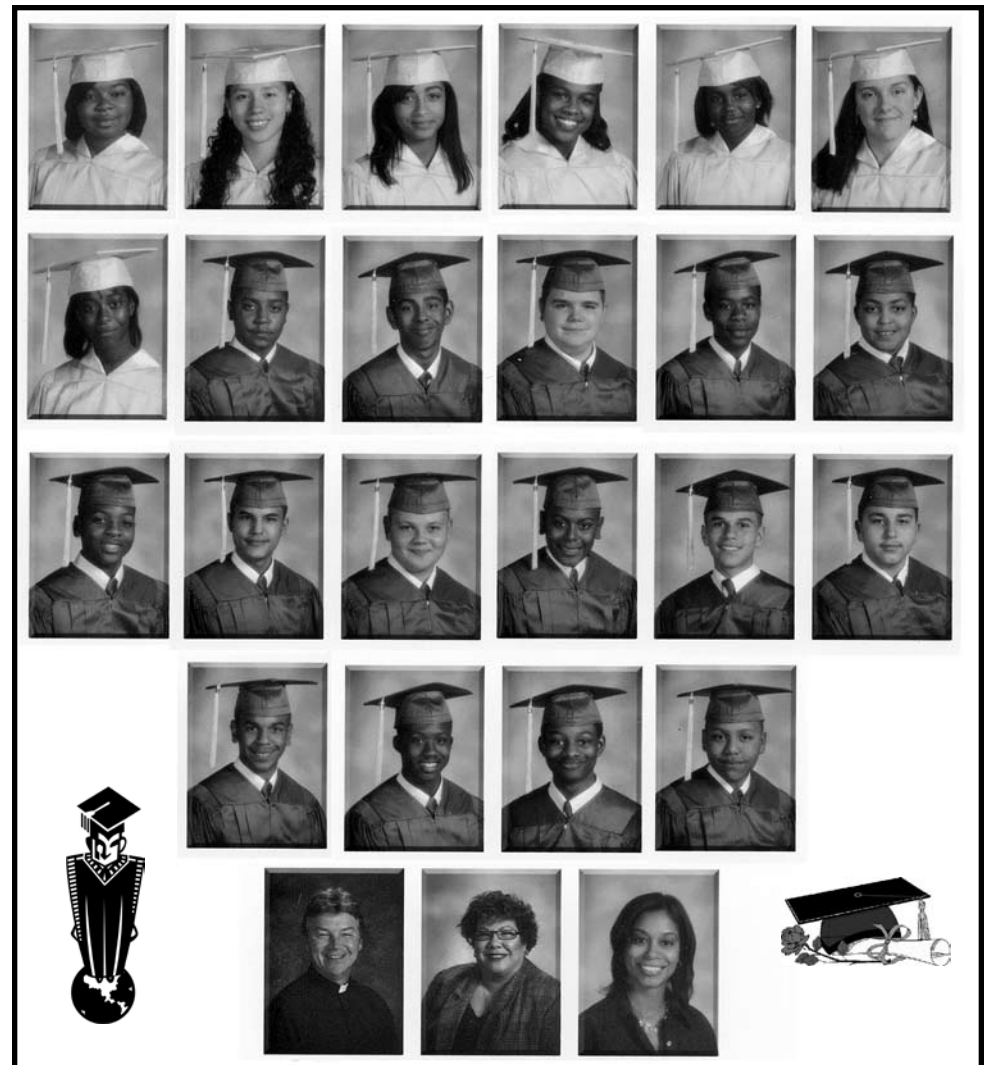
The Association of Assistant Principals Certificate of Merit was awarded to Brian Devlin and Johnathan Mora; the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was given to Veronica Weyhrauch; the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort

was presented to Lirijana Novovic, and the Alice Persteins Award for Outstanding Service to School or Community went to Kevin Saulnier.

Justin Robinson received the Ena P. Ellwanger Award for Compassion, Humor Integrity and Love of Learning; Juleit Rossi was given the Alice Connolly Award for Service; the Gloria Misurski Award for Fairness, Involvement Concern for Others was presented to Adrian Pena, and the Christine Jorgensen Hansen Community Service Award went to Gabrielle Vitiello.

The Catherine Scott Award from *The*

Continued on page 12



Photos courtesy of LIFE TOUCH SCHOOL PORTRAITS

The St. Mary, Star of the Sea School graduates for 2009 (l. to r.): Top row: Liana Nicole Billings, Samantha Precious Garcia, Birla Storm Gonzalez, Korinna Lane, Dynesa Little and Ashley Priscilla Morales. Second row: Amber Michelle Tudor, Malik Barnes, Erik Christian Candelaria, Sean Dilla, Malik Dixon and John Henry Epps, Jr. Third row: Brenton Samuel Howell, Emilio Manuel Malave, Jonathan Noah Mendez, Devin Vaughn Navarro, William Christopher Ortega, Jr. and Barkim Ramon Salgado. Fourth row: Amir Hassan Smith, Jerome G. Smith, Evan Phillip Spencer and Joshua Williams. Bottom row: Father Michael Challinor, Pastor, Mrs. Jane Dennehy, Principal and Mrs. Audrey Cabbell, teacher.

Two Who Cared

Continued from page 5

attended P.S. 103, Evander Childs High School and City College in Manhattan, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in education and his master's degree in speech pathology.

Ray had an interesting array of part-time jobs during his early years, including working at Alexander's department store in Manhattan and caddying at Pelham Country Club, where he was paid \$6 per bag. The salary was low, but Ray learned to play golf, a sport he loves and continues to play to this day. "Now caddies get \$50 per bag," he wistfully joked to *The Current*.

After obtaining his master's degree, Ray answered an ad in the job section of the New York Times in 1979 for speech therapists in the New York City schools. He started in District 9 in the Bronx and eventually moved to District 11, where he worked at P.S. 111 for five years. Ray took on some of the most difficult cases, including non-verbal students and mentally retarded and autistic children.

But helping children was more than just a job to Ray. He volunteered as a Big Brother at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf and worked with a 10-year-old deaf boy from South America. He taught the boy to speak, and they are still friends 39 years later. The man now works for the New York Mets baseball team.

In 1986, Mrs. Ellwanger hired him to teach speech and also work with the hearing handicapped, as well as students with learning disabilities. Again Ray went beyond the job description. He had studied American Sign Language and began to incorporate it into his activities at P.S. 175. He started a Sign Language Club for grades 3 to 8, and for eight years they performed at morning exercises, holiday shows and other school events.

Mrs. Ellwanger recalled: "When I think of Ray, I think of a gentleman in every sense of the word. He is the definition of sustained caring as evidenced by his work

with the hearing impaired and especially his work with a young hearing-impaired boy who is now a young man able to function in the world. He cares for people in general and is the first in line to support any activity to help others. His caring and generosity are not learned from a textbook. It comes from the heart."

Many parents are grateful to Ray's efforts, including this reporter whose son, Roger, needed some extra help with reading and speech in second grade. After a few weeks during which Ray did focusing and other exercises after school, Roger's reading skills were back on track. I reminded Ray that Roger is now a Ph.D. candidate at Cal Tech University and that Ray deserves some of the credit.

Along the way, Ray picked up another hat, a rhinestone one to be exact. In 1982 he was helping with parties given for speech therapists and also volunteering on Saturday mornings at a day care center. Some young boys wanted to try deejaying at some center parties, so Ray bought some equipment for them and started to learn about it himself.

"I was then introduced to DJ Warren, who was a big deal in the Bronx in 1982, and the rest is history," he reminisced. Ray became "DJ Ray" and started his own part-time business doing disco parties and Board of Education events.

It was at that point that his friend Tom McShane introduced him to Islander Dianne O'Sullivan with the words, "If she likes you, you'll be busy all the time." The prediction came true, and DJ Ray has performed at countless parties at the Morris Yacht Club and other City Island venues through his friendship with Dianne.

"Ray is one of the most dedicated and kindest people I know," Dianne enthusiastically told *The Current*. "Not only have we worked together, but he has also volunteered his services, free of charge, to so many City Island organizations, including the Boy Scouts, the Legion, City Island Little League, and of course, P.S. 175."

Both Betty and Ray were honored by

current principal Amy Lipson and many other faculty members (past and present) at the end-of-year party on June 5 at the City Island Yacht Club.

At the party, Mrs. Ellwanger paid special tribute to Betty's calming effect in times of crisis. "There are traumatic moments in everyone's life and 9/11 was one of them. I can see Betty Carman helping all the adults who walked through our doors with the fear of the unknown in their hearts, and I can see the calming effect she had on all. She combined both calmness and humor to douse any adverse situation, and it worked. Too bad the medical profession cannot bottle her behaviors. They could learn a lot from Betty."

Dianne O'Sullivan threw her own surprise party for Ray on June 14, and she tricked him into thinking he was going to DJ someone's party. So Ray showed up in his tuxedo and sparkling shoes, ready to work.

What does retirement hold for each of these dedicated professionals? Volun-

teering, of course! Betty plans to join the "Grandma Club" at St. Barnabas in the Bronx and help care for abandoned babies. Ray will continue to volunteer on City Island, but he will also open a new chapter of his life as he is engaged to be married to Susan Woll of White Plains.

Dianne summarized the feelings of many about her two special friends. "I hope God blesses them with a healthy and happy retirement. They both richly deserve it."

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Vacca Obtains Electronics for P.S. 175

Council Member James Vacca joined students and faculty from P.S. 175 on Tuesday, June 16, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the arrival of 13 Apple iMac computers, nine wall-mounted SMART Boards, one portable, free-standing SMART Board with a projector and three SMART Document cameras. SMART Boards are large, touch-sensitive whiteboards that allow teachers to design lessons with their computers. The upgrade also includes 32 Senteos, which are handheld devices that enable students to respond to questions in the classroom

by pressing a button from their desks; they also enable teachers to track students' progress instantaneously. The new technology was made possible by a \$100,000 grant Mr. Vacca secured through the City Council.

CILL Honors Frank Sena

Continued from page 1



Detail of painting by MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER
Frank Sena

of all was: Through practice, practice and more practice you will succeed.

It is hardly surprising that people throughout the City Island community loved this man. Tom McMahon, a close friend, describes Mr. Sena as an "inspiration to all who coach young people and volunteer in our community. He was a true pillar of our community, and we all looked up to him."

On June 27, 2009, the City Island Little League's executive board, managers, coaches and players will dedicate an inscribed granite plaque on the clubhouse to honor this special man.

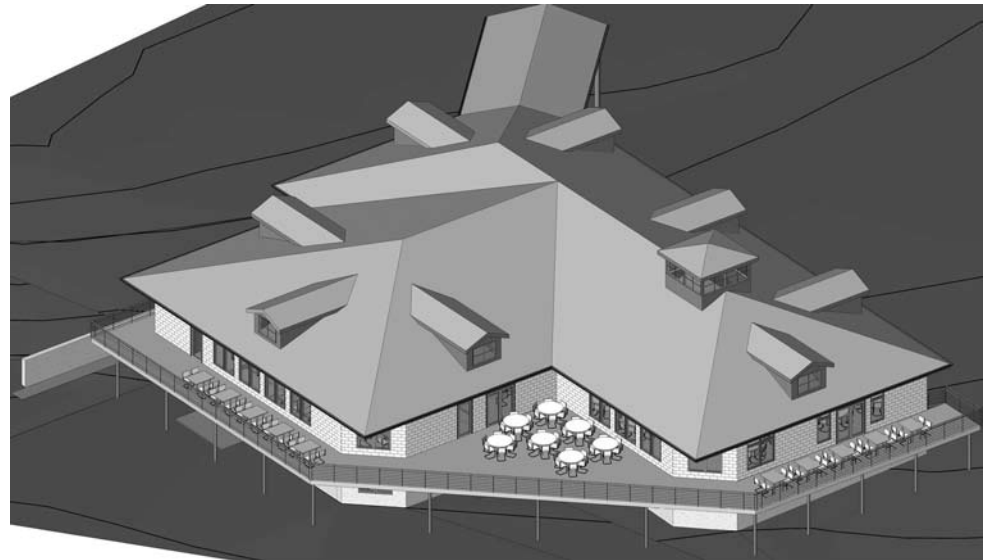
Morris Yacht Club Breaks Ground For New Clubhouse

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The official groundbreaking for the new clubhouse at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club took place on Saturday, June 20, with various officials working their shovels (l. to r.): Glen Vitaglione, director; Joe Hanley, commodore, Diane Jecker, director and past commodore, Steve Lott, chairman and past commodore, and Tom Pepe, builder from Manlyn Development. Commodore Hanley addressed an overflow crowd in the tent and expressed appreciation to the City Island community and beyond for their contributions to the rebuilding effort.



In spite of the rain, the atmosphere was joyous as a large group of Islanders gathered at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club on Saturday, June 20, to watch club officials formally break ground (or mud) for the construction of a new clubhouse. The old clubhouse was destroyed by fire in March 2006, but members were determined to rebuild rather than to give up on the club, which celebrates its 110th year in 2009.

The new clubhouse, which is scheduled for completion in the spring of next year, has nearly the capacity of the old Victorian mansion originally built by Stephen Decatur Horton around 1850. In the 16,000 square feet of the new building, will be a ballroom large enough to accommodate 250 people, a kitchen and dining room for members, a large deck, and a bar with a view. This last item was on top of most of the lists that members submitted giving their top ten requirements for the new building, as the old bar had faced City Island Avenue rather than the waterfront.

Unlike the old building, this one will not be four stories tall but will fit its one and a half stories into the contour of the land with no stairways, which will make it handicapped accessible as well as spacious. The structure will occupy roughly the same footprint but somewhat to the west of the original so that boats may be hauled more easily into the parking lot for winter storage.

"The best part about the new clubhouse", says Board Chairman Steve Lott, "aside from the fact that it will be energy efficient, will be the view. The new building will be situated to give the membership an unobstructed, panoramic view of Long Island Sound, as well as the skyline of New York City."

The next best thing, he told *The Current*, is that "every one of the 160 members, who range in age from very young

to elderly, pitched in and had input in one way or another." Whether the members are boaters or social members or simply enjoy the swimming facilities, they gave time, money, expertise and moral support to the team that chose the architect and engineering firm, obtained funding from Citibank (in spite of the economic downturn) and survived 10 frustrating months of working with the city and state agencies to obtain all the necessary permits.

At the ground-breaking ceremony, Commodore Joe Hanley expressed the board's gratitude for everyone's support, including that of the Fordham University Sailing Program, for having continued to support the club during the difficult days after the fire, which Fire Department officials determined was caused by a battery charger in the basement. He also expressed gratitude for the generosity of other Island organizations who offered space when the Morris had no place to hold meetings and donations to the club's building fund.

Although many Island residents were fearful that the club would dissolve and sell the five-acre property—perhaps the most desirable on City Island—to real estate developers or other business interests, the members committed to rebuild in order to preserve the beauty and ecology of the waterfront and to maintain the rich nautical heritage of City Island. As Commodore Hanley puts it, "We spent a lot of time and effort on this project. We are working hard at keeping City Island, once known as the yachting center of the world, a boating community, and we feel that our new clubhouse will help bring boaters back to City Island."

For more information about the Morris Yacht & Beach Club and the new clubhouse, visit the club's website at www.morrisybc.com, and for membership inquiries, call Membership Chairman Vince Nanni at 914-582-5009.

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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

JULY

Sat., July 11, **"The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf,"** a free show for children, at 1 p.m., on the lawn in front of Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Sat., July 18, **Art and Memorabilia Auction,** 7 p.m., City Island Yacht Club, east end of Pilot Street.

Tues., July 21, **Pelham Cemetery Lot Owners meet,** 7:30 p.m., Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue. This meeting is for lot owners only.

Sat., July 25, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: barbecued or baked chicken with rice.

Tues., July 28, **City Island Civic Association meets,** 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

AUGUST

Sat., August 29, **POTS Program,** St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chef's Salad (lettuce, tomato, cucumber, ham, turkey, etc.). Please donate a dessert too, if possible (cookies, pies or cakes).

Tues., Aug. 25, **City Island Civic Association meets,** 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace warmly welcomes visitors and newcomers at all times, and we extend a special invitation to anyone who is on City Island during the summer months. Our doors are open and, as our sign says, we're here for you!

We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour and Bible study. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

On Tuesday evenings in July and early August, Mother Patty Alexander will offer a special Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. Come join us from 7 to 9 p.m. on July 7, 14, 21 and 28, and Aug. 4 and 11. Bring your dinner, if you'd like, as well as your own Bible (ideally a study Bible). The *New Revised Standard Version* is suggested, but you should feel free to use whichever translation you prefer. For more information, please contact Mother Patty at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@aol.com.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday school is closed for the summer 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 the Reverend Susan Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

The Vacation Bible School, which was held from June 29 to July 2, was a great success, and all the children learned and played well. Thank you to everyone who helped Pastor Sue, Mother Patty, and Sister Bernadette.

The Budget Shop will officially reopen on Sept. 15 at 10 a.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 to volunteer. We still need a volunteer to help run the Budget Shop behind the scenes; you do not need to be a member of Trinity. We have a work-

ing crew but we need a behind-the-scenes leader. Call Jay Howard (718-885-2192), Myra Martin (718-885-1049) or Ellie Hebard (718-518-7241) to review the leader's responsibilities. Please call Jay if you can help cleaning, gleaning and setting up during the summer months, and be on the lookout for an occasional spontaneous opening during the summer. 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 Goodwill.

Trinity wishes everyone a restful, healthy summer, and we hope you will join us for our worship service on Sunday.

Ellen G. Hebard

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

We welcome once again Fr. Alexander Iheonunekwu from Nigeria, who arrived at the end of June and will be with us for the summer months.

Our Thrift Shop will be closed during the summer months. It will reopen again in the fall.

On Aug. 15, we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. Although this is not a holy day of obligation this year, all are encouraged to honor Our Lady by assisting at our regular Saturday Mass at 8 a.m.

Plans have already begun and will continue during the summer months for our outdoor Mass on Sept. 26, at 5:15 p.m. This is always a lovely evening, and we hope many will join us this year. Mark your calendars now!

Have a safe and pleasant summer!

Sr. Bernadette, osu

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 p.m. 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, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. we will conduct a special Shabbat service commemorating the parents of Michael Eiron. A pretty good oneg should follow.

Another special Kabbalat Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Cantor Elaine Faver on Friday, Aug. 14. (Refreshments will be served afterwards.)

Bob Berent plans to conduct a "Shabbat by the Sea" service at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club at the foot of Centre Street this summer. For time and date, check our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org (or a posting on the temple's front door).

Bob Berent

Cub Scout News

Wow, what an exciting year the scouts of Pack 211 had this season! All of them achieved above and beyond all expectations and experienced many exciting and adventurous trips. They each earned many merits and badges for jobs well done. All the meetings were attended by 95 percent or more of the pack, and most importantly in full uniform! The scouts made us all proud.

On the event-filled evening of May 8, 2009, the pack had its annual Blue and Gold Awards Dinner and the Crossing of the Bridge ceremony. All the scouts were honored for their outstanding performance throughout the year. The second-year We-



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

On May 8, 2009, Cub Scout Pack 211 had its annual Blue and Gold Awards Dinner and "Crossing of the Bridge" ceremony. The second-year Webelos (shown above l. to r.), Jack Green, Nicholas Gvonaj, David Verghese and Michael Bellocchio, all earned their Arrow of Light and crossed the bridge, officially graduating to become Boy Scouts and joining Troop 211.

belos—Nicholas Gvonaj, David Verghese, Jack Green and Michael Bellocchio—all earned their Arrow of Light and crossed the bridge, officially graduating to Boy Scouts and joining Troop 211. It was a wonderful pleasure to see two of the bridge crossers greeted by their older brothers and cousins, along with their well-respected Scoutmaster, Waldo Persteins. Good luck, guys. The troop is lucky to have such fine young men.

That same evening, appreciation was shown to Pete Green and Angelo Bellocchio for their dedication as Adult Leader and Cubmaster for the pack for the past seven years. Pete and Angelo will assume committee positions for the pack and help out as Adult Leaders with Troop 211. The Cubmaster baton was handed to the great leadership of Larry Saulnier. Good luck, Larry.

The season ended with the pack's participation in the Memorial Day Parade, where we proudly carried the flag that was flown over the Capitol Building of our great Nation in tribute to Pack 211.

Our next season's registration will be in September, shortly after the start of the school year. Pack 211 looks forward to registering any and all boys from first to fifth grades.

The pack would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe summer season.

Angelo Bellocchio

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

At our June 11 meeting, our 2009–2010 slate of officers was elected and will officially take office on July 1. Todd Davis was reelected by a landslide for his second term as our Commander. Vice Commander for Membership will be Fred Ramftl Jr., and Vice Commander for Americanism is Vic Anderson Jr. Scott Murphy has shifted over to being our historian and secretary; he brought his computer and was busy taking detailed minutes before he was even elected. Bill Clancy III will be our Adjutant once again; John Peters and Walter Natiw are Vice Commanders for Activities, and they already have a full list of events to keep all of us out of trouble. Our chaplain is the Rev. Michael Challinor; Timmy Smyth is our Sergeant-at-arms, and last but not least, Jimmy Livingston will lead us through the recession as our treasurer once again.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, July 10, at 6 p.m. A barbecue will follow the meeting.

We have a few hot events coming up during the hottest months of the season. We are planning a fishing trip on the award-winning fleet of vessels operated by fellow

legionnaire Chris Cullen. The voyage will be held around Aug. 14 or 15. Swing by the Post to get more details, since they have not been finalized as of press time. Aug. 8 will be the annual clambake, a Post tradition that has been around since long before most SAL members were born. Once again the event will be catered by World of Food. The clambake is limited to the first 125 people who sign up. The price is \$55. Everyone always has a ball!

On another important note, save Saturday, Nov. 21, for the annual Servicemen's Dinner, which will be held at the Lido this year in conjunction with the American Legion's 90th anniversary. Details will follow in the coming months.

We would like to commend legionnaire John Muhlfeld and his crew for the wonderful job they did on the basement, which now shines.

Get well wishes go out to legionnaire/SAL member Bill Clancy, who is recovering from surgery. We hope to see him back at the Post very soon!

At our last meeting, the squadron had one of its biggest legislative accomplishments ever. For the first time, we dropped the minimum age for members; we now have the same guidelines as our state detachment and national organization. In order to join the Sons of the American Legion, one must be the male descendant or step-descendant, of any age, of someone who served honorably during one of the wartime periods set by Congress. We look forward to signing up plenty of new members. Our goal is 212 by 2012. Dues are \$30, \$8 for any minor under the age of 18 or for a dual member (a member of both the Sons and the regular American Legion). We would also like to remind any member who has not yet paid dues to please do so. I am proud to report that we have signed up our first three young members.

Vice Commander for Americanism Vic Anderson Jr. is currently working on an ad to recruit new members for a future issue of *The Island Current*.

Stop by to see all of the work that has been done around the Post. You will not recognize the place. Have a great Fourth of July!

Fred Ramftl, Jr.





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

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!

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

Yoga Class with Vincenza: Yoga Instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of Miami Tuesday nights at 7:30. Ashtanga Yoga; all levels welcome. Please bring a yoga mat. For more info please call 917-440-3618.

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 (aka 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 and 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 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

Vilma'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.funmemusictogether.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

Exercise is very important for your well being, so we're happy to announce a full schedule of classes at Grace Church Hall for July and August. Mondays at 10 a.m., Sittercise with Patty, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Cardio Fitness with Mary; Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Michael, and Fridays at 10 a.m. Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Enhanced with Patty. The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is free, and the suggested contribution for all other classes is \$2. The Orchard Beach Walk will continue on Wednesdays with the van leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.. As a part of the NYC Big Apple Strollers' Program, we use pedometers, with a goal of increasing endurance for all beach walkers at whatever level. Remember, there are ample benches if you need a rest. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to all programs and Patty at 914-882-9578 for more information or if you are interested in the Senior Swim at the New Rochelle YMCA. All programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the Arthritis Foundation and the NYC Department of the Aging.

Pat Grondahl



Photo by LAURY HOPKINS

In addition to the launching of the *Half Moon* replica as part of its Quadricentennial celebration, P. S. 175 wove an extraordinary web, called the Muir web after John Muir, a naturalist who believed that everything is nature is connected. This web, which shows how different species in the original ecology of Manhattan Island (Mannahatta) were connected to each other, not only for food but also for such benefits as shelter, involved the entire school on June 25, 2009. The web was created under the direction of parent Eric Sanderson, who is with the Living Landscape Program at the Wildlife Conservation Society and one of the directors of the Mannahatta Project.

City Island Republicans

The only reason the weather is getting hot is because it is petition time. We have many people going around collecting signatures to place candidates on the ballot, and they all deserve a round of applause. We hope to once again qualify all four election districts on City Island and thus put up our county committee members for the Bronx Republican Party convention in October. Details about the convention will follow.

We are also happy to report that we have a new county headquarters, which is at street level and allows everyone to see that we actually exist. The office is on Middletown Road near Westchester Avenue. We do not yet have the exact address but will definitely publish it in the future. Stay tuned!

For the first time in many years, there is a Bronx Young Republican Club, whose president is Chance Haywood. The club's site is linked to the county club's site, which is www.bronxcountygop.com. Check out both sites.

Our club has yet another accomplishment. In the special election on April 21, Republican Anthony J. Ribustello on the People First line won City Island. We hope to help other Republican candidates win City Island in the future, since many have done so recently, as they did earlier in the decade. According to the New York Daily News, the results were Anthony Ribustello with 144 votes and Reuben Diaz Jr. with 122 votes. An official at the Bronx Board of Elections noted that City Island had one of the highest voter turn-outs percentage wise in the entire northeast Bronx. Our community should be proud of that regardless of who won the Island.

Stay out of the heat and enjoy the summer!

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

Legion News

I will try to keep this newsletter short, since this is the summer issue, which will contain graduations for P.S. 175 and St. Mary's, as well as those who have gone on to college. The Post wishes to congratulate all those who have survived eight years of elementary school and will be embarking on secondary school programs or college off the Island. And we offer all graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors.

July 4 is Independence Day, a day of family gatherings and barbecues.

July 7 has been designated Purple Heart Day, and V-J Day is celebrated on July 14.

Our Department Convention will be held

July 8-11. We will be well represented.

The National Convention will be held July 21-27.

There will be only two meetings in July and two in August, which is our summer schedule for 2009. Call the Post for details as to date and time.

Officers for the coming year were installed at the June 15 meeting. There were no changes in the roster, with the exception of finance office, a position that has yet to be filled. Any volunteers?

Betty Carman, wife of our commander, is retiring from her position with the Board of Education. Betty has labored for 22 years at P.S. 175; she is also a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Ray Weis, aka D.J. Ray, who is an associate member of the Post, is also retiring this year as a teacher at P.S. 175. We wish them bon voyage and a long and healthy retirement.

Sick call: Bill Clancy will be hospitalized for surgery. We wish him well and hope he rejoins us soon. Comrade De Luca is still in Sound Shore's rehab wing, but Comrade Pontecorvo is home after a lengthy stay at the Dumont nursing home in New Rochelle.

We have learned through the Island grapevine that what could be the Island's social event of the year will take place soon. Tom McShane will be giving his daughter away at St. Mary's, followed by a gala reception in New Rochelle.

On a somber note, we mourn the passing of Siegfried Schulz, who recently joined the Post.

The commander and officers wish everyone a good summer. Until September, at ease. . .

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

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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In the Ring

Although I have never been a fan of boxing, through the years Hollywood has presented several interesting films on the subject. Based on Rocky Graziano's autobiography, **Somebody Up There Likes Me** (1956) is a biopic with Paul Newman in the lead. Rising above his early slum life of petty crime, Graziano becomes a successful boxer, earning the love of Norma (Pier Angeli), whom he marries. Newman trained with real-life Graziano before and during filming.

The Great White Hope (1970) is the film adaptation of a stage play, the fictionalized version of the story of Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion of the world. It stars James Earl Jones (the voice of **Star Wars'** Darth Vader) as Jack Jefferson, who in 1908 was charged with miscegenation for crossing a state line with his white girlfriend (Jane Alexander in her feature debut). How this episode impacts his life is tragic indeed. These actors are outstanding in this less than perfect drama.

The surprising winner of the 1976 best picture is the feel-good film **Rocky**. Sylvester Stallone plays the title role, with Talia Shire as his girlfriend, Adrian. When Rocky gets the opportunity to fight Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers), we wonder if he will be able to go the distance in the ring. Although there were many sequels, this is the one that must be seen.

Filed in glorious black and white, **Raging Bull** (1980) is director Martin Scorsese's rendition of the story of Jake La Motta (Robert De Niro), a man who channels his violent nature into the boxing ring. Unfortunately, his fury alienates his brother Joey (Joe Pesci) and wife, Vickie (Cathy Moriarty). De Niro gained 50 pounds to play this Oscar-winning role. Although it lost to **Ordinary People** in the Best Picture Category, this is considered by critics to be one of the best films of all time.

The Hurricane (1999) recounts the life of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (Denzel Washington), a New Jersey boxer who, despite his innocence, spent nearly 20 years in prison for a triple homicide. When a teenage admirer, Lesra Martin (Vicellous Reon Shannon) visits him, Carter becomes inspired to seek release from prison. The supporting cast also includes Liev Schreiber, John Hannah and Deborah Kara Unger as Canadian lawyers who try to help Carter win his freedom.

Will Smith received an Oscar nomina-

tion for the title role in **Ali** (2001), telling the famous boxer's story from 1964 to 1974 covering politics, religion, boxing, celebrity, courtroom drama, defeat and victory. Also on hand are Jon Voight (nominated in a supporting role for his amazing rendition of Howard Cosell), Jamie Fox as Ali's manager Bundini Brown, Mario Van Peebles as Malcolm X, and Mykelti Williamson as a duplicitous Don King.

Directed by Ron Howard, **Cinderella Man** (2005) is a fact-based story of James J. Braddock, a Depression-era boxing champ. When the Crash hits, Braddock struggles to support his wife, Mae (Renee Zellweger), and their three children. His manager, Joe Gould (Paul Giamatti), offers to help him return to the ring, and he jumps at the chance.

Million Dollar Baby (2004) won Academy Awards for best picture, director, female actor in a lead and supporting male actor. Director Clint Eastwood also acts in the film as Frankie Dunn, the owner of an old boxing gym in a lousy neighborhood in Los Angeles. Once upon a time, Frankie managed his best friend, boxer Eddie Dupris (Morgan Freeman). Both men's lives are heavily impacted by the appearance of Maggie Fitzgerald (Hilary Swank), an obstinate 30-year old waitress whose dream is to become a boxer.

Tyson (2008) is a remarkable and engrossing documentary that I found to be the most interesting of all the boxing films. It is difficult to convey the intimacy of listening to Mike Tyson speak to the camera for a large part of the film. He is never boring, and the archival footage supplements the story of his life experience. He is a self-aware person who recognizes that he has been a man of extremes for his entire life, and he takes responsibility for all of it.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

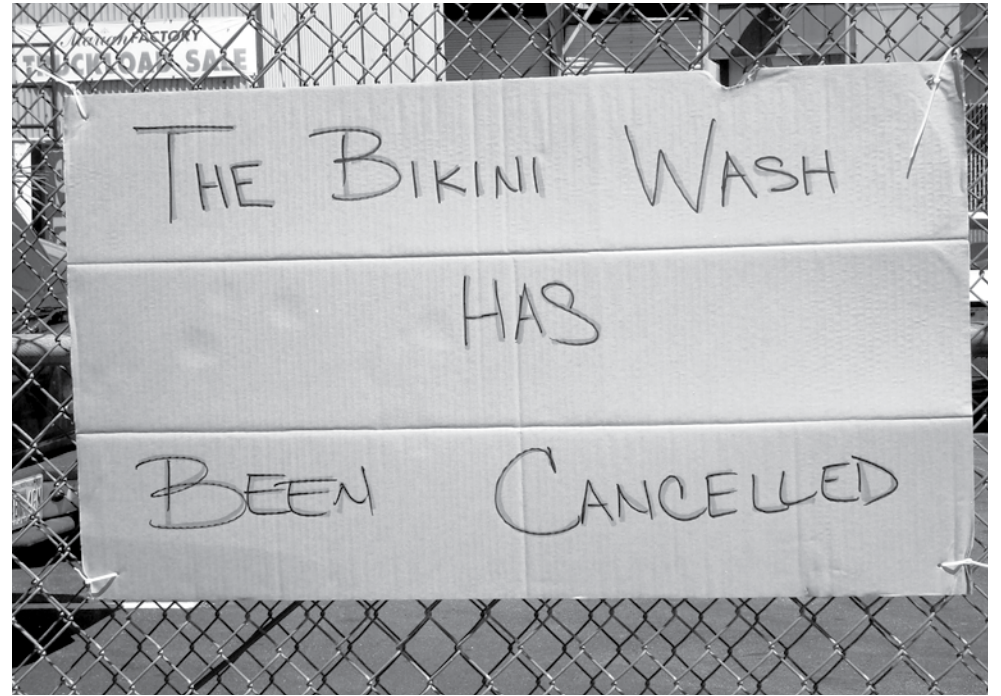


Photo by EYVONNE BAKER

This sign was welcomed by Island residents who protested the idea of a bikini motorcycle wash on the Avenue at the City Island Auto Body shop on Sunday, June 20, when heavy traffic was expected. The owners of the shop were good enough to listen to the community and cancel the event, although a less cooperative group went ahead with a similar "bike wash" (without bikinis) at the cigar store on June 27 in spite of community opposition. No one objects to clean motorcycles, but residents are very unhappy with bikers who speed down the fire lane at all hours of the night and day making a great deal of noise and putting everyone else at risk.

Graduation Days

Continued from page 7

Island Current was presented to Abigail Adams, who also received the UFT Millie Scheintaub Award for Leadership and Service. The AARP #3303 Award for Most Improved Student went to Brandyn Reilly, and the AARP #318 Award for School Service was given to Sean Moran.

The P.S. 175 Academic Achievement Award (honor roll) was given to Abigail Adams and Melissa Scott.

The UFT presented awards in individual subject areas: English Language Arts, Abigail Adams; Mathematics, Melissa Scott; Science, Abigail Adams and Denis

Curtin; Social Studies, Abigail Adams and Adrian Pena; Computers and Technology, Alyssa Cambria; Physical Education, Sean Moran and Gabrielle Vitiello; Art, Abigail Adams.

Effort Awards were given to Jennifer Branley, Ian Campbell, Nicole Dammacco, Raeann Grimes, Kyle Kreig, Robert Pirraglia, Kenny Rosa and Shaylin Scott.

The P.S. 175 Service Awards were presented to Abigail Adams, Alyssa Cambria, Dylan Cruz, Brian Devlin, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Sean Moran, Anna Rothschild, Nicholas Santiago, Kevin Saulnier, Melissa Scott, Shaylin Scott, Gabrielle Vitiello and Veronica Weyhrauch.

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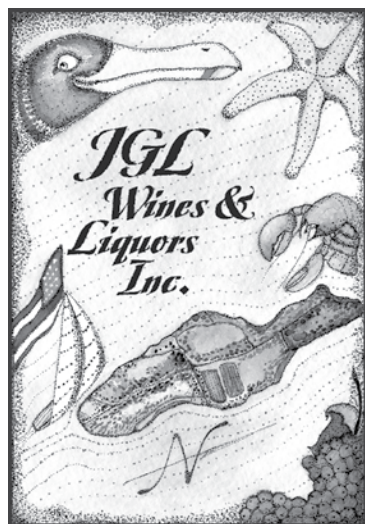
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Walter Markey: Island Youth Becomes World War II Vet

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

Some old-timers may remember Walter Markey, who grew up on Sutherland Street. His family had summered on City Island and moved here soon after Walter was born in 1920. He graduated from P. S. 17 in 1933 and attended All Hallows High School in the Bronx. Although he weighed less than 125 pounds, he played junior varsity football and ran the 220-yard sprint, as well as one leg of the mile relay.

With that background, his life could have been that of any Island youngster of the day, but he ended up leading an exciting life with the Army Air Corps and later the Civilian Air Patrol, where he served for 20 years until his retirement.

I did not know Walter well when we were boys, although we did play basketball together on St. Mary's great teams in the late 1930s. I wasn't very good at the game of round ball, my forte being football. Walter later admitted to me that he wasn't very good either.

In 1938, when Walter was at Manhattan College, he was approached by a recruiting officer for the Navy. As a Pisces who had grown up surrounded with water, he decided to sign up for naval flight training, which required only two years of college. He waited through the summer and was unable to get information about his status, so he signed up for the Army Air Corps, which was also a long drawn-



Photos courtesy of WALTER MARKEY
Walter Markey grew up on City Island and had a long successful career in the Air Force.

out affair. So he bought a \$20 ticket on Eastern Airlines, flew to Washington D.C. and went to the War Department. Within a couple of weeks, he was on his way. In the fall of 1940, he was called for flight training and went to Cimarron Field outside Oklahoma City.

In later years, Walter often thought about how lucky he was not to have been selected for naval aviation. "It was bad enough," he says, "to come back from a combat engagement in the Pacific and find the airfield on the island of New Guinea. I can't imagine what it was like to come back and locate an aircraft carrier!"

During this period, Walter was keeping company with a young woman named Martha Riley, Ebeling Riley's sister. In April 1942, Walter graduated from advanced flight training in Texas. Martha joined his parents and came to the graduation, where he was commissioned a sec-



Walter Markey (l.) and Richard Bong (r.) during their tour of duty in the airforce.

ond lieutenant.

It was at that point that he made what he considers the most important decision of his life: he and Martha became engaged. They made plans for a wedding in August, when he would next be on leave, and she went back to City Island while he traveled to California for tactical training on P-38 aircraft.

However, things did not go as planned, for he was put on a one-day alert to ship out to Australia, where P-38 aircraft and trained pilots were needed to combat the deficiencies of the aircraft then in service against the Japanese. He wired Martha, who went out to California, where they were married on Sept. 3, 1942. His best man was Richard Ira Bong, who flew with Walter and was later killed while testing a jet fighter in August 1945; he was the top-scoring America ace of all time with 40 Japanese planes to his credit and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by General Douglas McArthur.

Right after the wedding, Walter was shipped out, and he and Martha did not see each other for more than 16 months. The P-38 aircraft, which had been shipped by freighter from the United States, were assembled in Australia and flown to New Guinea.

Walter's missions in the southwest Pacific were much different from those in the European theater. Targets for aircraft

flying out of England were mostly industrial at first, whereas in New Guinea, the flying was over water or jungle. The infantry was fighting in the jungle and had to be supplied by air. "Our P-38s flew top cover with P-39s and P-40s, flying close support over the transports dropping supplies to the infantry," he recalls.

During his combat tour, Walter flew 125 missions and received credit for shooting down four enemy aircraft. He also did much flight testing of aircraft after they underwent maintenance. During the final three months of his combat tour, the P-38s were replaced with Republic P-47 aircraft.

When Walter returned from combat, he was stationed at air fields in Providence, Rhode Island, and Westhampton Beach, Long Island, where gunnery schools for the First Air Force were located.

When the war ended, there was little need for fighter pilots, so with all of his experience, Walter was assigned to Mitchell Field and assigned responsibility for air rescue. As the service was cut back, the air rescue was formed as a separate service under the Air Transport Command, and Walter was transferred to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington D.C. and later to the West Coast.

At that point, Walter was a major and a reservist, and he decided to leave the service. He and Martha moved east and bought a house in Hempstead, Long Island, eventually raising three daughters and a son. During the Korean conflict, the reserve unit was recalled, and he found himself at Olmstead Air Force Base, where he served as a lieutenant colonel and base executive officer for 21 months.

Then he left the service and took a reserve assignment working with the Air Force Liaison Office at the Civilian Air Patrol, where he was asked to take over as commander for the New Jersey wing until his retirement.

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SUMMER FAIR SHINES AGAIN!



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Despite the rainiest June on record, the 2009 Summer Arts and Crafts fair took place under sunny skies during the weekend of June 6 and 7. The Lickety Split Band played each day to an appreciative audience and brochures for various Island organizations were handed out at the City Island Chamber of Commerce sponsor booth.



THE TRUST THAT EVERY WILL SHOULD HAVE

By CORMAC McENERY, Esq.

When you leave someone a bequest in your last will and testament, it is your intent that the bequest should benefit that person, not cause them financial detriment. Unfortunately, receiving a bequest under a will can sometimes cause the beneficiary to be disqualified from government benefits that they are currently receiving or would have otherwise been eligible to receive. Although your beneficiaries may not be receiving Medicaid, Veterans or SSI benefits at the time you draft your will, that may not be the case when the distributions under your will are made.

One way around this dilemma is to empower your executor in your last will and testament to elect to distribute any beneficiary's bequest into a Special Needs Trust, thereby preserving the bequest. The distributions from a Special Needs Trust can be used to enhance the quality of life of the beneficiary, because the funds in the trust are available for such things as

recreational items and services, individual support services, therapy, rehabilitation, training programs, education, transportation (including vehicle purchase), essential dietary needs, prescription medication, medical, eye and dental expenses and other care that is not, or not adequately, covered by governmental programs.

In other words, the trust supplements the income and services provided by the government, without jeopardizing a beneficiary's eligibility for benefits, and it also protects the assets of the trust from Medicaid reimbursement.

Furthermore, upon the death of the beneficiary of the trust, the remainder of the trust is distributed to the person(s) you have designated in the alternative.

Cormac McEnery, Esq. is an attorney with an office at 562 City Island Avenue and can be reached at 718-885-1234 or cormac@cormacmcenery.com.



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

HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

JULY 2009									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
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
08 Wed	0050	7.76	0721	0.42	1319	7.25	1904	0.98	Wed 08
09 Thu	0107	7.66	0740	0.52	1337	7.27	1923	0.92	Thu 09
10 Fri	0125	7.62	0751	0.53	1353	7.36	1955	0.84	Fri 10
11 Sat	0155	7.58	0817	0.49	1421	7.50	2033	0.78	Sat 11
12 Sun	0232	7.51	0852	0.48	1458	7.62	2115	0.76	Sun 12
13 Mon	0314	7.37	0933	0.51	1540	7.71	2201	0.77	Mon 13
14 Tue	0400	7.18	1017	0.59	1626	7.77	2252	0.82	Tue 14
15 Wed	0452	6.96	1106	0.72	1717	7.79	2349	0.86	Wed 15
16 Thu	0548	6.75	1159	0.85	1814	7.82			Thu 16
17 Fri	0052	0.85	0651	6.64	1259	0.93	1915	7.89	Fri 17
18 Sat	0211	0.71	0800	6.67	1405	0.91	2020	8.03	Sat 18
19 Sun	0338	0.38	0913	6.89	1520	0.74	2128	8.23	Sun 19
20 Mon	0446	-0.06	1025	7.26	1637	0.41	2234	8.46	Mon 20
21 Tue	0543	-0.48	1127	7.66	1745	0.03	2337	8.62	Tue 21
22 Wed	0636	-0.78	1222	8.01	1845	-0.30			Wed 22
23 Thu	0035	8.67	0736	-0.93	1315	8.24	1942	-0.50	Thu 23
24 Fri	0131	8.56	0816	-0.90	1407	8.34	2037	-0.53	Fri 24
25 Sat	0227	8.30	0905	-0.70	1500	8.29	2134	-0.42	Sat 25
26 Sun	0325	7.92	0956	-0.37	1556	8.14	2232	-0.18	Sun 26
27 Mon	0425	7.50	1050	0.05	1655	7.92	2333	0.11	Mon 27
28 Tue	0530	7.10	1147	0.47	1758	7.72			Tue 28
29 Wed	0036	0.37	0634	6.83	1248	0.84	1901	7.60	Wed 29
30 Thu	0138	0.54	0737	6.71	1349	1.08	2001	7.57	Thu 30
31 Fri	0237	0.62	0835	6.74	1446	1.19	2058	7.63	Fri 31
AUGUST 2009									
01 Sat	0331	0.61	0929	6.88	1540	1.20	2150	7.73	Sat 01
02 Sun	0421	0.56	1018	7.07	1628	1.14	2237	7.83	Sun 02
03 Mon	0505	0.51	1104	7.26	1712	1.05	2319	7.88	Mon 03
04 Tue	0546	0.48	1145	7.40	1749	0.96	2357	7.87	Tue 04
05 Wed	0621	0.48	1220	7.48	1820	0.87			Wed 05
06 Thu	0027	7.81	0648	0.50	1247	7.52	1841	0.77	Thu 06
07 Fri	0042	7.74	0703	0.49	1258	7.59	1901	0.62	Fri 07
08 Sat	0058	7.72	0717	0.41	1316	7.74	1930	0.48	Sat 08
09 Sun	0128	7.71	0745	0.33	1347	7.90	2006	0.40	Sun 09
10 Mon	0204	7.64	0820	0.31	1424	8.03	2047	0.41	Mon 10
11 Tue	0245	7.50	0901	0.39	1506	8.08	2133	0.51	Tue 11
12 Wed	0332	7.28	0946	0.57	1553	8.04	2223	0.69	Wed 12
13 Thu	0424	7.01	1036	0.81	1646	7.93	2321	0.89	Thu 13
14 Fri	0522	6.76	1132	1.06	1746	7.81			Fri 14
15 Sat	0031	1.02	0628	6.63	1237	1.22	1853	7.74	Sat 15
16 Sun	0210	0.93	0748	6.71	1357	1.18	2090	7.82	Sun 16
17 Mon	0335	0.52	0915	7.06	1534	0.83	2131	8.06	Mon 17
18 Tue	0436	0.03	1023	7.57	1646	0.28	2240	8.36	Tue 18
19 Wed	0529	-0.42	1119	8.04	1744	-0.25	2338	8.57	Wed 19
20 Thu	0619	-0.73	1209	8.41	1837	-0.64			Thu 20
21 Fri	0030	8.63	0706	-0.86	1257	8.61	1928	-0.83	Fri 21
22 Sat	0120	8.50	0751	-0.79	1343	8.63	2019	-0.79	Sat 22
23 Sun	0209	8.22	0836	-0.53	1431	8.48	2110	-0.55	Sun 23
24 Mon	0300	7.82	0922	-0.13	1520	8.21	2203	-0.16	Mon 24
25 Tue	0355	7.38	1010	0.37	1615	7.87	2301	0.30	Tue 25
26 Wed	0455	6.98	1104	0.88	1718	7.55			Wed 26
27 Thu	0002	0.73	0600	6.71	1207	1.31	1825	7.34	Thu 27
28 Fri	0104	1.02	0704	6.62	1313	1.58	1930	7.28	Fri 28
29 Sat	0204	1.16	0804	6.72	1415	1.65	2028	7.36	Sat 29
30 Sun	0259	1.15	0859	6.94	1510	1.56	2122	7.51	Sun 30
31 Mon	0348	1.05	0949	7.20	1559	1.38	2209	7.66	Mon 31
SEPTEMBER 2009									
01 Tue	0432	0.91	1033	7.44	1642	1.15	2251	7.77	Tue 01
02 Wed	0511	0.78	1112	7.61	1719	0.92	2328	7.80	Wed 02
03 Thu	0543	0.68	1145	7.72	1750	0.70	2355	7.78	Thu 03
04 Fri	0607	0.58	1204	7.80	1813	0.49			Fri 04
05 Sat	0010	7.75	0621	0.46	1216	7.94	1836	0.28	Sat 05



THE NEW YORK TIMES AND CITY ISLAND, PART III (THE LAST)

The following is the third and final excerpt that we have reprinted from an article that appeared in The New York Times on Aug. 25, 1878.

City Island is peculiar in many things, but in none more so than in that its men, leaving out of the count a very few professional persons, are all Captains, except two or three, who are Commodores. Mr. Belden, Jay Gould's partner, who owns a magnificent mansion on the lower end of the island, is one of the uncounted ones, and so are D. J. Bacon and a brace of parsons. But, inasmuch as the business of the place is entirely connected with the water either directly or indirectly, everybody nearly has at least one more or less pretentious boat, and he who owns a boat—that is, a boat with a sail to it—is by consequence, a Captain.

They seem to draw the line at the possession of a sail. Proprietorship of a row-boat does not invest one with the dignity of a Captaincy, but bore a hole in the front seat of the row-boat, step a little mast in it and fly a small leg-o'-mutton sail therefrom, and the rank is won. When a man gets a lot of sailing boats, like Pell, the famous oysterman—who is building a great house here, and is said to be worth \$1,000,000—they call him Commodore. But they have no Admirals as yet.

A more thoroughly enjoyable place than this in the Summer season cannot be found in the vicinity of New-York, for those who want quiet, coolness, pure health-giving air, and that balmy indefinable sense of rest which is so grateful after the heat, noise, and turmoil of the City. There is absolutely nothing here to remind one that there is a great City within two hours sail, nothing, that is, which recalls the disagreeable features of town-life. No milkman's demoniac yell, no postman's piercing whistle; no rattling carts and rumbling trains and ragmen's clanging bells disturb the Sabbath-like peace that is over all.

The avocations of the people are almost entirely pursued out on the water, and on shore the sounds one hears most are the merry voices of children playing on the grass beneath the shade of the elms and poplars along the bank. Sometimes a party of excursionists or picnickers drive over from Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, or some other town on the mainland, and cross the island to Capt. Charley McLennon's place, where they revel in clam chowder—for the making of which that place is famous—roast clams, oysters, and fish. The steamboat *Seawanhaka* takes

some excursionists up there every Sunday, but they are all quiet people, who look for calm pleasures, not the sort of tough citizens who afflict decent folks going to Rockaway and Coney Island.

About this season of the year [i.e., August/summer] the anglers begin to constitute themselves the principal visiting population of City Island, and long before daylight every morning when the tide serves, numbers of earnest men, laden with fishing-tackle, pocket flasks, and hope, may be seen clustering about Capt. Stringham's place near the bridge, getting boats and information, and setting out to ensnare bass or blackfish. Capt. Stringham knows all about the fish in these waters, just as much as if he were personally acquainted with them. He can tell when to find the bass at home down in the inlet that runs up to Pelham Bridge, and, by the way, the bass there are now commencing to bite well. He knows, too, just where to place the man who wants blackfish, whether off the big reef above High Island or over the old schooner wreck near Hart's Island, or in any other of 50 places where those excellent fish are just at this season so crowded together that they are popularly supposed to be rubbing the scales off each other. The ways and resorts of the frost-fish, the flounder, and the young bluefish are alike known unto him, and not to him only, but to many City men, for whom this has been a favorite haunt for sport since their boyhood days.

By the middle of next month, when there will be frosty mornings, the reefs, and inlets, and shoals in this neighborhood will be a very paradise for skillful anglers, but as yet the water is too warm for much sport with the big fish. Many persons make excellent catches of blackfish with handlines from the bridge on frosty mornings at flood tide, but just now the main captures effected there are toadfish, sea-spiders, and begalls—and it may be casually remarked that, if there is anything more exasperating than a creditor, it is that abominable and useless little begall. When the time comes, say in a fortnight from now, for using the information, anglers who propose trying those waters for the first time may be interested to know that they need not load themselves with bait in the City. At low tide they can pick up on the beach any desired quantity of 'fiddlers;' with little trouble can dig for themselves all the soft clams and sandworms they may want, and 'shedders' are almost as easily got.

Malarial fever and dyspepsia are unknown on City Island. Dr. Bacon, a resident there, says that he never expects any other practice than births and accidents, and the latter are very scarce. Taken all in all, this is surely the choicest spot near the City for residence, and were it better known, and the facilities for reaching it so extended that it would not be practically cut off from the rest of the world after the 6 o'clock train, it would certainly ere long be covered with villas and gardens.

Once again, we would like to credit Mr. Blake Bell and his Historic Pelham website for this article, which can be viewed in its entirety at <http://historicpelham.blogspot.com/2008/01/1878-article-describing-attractions-of.html>.

Happy summer!

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REMEMBERING D-DAY



Photos by ROBERT BENIMOFF and MARK NANI

Under the direction of Stephen Marcus and Eyvonne Baker, a group of lively singers, comedians and musicians commemorated D-Day on June 6, 2009 at Grace Church with an old-fashioned USO Canteen-style show. Members of the troupe sang songs from the 40s such as "I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right out of My Hair," performed comedy routines from Abbott and Costello, and posed with uniformed audience members. The evening was so well-received that there is talk of making it an annual event.

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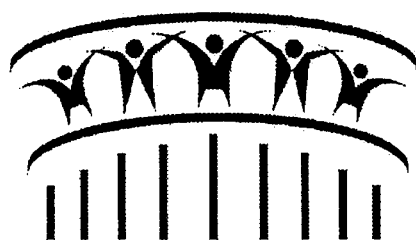
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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about
Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY



Hall of Fame for Great Americans

America's Great Achievers
Nowadays it seems as if there is a hall of fame for just about everything. But long before there was a Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame, a Country Music Hall of Fame, a Baseball Hall of Fame or the countless other halls of fame there was only one—the very first, the original. You will find it sitting atop the highest elevation in all of New York City on a bluff overlooking the Harlem River in the southwest Bronx. It is here on the beautiful, "rural" campus of Bronx Community College (formerly New York University) that you will find the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, our country's first hall of fame. This is, perhaps, one of the most overlooked historical sites in our city — an American treasure of monumental proportions, a true national shrine.

The Bronx campus of New York University came to be when Dr. Henry Mitchell MacCracken, chancellor of New York University from 1891 to 1910, began searching for a rural campus for the university in the early 1890s. MacCracken believed that undergraduate life needed sports, fraternities and the open air, all things that NYU's Washington Square campus could never offer its students. Greenwich Village at that time was congested with factories and tenements, and NYU's campus, established there in 1831, was overcrowded and deteriorating. MacCracken also had a desire to follow New York City's development further uptown, and his search brought him to the Village of Fordham in the Bronx, where he purchased a 40-acre site once occupied by the British Army in its successful attack on Fort Washington (today's neighborhood of Washington Heights) in the autumn of 1776.

MacCracken set out to build the American ideal of a college complete with a great academic quadrangle of neoclassical buildings. To meet this end, the legendary architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White was commissioned for the project. Stanford White, the renowned architect, considered the premier architect of the Gilded Age, took on the project himself, which was completed in 1900.

Most of New York University's operations, along with the undergraduate College of Arts and Science and School of Engineering, were moved north to University Heights, the new name given to the Bronx neighborhood in honor of its newest resident. Only the law school remained in Greenwich Village, and the Washington Square campus further declined.

The centerpiece of the new campus was the Gould Memorial Library, named to honor Jay Gould, the father of Helen

Gould, an NYU Law School graduate who contributed \$250,000 to the project. For this structure, Stanford White chose the Pantheon in Rome as his inspiration. The library is laid out in the form of a Greek cross, with a circular reading room crowned by a soaring coffered dome. The rotunda is lined with 16 Corinthian columns made of rare Connemara Irish green marble, the largest concentration of this mined marble anywhere in the world. Statues of the Greek Muses line the lofty balcony while the floor is covered with marble mosaic tiles from Italy. Tiffany stained-glass windows brighten the vestibule and encircle the rotunda's mezzanine level. The exterior of the library is made of yellow Roman brick and limestone pilasters. Six Indiana sandstone columns line the portico.

To the right of the library, White constructed the Hall of Languages and to its left the Hall of Philosophy. Both of these buildings are impressive structures in their own right but are intended to complement the library, not to distract from it.

Owing to the high elevation, a retaining wall was needed to secure the three buildings from slipping into the Harlem River, which flows just below. For aesthetic purposes, White designed an open-air colonnade on top of the retaining wall in a sweeping semicircular neoclassical arc. The colonnade runs 630 feet in length behind the three-building structure, and it provides a panorama across the Harlem River to the Cloisters in Fort Tryon Park and beyond to the Palisades.

MacCracken was determined to find a meaningful purpose for the colonnade, so he came up with the idea of a Hall of Fame for Great Americans, an American Pantheon. He felt it would be appropriate to reclaim the land once lost to the British. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1900, MacCracken was quoted as saying, "Lost to the invaders of 1776, this summit is now retaken by the goodly troop of 'Great Americans,' General Washington their leader. They enter into possession of these Heights and are destined to hold them, we trust, forever."

MacCracken wanted to make sure that the people enshrined in the Hall of Fame were truly famous, not just memorable. So he established a 100-member College of Electors, who themselves possessed some measure of renown, great character and sound judgment. Not to be dominated by any region of the country, the body included one elector from each state and the most respected writers, historians, and educators of their day. It included a dozen Supreme Court justices and six Presidents.

Seven former electors have themselves been elected to the Hall of Fame. To ensure that nominees would be evaluated with adequate sobriety and perspective, it was decided that no one could be elected who had not been dead for at least 25 years.

The Hall of Fame soon became a focal point for national pride. It was a truly democratic institution, as anyone could nominate a candidate and admission was free. Although NYU served as a steward, raising funds and running the elections, the whole process was technically the property of the American people who took it very seriously. Newspaper publishers used their editorial pages to lobby for or against nominees, and groups like the American Bar Association and the United Daughters of the Confederacy waged extensive, expensive campaigns to get "their" candidates elected. Installation ceremonies were elaborate affairs and major media events. There is even a reference to the hall of fame in the movie "The Wizard of Oz," when a Munchkin pronounces that Dorothy should be "a bust in the Hall of Fame."

To date, 102 great Americans have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, but only 98 busts have been installed. The 98 bronze busts that line the Colonnade are original works by distinguished American sculptors. The bronze tablets recessed in the wall beneath the busts carry inscriptions of significant statements made by the men and women honored. Some of the earlier tablets were cast by the Tiffany Studio. Among the master sculptors represented here are Augustus Saint-Gaudens; Daniel Chester French, sculptor of the Lincoln Memorial; James Earl Fraser, whose work includes the figures of "Justice" and "Law" for the U.S. Supreme Court, and Frederick MacMonnies, whose reliefs grace Fifth Avenue's Washington Arch. The Hall of Fame's 98 portrait busts are considered the largest and finest collection of bronze busts anywhere in our country.

The occupations represented in the Hall of Fame are authors, educators, architects, inventors, military leaders, judges, theologians, philanthropists, humanitarians, scientists, statesmen, artists, musicians, actors, and explorers.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, financial crisis gripped NYU, and they could no longer sustain both the Bronx and Greenwich Village campuses. Feeling the pressures of imminent bankruptcy, NYU president James McNaughton Hester negotiated the sale of the University Heights campus to the City University of New York (CUNY) for \$62 million.

In 1973 NYU withdrew from the Bronx, and the campus was turned over to Bronx Community College. For a short while the two schools tried jointly to sustain an induction process but gave up the whole idea after the membership elections in 1976. Sadly, since the last induction ceremony over three decades ago, the Hall of Fame has been almost forgotten, although there is a renewed interest in preserving it. Bronx Community College has just begun a \$50 million dollar restoration fund and they intend to restart the election process again.

For a while, the term "Hall of Famer" carried a greater cachet than "Nobel Laureate," and a hilltop in the Bronx seemed, to many, the highest spot in the country,

if not the world. A visit to this hilltop is a must for those who love great architecture, great sculptures, great Americans and the Bronx. You won't be disappointed.

The Hall of Fame for Great Americans, Bronx Community College, Hall of Fame Terrace, West 181st Street and University Avenue is open to the public daily between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Hall of Fame for Great Americans

- **Inducted in 1900:** George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Franklin, Ulysses S. Grant, John Marshall, Thomas Jefferson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Robert Fulton, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Washington Irving, Jonathan Edwards, Samuel Morse, David Farragut, Henry Clay, George Peabody, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Peter Cooper, Eli Whitney, Robert E. Lee, Horace Mann, John James Audubon, James Kent, Henry Ward Beecher, Joseph Story, John Adams, William Ellery Channing, Gilbert Stuart and Asa Gray.

- **Inducted in 1905:** John Quincy Adams, James Russell Lowell, Mary Lyon, William T. Sherman, James Madison, John Greenleaf Whittier, Emma Willard and Maria Mitchell.

- **Inducted in 1910:** Harriet Beecher Stowe, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., Edgar Allan Poe, James Fenimore Cooper, Phillips Brooks, William Cullen Bryant, Frances E. Willard, Andrew Jackson, George Bancroft and John Lothrop Motley.

- **Inducted in 1915:** Alexander Hamilton, Mark Hopkins, Francis Parkman, Louis Agassiz, Elias Howe, Joseph Henry, Charlotte Cushman, Rufus Choate and Daniel Boone.

- **Inducted in 1920:** William Thomas Morton, Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain), Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Roger Williams, Patrick Henry, Alice Freeman Palmer and James Buchanan Eads.

- **Inducted in 1925:** Edwin Booth, John Paul Jones.

- **Inducted in 1930:** James McNeill Whistler, James Monroe, Matthew F. Maury and Walt Whitman.

- **Inducted in 1935:** William Penn, Simon Newcomb and Glover Cleveland.

- **Inducted in 1940:** Stephen Foster

- **Inducted in 1945:** Booker T. Washington, Thomas Paine, Walter Reed and Sidney Lanier.

- **Inducted in 1950:** William C. Gorgas, Woodrow Wilson, Susan B. Anthony, Alexander Graham Bell, Theodore Roosevelt and Josiah W. Gibbs.

- **Inducted in 1955:** Wilbur Wright, Thomas J. Jackson and George Westinghouse.

- **Inducted in 1960:** Thomas Edison, Henry David Thoreau and Edward A. McDowell.

- **Inducted in 1965:** Jane Addams, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Sylvanus Thayer and Orville Wright.

- **Inducted in 1970:** Albert A. Michelson and Lillian Wald.

- **Inducted in 1973:** George Washington Carver, Louis D. Brandeis, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John Philip Sousa.

- **Inducted in 1976:** Clara Barton, Luther Burbank and Andrew Carnegie.

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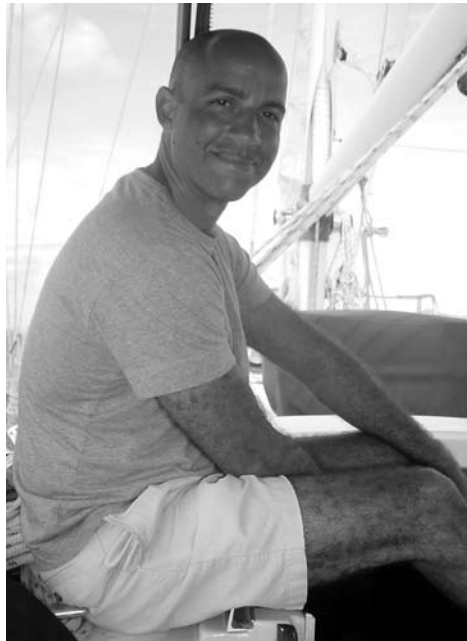
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Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



Earl Lionel Thomas

Earl Lionel Thomas

Earl Lionel Thomas, a resident of City Island, died on May 2, 2009, after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 44.

Earl was born on Nov. 1, 1964, to Earl and Kathleen Thomas and grew up in Mamaroneck. He graduated from Rye Neck High School in 1983.

He is survived by his parents; his sisters, Michelle Jackson of Beacon, New York, Janette Thomas of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Denise Hirose of Austin, Texas, and Karen Gonzalez of Miami; his brothers, Karl Thomas of Scarsdale, and Mark Thomas of the Bronx; six nieces and seven nephews and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Earl's peace-seeking demeanor, infectious joy and magnetic personality will be greatly missed.

John Muller

John Michael Muller, a longtime resident of City Island, died on June 9, 2009, at the age of 86.

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He was born in the Bronx, the son of Michael and Margaret Muller. He was a member of the New York City District Council of Carpenters and worked for many years as a cabinetmaker and draftsman.

He served bravely and honorably with the U.S. Army, 17th Field Artillery Observation Battalion in Normandy, the Ardennes and Czechoslovakia.

An avid amateur photographer, he was until recently a member of the Color Camera Club of Westchester County. He was also known for his sense of humor and good will.

He is survived by his son, John, daughter-in-law Susanne; and grandson, Aidan, age 4.



Regina Warner

Regina "Jean" Warner

Jean Warner, for many years a resident of City Island and known to many of her family and friends as "Mom Warner," passed away on April 26, 2009, after a brave battle with cancer.

Jean Hoey was born on Sept. 9, 1926, in the borough of Queens and attended Newtown High School in Flushing, New York.

She married Vincent Warner on Sept. 6, 1947, and they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary last September. She spent most of her married life on City Island and is buried at Pelham Cemetery. At the time of her passing, she was a resident of Pearl River, New York and Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Jean was an active member/volunteer of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corp. (CIVAC) for many years, and she also volunteered at St. Mary, Star of the

Sea School and Parish and at Calvary Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, Vincent, her sister, Pat Frammarino; and eight children: Dianne O'Sullivan, Kathleen Carlsen, Stephen Warner, Thomas Warner, John Warner, Regina Murphy, Vincent Warner and Sr. Patricia Warner, RDC. She also leaves her sons-in-law John, Steve, and Dennis and daughters-in-law Lynn, Bar-

bara, Maureen and Natalie. Mom Warner will also be forever remembered by her 17 grandsons, 5 granddaughters, 8 great-grandsons and 5 great-granddaughters.

As a cherished wife, beloved mother, doting grandmother, loving great-grandmother, sister, caring aunt and loyal friend, her legacy will live on for many years to come.



Photo by KATHY LYNCH

Thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop Ship 211, Pelham Cemetery looks a great deal better these days. Under the supervision of Eagle Scout John Devlin, seen here at left, are Cian Byrne, Alex Skokas and Michael Bellocchio scraping and painting the fence as part of John's Eagle project, which took place between February and June 2009. Also assisting were scouts Nick Bellocchio, Ian Campbell, Brian Devlin, Liam Flynn, Tom Lott, Brendan Patterson, Nico Santiago and Connor Saulnier.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GENERAL

Question: Do I need a Social Security card? I want to get a summer job and I think my mother lost my card.

Answer: The important thing is to know your Social Security number. If you don't have your card, knowing your number should be fine. If you don't know your number or aren't quite sure whether you have it right, contact social Security. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question: How do I know that I'm ready for the transition to digital television?

Answer: As of June 12, 2009, all full-power TV stations broadcast only in digital. The DTV transition affects those who watch free, over-the-air television through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears." If you watched over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you have to take action in order to get your regular channels. There are three things you need to do:

- Buy a digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner);
- Subscribe to a paid TV service, such as cable or satellite television; or
- Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box. Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40 to \$70. To help you pay for the boxes, the U.S. Government offers two \$40 coupons per household. For more information on the coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634).

RETIREMENT

Question: I just got back from a military deployment and I want to plan ahead. How will my military retirement affect my Social Security benefits?

Answer: Your military retirement won't affect your Social Security benefits. You can get both. Generally, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You will get full benefits based on your earnings. You can find more information in the publication "Military Service and Social Security" at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I'm about to retire and I get rental income from a property I own. Does investment income count as earnings and affect my ability to collect Social Security benefits?

Answer: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. You can apply for retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

DISABILITY

Question: I was turned down for disability. Do I need a lawyer to appeal?

Answer: Whether or not to have a representative is up to you. In fact, you can file a Social Security appeal online, with or without a lawyer. Our online appeal process is convenient and secure. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityappeal. If you prefer, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appoint-

ment to visit your local Social Security office to appeal.

Question: It's hard for me to get around because of my disability. Do I have to go to a Social Security office to apply for benefits?

Answer: In most cases no — you can apply online from the convenience of your home. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. You can apply for benefits over the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. When you decide to apply, begin by taking a look at our Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm or calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request a copy. It will help you prepare for your application.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question: My sister has been completely disabled since birth. She gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our grandfather died recently and left her a little money. Will this extra money stop her SSI benefits?

Answer: It depends on the amount of the inheritance. The inheritance money is considered income for the month she received it. She will need to report the income and we will adjust her benefit for the month if we need to. If she keeps the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of her resources. To get SSI benefits, a person is limited to \$2,000 in total resources, although there are exceptions. Have your sister call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to report the inheritance. We will tell your sister how her eligibility could be affected. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: My mom receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. She soon will be going to live with my brother. Does she have to report the move to Social Security?

Answer: Yes. She should report to us within 10 days any change in living arrangements. The change could affect her benefit. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty being deducted from her SSI benefits. Also, we need her correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have her call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, she can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

MEDICARE

Question: How do I know if I am eligible for the \$3,900 in savings with the Medicare prescription drug program?

There are annual income and resource limits. For example, if your annual income is below \$16,245 (or \$21,855 if you are married and living with your spouse), you may qualify for the extra help. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may be able to get some help if you meet certain conditions. Some examples of when your income may be higher include if you or your spouse:

- Support other family members who live with you;
- Have earnings from work; or
- Live in Alaska or Hawaii.

Further, to get the extra help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs, your total resources generally must be limited to \$12,510 (or \$25,010 if you are married and living with your spouse). Resources include the value of some things you own, though not the house you live in. For more information see our publication, Medicare, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). To learn more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov and visit the "Medicare" link. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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The City Island Theater Group (CITG) marked its 10th anniversary with the launching of a handsome new logo at a special reception held after a performance of its latest production, "Rumors," which ended with a sold-out audience and was a great success. The designer of the logo is Tristan Daley, who worked on the project pro bono. The CITG is offering a special performance for children of "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf" by Joseph Robinette, on Saturday July 11, at 1 p.m. The performance, which is free of charge, will take place on the lawn in front of Grace Church, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.



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

Belated June birthdays to Vera Thompson and to her daughter, Judy Rauh, and her son, John Wright. Judy traveled to Florida to help Mom celebrate her 89th birthday. Granddaughter Beth Rota and her husband, Matt, also made it to the celebration, traveling from New Orleans with a detour through Disney World.

Happy July birthdays to Beth Rota and her sister, Susan Rauh. Beth was expected to visit City Island in late June.

Happy birthday to Minneford Avenue's



Stephanie Zambrana

Jack Doyle on Aug. 9 with love from your family.

Happy 18th birthday greetings to Kira McIntyre, with hugs and kisses from the gang!

Happy birthday on Aug. 19 to Allison

McIntyre, with love from your family and friends.

Best wishes to Anthony Grillo, who will be attending the University of Albany in September. We are very proud of your determination and perseverance to achieve your goals. All our love, Mom, Alyssa and family.

Congratulations to Bay Street residents Mike Perruzza and Darcie Hull on the birth of their son, Niccolai Caiden Perruzza, on June 16, 2009. Niccolai is the little brother of Leilani and Malikai. Love from Uncle Mick, Aunt Lorraine and Cousin Maeve.

City Island welcomes Jared Woods, who was voted Alaska's #1 acoustic guitarist (check out www.jaredwoods.com) and will be performing at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on July 3. Visiting for the summer with Jared is his bride, former Islander Kaiya Kaltenborn. Both reside in Anchorage, where Kaiya teaches in the Alaskan school system. A very happy June birthday to Kaiya as well. We love you guys!

Happy July birthdays to Mary Ellen Power, Juliette Conover and Sandra Edwards Smith. Getting up there, girls, and still looking great!

Get well wishes for a very speedy recovery to Catherine Ambrosini, who is recovering from hip surgery. All the best, Cathy. We love you and can't wait to see you up and around. Cards may be sent to Cathy at the Wartburg Home, Bradley Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10552.

Welcome to little clam digger, Oisín Clayton Daly (Oisín is Gaelic for "little deer" and is pronounced Oh-sheen), who was born May 10, 2009 to King Avenue's Jen and Derek Daly. Oisín joins his big brother, Ronan, who will be two in September. Congratulations to Jen and Derek!

Welcome back to clam digger Joseph Cozzi, who has returned to City Island after years of living in Pelham Bay. He has purchased a house on the Island with his sister and brother-in-law and is looking forward to catching up with all his old friends from Salesian and Iona, as well as St. Mary's and CIVAC.

Happy July 9 birthday greetings across the miles to former Islander Dr. Ellen Dierenfeld in St. Louis. We miss you and your family!

Happy birthday on July 21 to Jennifer Carman from your friends and family.

Birthday greetings to Nolan Quinn, who will celebrate his big day on Aug. 16.

Happy 18th birthday wishes on Aug. 22 to Maria Christina Swieciki, with lots of love from Mom, Dad, Stephen and Bobby.

Birthday wishes on Aug. 30 to Bay Street's Samantha Emerick.



Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner and her guest, Doris Nicoletti, enjoyed themselves at the 2009 Bronx Ball, which was held at the new Yankee Stadium on June, 19, 2009. Marguerite is pictured above with Honorary Bronxite Tony Orlando. Other inductees to the Bronx Walk of Fame for 2009 included Melissa Manchester, actress Judy Reyes from Scrubs, composer Charlie Fox ("Happy Days," "Love Boat," "Laverne & Shirley" themes and "Killing Me Softly" Billboard hit), and Hip Hop legend GrandWizzard Theodore.

God bless little James Thomas Heffernan, who was recently baptized at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. James also celebrated his first birthday on June 17. We love you, Mom and Dad.

Congratulations to our daughter, Stephanie Zambrana, who graduated from the High School for Theater and Arts and for her Outstanding Award in Creative Writing in English. You did it again! We are proud! Love, Mom, Dad, Frank and Aimee.


And to all our neighbors and friends a safe and fun-filled summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by KAREN NANI

School's out! Students from P.S. 175 got into summer vacation mode by dressing up and hanging out with friends. Shown above are (l. to r.) Kevin Saulnier, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Nico Santiago (AKA Sasquatch) and Brian Devlin.



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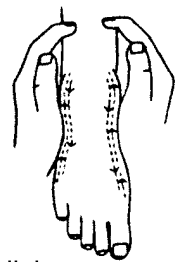
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