

The Island Current

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One Dollar



*Very Happy Holiday to All
& Peace on Earth!*

From the Staff of
The Island Current

BRIEFLY...

A HOLIDAY CONCERT will be presented at Le Refuge Inn by City Island's Sea Majors vocal ensemble. This newly formed eight-voice group is mostly made up of City Island residents, including director Diana Reichstetter. The group will present a multi-traditional choral medley that includes well-known melodies celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukah. Solos, duets and trios will fill out the program. Please join us Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m. to "sing in" the holiday season at 586 City Island Avenue. A reception and light refreshments will follow this choral celebration.

WANTED: ORIGINAL ONE-ACT PLAYS: The City Island Theater Group (CITG) invites writers to submit original works for consideration for production in the third annual "Festival of One-Act Plays" to be presented in October 2005. The festival will consist of two weekends featuring works by Bronx playwrights John Patrick Shanley and Neil Simon, as well as original works from local Bronx artists. Submissions should be sent to Play Selection Committee, City Island Theater Group, P.O. Box 45, City Island, NY 10464-1066. For further information, call 718-885-3066.

CITY ISLAND WOMEN ON OUR WAY (WOW) will have its monthly meeting on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at Le Refuge's new location, 586 City Island Avenue (718-885-2478). Bring your supper and chat between 7 and 7:30 p.m.; light refreshments will be provided. The formal meeting will start at 7:30 with the Island's annual March celebration of National Women's History Month as the main topic. Next year is the 85th anniversary of the date when women gained the right to vote, so come with your ideas for a special celebration. A short video about the Equal Rights Amendment will be shown. All women and girls are welcome. For more information, call Yvette (718-885-2574), Lily (718-885-3299) or Jennifer (718-885-2060).

AUDITIONS FOR "PRIVATE LIVES," to be presented by the City Island Theater Group in February, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 104 City Island Avenue. There will be an additional audition on the weekend; call 718-885-3066 for more information.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during 2004. Unfounded complaints are not included nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

2004 Crime Wrap Up
By KAREN NANI

Islanders will be glad to hear that the Police Department rates City Island one of the safest places in New York City based on crime statistics for 2004. "It's an oasis in the Bronx," Lieutenant Michael Brenyo of the 45th Precinct told *The Current*.

Police base this determination on the number of robberies and homicides in a given year because these are considered the most serious and violent crimes. Through November 2004, only one robbery had occurred on City Island and there were no homicides. There was one fatality this year on the Island, in August, but it was a traffic fatality on City Island Avenue that was not categorized as a homicide.

According to Lt. Brenyo, this compares

favorably to 60 reported robberies for Co-op City, for example, during the same period.

A review of Blotter reports from the 45th Precinct during the past year shows that residents have more to fear from drunk drivers than from any other criminals. There were more than 25 arrests for driving while intoxicated (DWI) on City Island Avenue, and these include both Islanders and off-Islanders, according to police.

The next most common crimes on City Island were harassment, with 20 reported complaints, followed by assault, with 12 complaints or arrests during the last year. Many of the alleged assaults involve disputes between family members or neighbors.

There were other serious crimes on City Island in 2004, including arson, criminal possession of a weapon, narcotics possession and menacing. However, these were infrequent and often accompanied by an arrest from the 45th Precinct.

Lt. Brenyo concluded his review of the crimes committed on City Island by saying, "based on what the Police Department uses as a barometer of the safety of a neighborhood, Islanders should be happy."

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THE ISLAND CURRENT
P.O. Box 6
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EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

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

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
Display Advertising: 718-885-0984
or: margci@aol.com
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni
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ADVERTISING MANAGERS: Joan Ramftl, Margaret Lenz
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Bernard Wittlieb, Dr. Fred Hess, Rena Hansen, Bill Clancy, Maria Swieciki, Cheryl Koller, Ed Heben, Marsha Treiber, Jane Muller, Jane Protzman, Bill Stuttgart, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Liz Montalbano, Alice Rotello, Nancy Lotrionte, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, Teresa Teto.

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH located on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, invites all to join in the celebration of the new ministry and the institution of the Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander as priest-in-charge on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004, at 10 a.m. For more information, please call the parish office at 718-885-1080.

THE ANGEL TREE PROJECT: This year City Islanders have an opportunity to help local at-risk children at Christmas by participating in the Angel Tree Project, an annual outreach event sponsored by Prison Fellowship. Early in December, a tree will be put up in the Grace Church Parish Hall (City Island Avenue at Pilot Street), and members of the church and the rest of the City Island community will have a chance to choose a paper ornament with the name and age of a child whose parent is in prison. Participants are then asked to purchase and wrap two gifts for that child (suggestions are included) and return them to the tree. Right before Christmas, volunteers will deliver the gifts to the children's homes on behalf of their parents in prison. For more information, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080.

FRIENDS OF SISTER JAMES PATRICK, former principal of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, will recognize her 19 years of service to children on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2005, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Davenport Club in New Rochelle. The Sunday dinner will cost approximately \$50 per person. If you would like to join in the celebration, call or e-mail Liz Bryant Montalbano (646-529-8585, emonta8203@aol.com) or Maureen Bryant Lizarazo (718-885-2232, maureenbliz@hotmail.com).

ART FOR THE HEART will be the first art auction fundraiser sponsored by the PTA of P.S. 175. Scheduled for Feb. 5, 2005 at the Morris Yacht Club, the event will begin with a preview hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by the live auction at 7:30 p.m. Guests will be able to bid on many styles of art including paintings, memorabilia, jewelry and sculpture. Some of the art pieces will be donated from The Starving Artist Café and Gallery, Focal Point Gallery and Kathlyn Moses Gallery on City Island. A professional auctioneer will lead the live bidding and there will also be a silent auction on items such as furniture and weekend getaways. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. The price includes refreshments, beer, wine, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, wraps, coffee, tea and dessert. All proceeds will go towards art and music programs at P.S. 175. For information, go to cityislandpta@yahoo.com or call the school at 718-885-1093.

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Dig They Must—Unfortunately

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

For the past few months, it looks as if the utilities have conspired to keep City Island Avenue and those who use it in a perpetual state of disrepair.

Forget about last winter's problems with the installation of water mains from the Pelham Bridge on Shore Road to the City Island Bridge. Those who managed to survive the winter with a full set of tires and shock absorbers counted themselves among the lucky. But that was then.

This summer Con Edison moved their gas lines from underneath the street to spaces below the sidewalk in order to make room on the avenue for water mains and sewers. This job was scheduled for completion by Labor Day, so that the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) could begin its long-awaited replacement of the storm and sanitary sewers.

As of publication, Con Ed was still ironing out wrinkles in the sidewalks, and DDC had not yet begun its three-year chore of digging up the avenue. In fact, the job has not yet been awarded to a contractor, according to DDC officials, nor has the department received a plan from Con Ed insuring that the overhead power lines will not create safety hazards for workers, residents and visitors.

In the meantime, AT&T is trying to install cell phone towers on top of the building at 205 City Island Avenue, and Verizon is rerouting its wiring to service east Carroll Street. The old cables had been placed underneath what eventually became the fire house, making repair impossible, and the avenue had to be dug up yet again so that the cables could be directed from the power station directly to Carroll Street.

At its community meeting on Nov. 22, DDC reported that the new schedule for the storm and sanitary sewers calls for work to start in February 2005 and for the job to end in 2008. Although the suggestion was made by Frank Fitts, representing the City Island Civic Association, that work be carried out during the summer months or at night if the job could be completed within a considerably shorter period of time, DDC is not likely to consider these options in light of the probable inconvenience summer work would cause those who patronize businesses

and restaurants on City Island.

Given the fact that winter weather will undoubtedly cause additional delays in the schedule, it may not be until 2009 that City Island Avenue will be ready for resurfacing. And then we have the new City Island bridge. Surveyors are already measuring this and that, and studies are being done to determine the scope and location of the temporary bridge that will be in use for several years as the old bridge is demolished and the new bridge constructed.

The bridge schedule originally called for final design to be completed by August 2004 and for construction to begin soon afterward, with a completion date within three years. It is now unlikely that Department of Transportation will begin the bridge while DDC is still at work on the sewers.

Since it would seem practical to put the power lines underground while the streets are being dug up for DDC, the City Island Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the Civic Association, requested that Con Edison consider doing so. However, Con Edison replied to the request, made by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano on behalf of the Island, by saying that the cost would be prohibitive and that the two projects could not overlap in any case.

The company did offer to look into the possibility of replacing the utility poles along City Island Avenue. Many of these poles are already leaning precipitously and showing signs of strain from the great weight they now carry, a load that will only increase as fiberoptic cable and other power lines are added in the future.

So it looks as though some construction crew or other will be at work along City Island Avenue for nearly a decade or so, causing heavy traffic and delays all year round, except, of course, for those impatient drivers who regularly avoid delays by racing through red lights and using the fire lane to pass the rest of us.

And speaking of the fire lane, the fire department, which was represented at the DDC meeting on Nov. 22, was quick to reassure members of the community that they are fully prepared to handle emergencies during the construction period, bringing in extra personnel and equipment as needed.

Holidays Light Up The Night



Photos by RON TERNER

Islanders welcomed in the holiday season with music and lights on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004, and with a little help from Chamber of Commerce elves. City Island resident and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión and his family lit the Christmas tree in Hawkins Park, while organist Ken Farnum led St. Mary's choir in singing carols. The Hanukkah menorah will be lit in the park on Dec. 7. The Chamber wishes everyone safe and happy holidays and asks that all Islanders and visitors respect the beautiful decorations.

Islanders To and From Iraq

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

A number of Islanders or their relatives are involved in the conflict in Iraq. Here is an update on their whereabouts and status this holiday season.

Horton Street resident Marine Corporal Charles Brill was wounded last month and is back on City Island for some rest and recuperation. Corporal Brill was servicing a helicopter in Teqadem Airfield in Iraq, where he is a crew chief. He was hit in the neck and face with some shrapnel following a rocket attack on the airbase. He was airlifted to a military hospital in Baghdad for surgery, then flown to Germany for convalescence.

Aside from some difficulty with his speech and with eating, Charlie is doing well and is anxious to rejoin his unit. He is the grandson of the late George Deveau and the son of Francine Brill, the former crossing guard at P. S. 175. He is currently staying with his sister, Georgette, on Horton Street.

Also home from Iraq is First Lieutenant Thomas Woods, who is stationed at Ad Dujal, not too far from Baqubah. Lt. Woods is with the First Division, also known to veterans as the Big Red One of World War

II fame. He is in the National Guard and has almost 10 years of service. Lt. Woods is also by profession a member of the New York City Police Department.

If you drive down Reville Street, there is a large "Welcome Home, Tom" banner with a patriotic bow on the front of the Woods house. Tom's father is a former bus driver of the City Island bus, and his mother, Rosetta, is involved in St. Mary's POTS program (see story this issue). Their son will be returning to Iraq in early December.

Major Michael Clancy, son of Islander and Legion adjutant Bill Clancy, is on his way to Iraq.

Edward Goslin is home from Iraq, and Sergeant Michael Goslin is on his way to Iraq. Both are grandchildren of Islander Margie DeCandido.

Officers of the American Legion Post 156 ask all Islanders to continue to support the troops in Iraq and elsewhere in the world. Let the Legion know if you or your relatives are in the armed forces and where they will be for the holidays.

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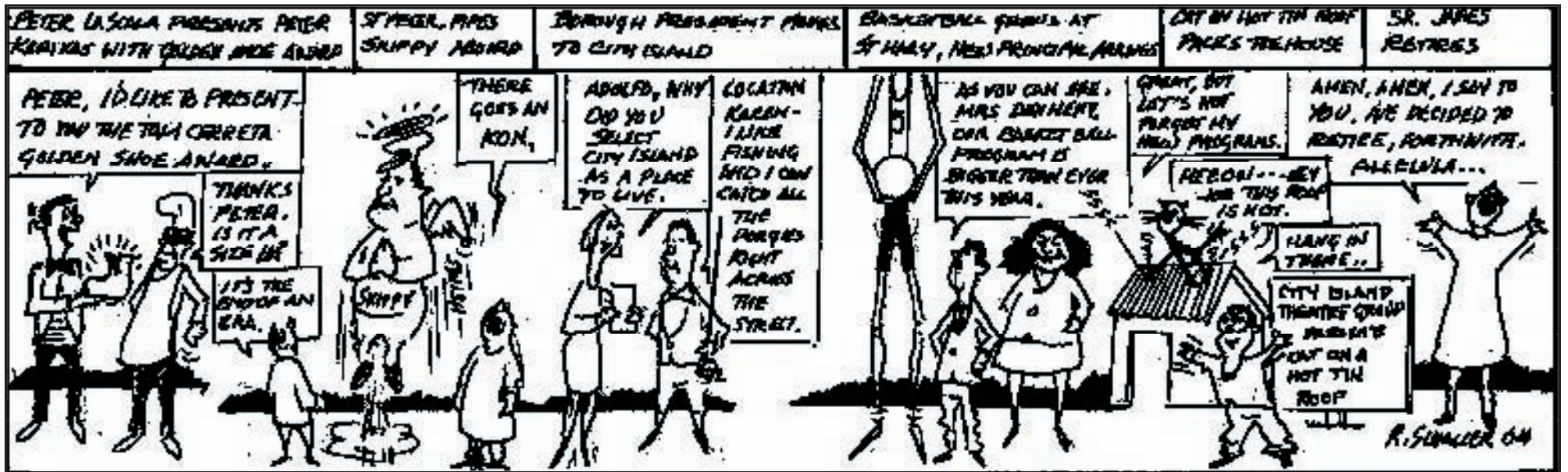
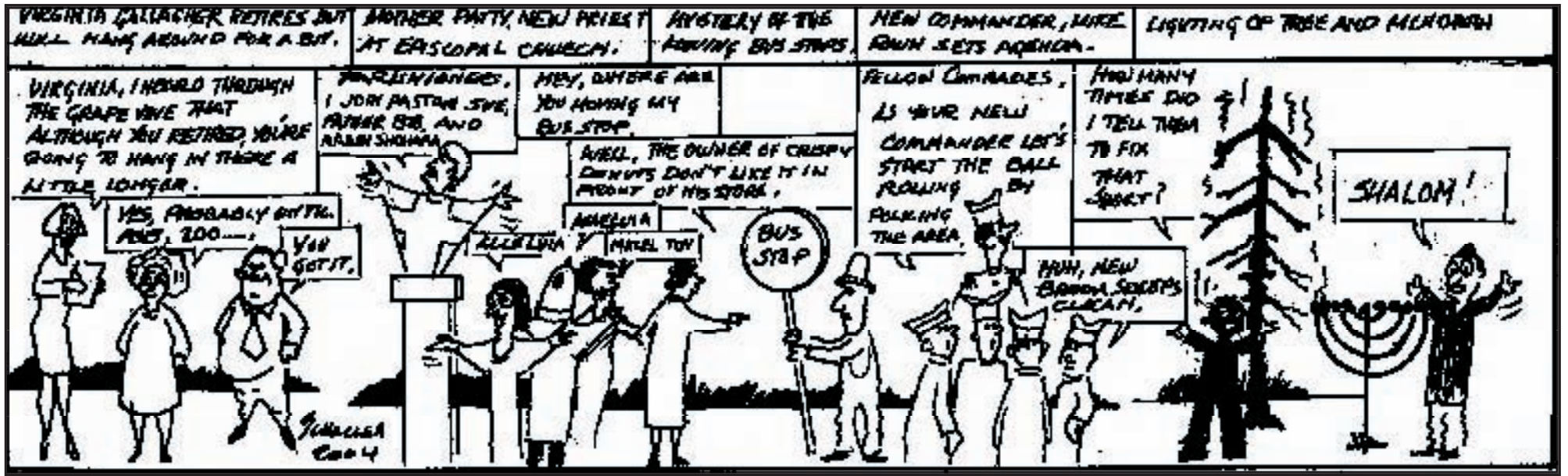
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*Let us celebrate the joys of the season,
 The laughter of the children,
 and the comfort of our families.
 Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!*

Happy Holidays!

Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano
 2931 Westchester Avenue
 Bronx, New York 10461
 (718) 931-6060

RUSSELL'S REFLECTIONS ON 2004



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.

Cannon Fire

To the Editor:
I was surprised and very interested to read in the New York Times about the uproar concerning the firing of a very small saluting cannon by members of the Harlem Yacht Club.

As you may recall, I enjoy a subscription to your paper through the generosity of Russell Schaller, a close friend and companion during World War II. I was very upset to read that the long-held tradition of firing the evening gun was endangered. This is disgraceful and shows a total disregard of tradition and history. To the best of my knowledge, the evening gun is fired on most Army posts as part of the Retreat ceremony on a daily basis. This event had been carried out for many years prior to the War Between the States and it continues today.

It is beyond comprehension why anyone would think of eliminating such a long tradition at the yacht club. It is a proud and patriotic tradition that true Americans welcome. It should be supported by all citizens of City Island.

Tradition should not be abandoned because of uninformed people who have little or no appreciation for the significance of the evening gun fired by the Harlem Yacht Club.

I urge you to support the continuation of this event through the pages of your fine newspaper.

Floyd W. McRae, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Let There Be Lights

To the Editor:
Now that we are in the holiday season, we should all be mindful of our community spirit.

Each year the Chamber of Commerce prepares decorations for City Island Avenue and Hawkins Street Park. This year we began with orange lights in the trees along City Island Avenue for Halloween and Thanksgiving that will become white lights for the year-end holidays. We have prepared a lighted Christmas tree and will have a menorah in the park and other decorations along the avenue. We have asked store owners to light up their front windows to encourage Islanders to shop and support local businesses and restaurants, and we will give a prize for the best-decorated store.

However, in the past many of our decorations have been broken and our lights have been stolen, especially in Hawkins Street Park. This is just plain vandalism and will not be tolerated by residents or businesses.

Pride in our community is not an instinct that we are born with but something we learn and acquire as we mature. We all live on a special Island, which we call home, and it is our responsibility to watch out for and thwart any vandalism of this sort, especially among young people. Any infractions of the law should be reported to the police and the offenders prosecuted.

Let's make sure that this year the tree and park are kept free from mischief, so that we can all enjoy this Happy Holiday Season!

City Island Chamber of Commerce

Costume Complaint

To the Editor:
The Halloween costume that appears to be a missing girl found dead in the trash (see photo, November *Current*) has to be the epitome of bad taste and callousness.

I'm sure a parent whose child has been murdered in such a tragic and brutal way would not find it clever.

Kathy Eberhart-Devlin

Deer Friends

To the Editor:
I'd like to add another concern to those mentioned in the September 2004 issue of *The Island Current* about the deer near City Island.

In addition to our valid concern about human accidents and Lyme disease, please let's also keep concern for the four-footed residents of this earth. Deer and other animals need places to live. We humans use up their habitats to build amusement centers, homes, businesses and so on and then complain about their invasion of "our" land.

Where are they to go? I think we can live with respect for their needs and ours—and we can drive carefully to protect them and us.

Toby Z. Liederman

Gratitude and Ghouls

To the Editor:
The Halloween parade this year, sponsored by Atlantic Emeritus Realty, was a huge success. Lots of ghouls and goblins came, and we're not quite sure what else.

Many thanks go out to all the volunteers. Special thanks to Little League volunteers Bob, Anna, Brianna, Kevin and Christina Whelan and to Jamie Reilly and Virginia McGuire for setting up the clubhouse, providing Halloween sounds, blowing up balloons (you should see Virginia's cheeks!), etc. Thanks also to Joanie, Freddy and Camille Ramftl, to Eddie Cullen and other volunteers for handing out treats.

Thanks to the City Island Chamber of Commerce, especially Paul Klein, for purchasing the orange lights that decorated City Island Avenue (not as easy as you might think to find orange, even at Halloween), and to Chris (Stretch) McGowan for his hard work installing them in the trees.

Because the holiday fell on the weekend and pleasant weather was predicted, we expected a large turnout (almost 2,000 people were counted by the Police Department), which required a larger space to end the parade. With very short notice, the City Island Little League volunteers came

to the rescue and provided refreshments and a safe place to gather and award prizes. Thanks for all your help.

Thanks to Officer Anne Marie Morrison of the 45th Precinct Community Affairs Division and Deputy Inspector James Capaldo and his officers for escorting the parade, as well as to Frank Fitts for helping process the permit in record time (again). Maybe next year we will remember to think about Halloween in August!

Thanks to the following for prize donations: City Island Little League, the Dugout, Atlantic Emeritus Realty, City Island Chamber of Commerce, City Island Community Center, City Island Civic Association, B&B Club 316, Geri Seiter, the Tree House Restaurant, City Island Pharmacy, City Island Diner, J.T.'s Video Event, Papa John's Deli, the Pizza Place, Timeless Sweets, Focal Point gallery, Eddie Cullen and Loewen Development.

Thanks to the judges: Nancy Lotrionte, Geri Seiter, Marion Rosenfeld, Mark Hohenstein and Kelly Carmody.

Rumors have already started about the return of the Headless Horseman and a possible Jason vs. Freddy II at next year's parade. Could it be true?

This year's winners are listed below. Congratulations to all. You put on a great show!

Bob Carmody and Geri Seiter

Halloween Parade Winners 2004

Most Original Costume:

Sandwich, Linda Piparo

Best Group:

Peter Pan, the Prohaska Family

Cutest Costume:

Rooster, Alexander Ramos

Scariest Costume:

Geisha Girl, Michael Proietti

Most Difficult to Maneuver:

Clones, Bob and Nancy Adams

Best Adult Costume:

Pirates, the Orzo Family

First Honorable Mention:

Gil Joe and Son, The McGaughan Family

(Continued on page 22)

IN THE LINE OF DUTY: POLICEMAN HONORED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Saturday evening, Jan. 23, 1943, a young police officer in the 45th Precinct named Pasquale Venturelli was killed at the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue while trying to apprehend a car thief. After 61 years, the city will place an overlay name on that corner in his honor, as the result of a recent resolution passed by Community Board 10.

Patrolman Venturelli, the father of two, was on radio motor patrol duty at 9:40 p.m. when they observed an automobile traveling at great speed down east Carroll Street. He and his partner, Patrolman John Biddescomb chased the car, which was forced to slow down by an obstruction in the street, at which point Venturelli jumped on the running board with his revolver drawn, prepared to question the three men inside.

Suddenly the car took off, chased by Bid-

descomb, but it crashed against a telegraph pole, throwing the police officer and two of the occupants into the street. Pasquale Venturelli was pronounced dead by Dr. Philip J. Vetter Jr. of City Island. The three occupants of the car, which was driven by Donald Sebia, 16, of East 17th Street in Manhattan, were later apprehended by the police and charged with homicide. The two passengers were found to be suffering from acute alcoholism. The car had been stolen from Loring Avenue in the Bronx earlier in the day.

Pasquale Venturelli, appointed to the police department in 1937, was 31 years old and lived with his wife, Helen, and their two children, ages 9 and 4, at 3015 Borick Avenue in the Bronx. He was buried in the cemetery of Holy Rosary Church on Eastchester Road.

IGA to Get Extreme Makeover

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

As the City Island community has suspected for months, the City Island IGA Market is about to undergo a complete renovation, which will entail closing the store for at least four months before the end of the year, according to owner Gabriel Scavello.

The building has a long and illustrious history on City Island, first as the Raymond Theater and later as the City Island Theatre, but it was never designed to be the food market it eventually became.

According to Alice Payne's book "Tales of the Clam Diggers," the theater was first built in the early 1900s by the Robinson family and was named after Raymond Robinson. Silent films were shown there, as well as special events, such as benefits to raise funds for unemployment relief during the Great Depression. Olin Stephens and his brother, Roderick, showed photographs of yacht

races won by *Dorada*, built on City Island, and the Ned Wayburn School of Dancing also provided entertainment. After World War II, beauty contests and talent shows were held at the theater along with movies, until it was closed down in the 1950s.

Later in the 1960s, James Russo, a theatrical director, and Sam Locante, an actor, bought the property and renamed it the New City Island Theatre (later the City Island Theatre), which showed films as well as occasional stage presentations, including "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Fantasticks" and other popular productions. During the 1970s, the theater changed hands again and featured second-run movies until its doors were finally shut in the late 1970s.

The theater remained empty until 1984, when Mr. Chernin converted it to a small market and leased it to Gabe Scavello and his brother, Mario, who bought the market in 1988. They were part of IGA, an association of independently owned grocery stores, and began to operate a larger market, although no major changes were made to the building.

Gabe Scavello told *The Current* that he plans to put the entire floor on a single level, eliminating the sloping floor in the front of the building beyond the cash registers. In order to do so, he must raise the ceiling of the entire store to the same level and make other adjustments in the structure, but he has no plans to add a second story. He will gut the interior and install entirely new fixtures, such as freezers and cold shelves for dairy products and vegetables. He also intends to redesign the façade of the building to make it more attractive.

No opening date has been set, but the plan is to have everything completed by spring, so that Islanders will have a full-service supermarket back in business by the time warm weather sets in.

St. Mary's POTS Filled with Island Generosity

By JANE LASCALA



Photos by ANITA LaSCALA

Jane LaScala, Pat Murphy and other volunteers delivered the many donations from Islanders during the POTS Spirit of Giving program last year. The program will continue this holiday season.

Islanders can once again share the spirit of giving this holiday season by helping needy neighbors. POTS (Part of the Solution) offers food and social services to needy men, women and families in the Webster Avenue area of the Bronx. Part of their program includes providing new clothing to anyone who comes to them.

You can help refurbish their supply. Needed are warm socks, hats, gloves, and mufflers; sweat pants and tops for men and women; underwear t-shirts and briefs for men and women; disposable razors, baby diapers sizes 4, 5 or 6 and baby formula with iron. Gifts do not need to be wrapped.

Drop off your donation in the lobby of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church or at Exotiqua, 280 City Island Avenue. Collection dates are Dec. 4 to 12.

St. Mary's Church has begun its seventh year of cooking once a month for the POTS program. All Islanders are invited to help out by preparing food and dropping it off at St. Mary's schoolyard on the last Saturday of each month (except December and August) between 4:30 and 5 p.m. This month, the

date is Saturday, Dec. 18, and the menu is cooked ham with sliced potatoes.

Many Islanders, including St. Mary's Youth Group, have participated in this worthwhile program by cooking and volunteering. If you want to join them, watch for the POTS menu (shown in the *Current* Calendar on the Organization News page each month), but keep in mind that staples such as juice, coffee, sugar, canned vegetables, desserts (cookies, cakes), paper plates, napkins and hot/cold cups are also welcome.

If you plan to prepare food, be sure that all food is cooked but not hot, and that there is enough for 10 servings. Please use an 8x11-inch tin with a cover or wrapped in foil, and then place the entire tin in a plastic bag.

Also in constant need are baby diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6 and baby formula with iron.

POTS is very appreciative of the caring and generosity we extend to them through these collections.

For more information, call Jane LaScala at 718-885-2137.

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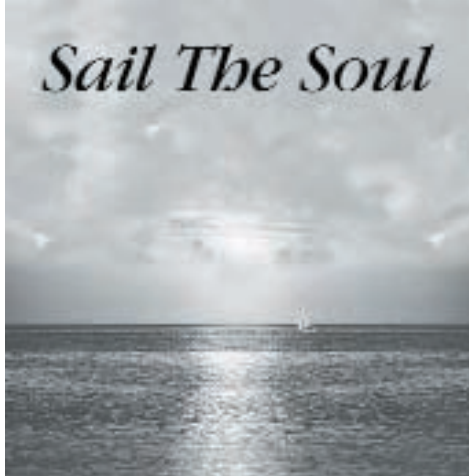
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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.



The husband-and-wife team of **Ken and Elizabeth Farnum** is very pleased to release "Sail The Soul," their first collaboration as recording artists. This CD of popular Christian songs includes renditions of such favorites as "Ave Maria," "The Wedding Song," "We Will Rise Again" and many others. Several songs on the record hold special meaning to City Island residents, who have enjoyed hearing them at various Island events, both happy and sad. This self-published CD was recorded at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School last summer, and Elizabeth and Ken are thrilled to be able to offer it in time for the holiday season. The Farnums have called City Island home since 1988 and have been delighted to share their love of music with the community. Although they both maintain busy careers outside the church, they have a strong love of liturgical music. Ken has been the organist and music director at St. Mary's church since 1998, and Elizabeth has sung at each of the churches on City Island on different occa-

sions over the years. CDs may be purchased at the introductory price of \$12, either by logging on to www.elizabethfarnum.com or by sending a check to P.O. Box 211, City Island, 10464.

Coals, the Bronx's first grilled pizza restaurant, is run by City Island resident Bill Etzel and his co-owner, Paul Harnish. Located at the junction of Eastchester Road and Morris Park Avenue, **Coals** offers not only delectable grilled pizza, but soups, salads and pannini as well in a cozy, lounge-like atmosphere. "By combining grilled pizza with superior service and a warm, welcome atmosphere, we are eager to change the face of dining in Morris Park and throughout the Bronx," the Bay Street resident told *The Current*. Stop by the new place or call them at 718-823-7002.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
625 Minneford Ave.	6/3/04	\$350,000	1 Family
688 Bridge Street	9/10/04	\$390,000	1 Family
86 Tier Street	9/24/04	\$675,000	1 Family +Lot
102 Pilot Street	10/4/04	\$396,550	1 Family
19 Fordham Street	10/14/04	\$400,000	1 Family
285 Minneford Ave.	10/14/04	\$525,000	2 Family



BARTOW-PELL EVENTS

1850s Christmas at Bartow-Pell Mansion

Enjoy the sights, scents and traditions of a Victorian Christmas at the beautifully decorated Bartow mansion in Pelham Bay Park on the weekend of Dec. 4 and 5, when activities have been planned for visitors of all ages.

The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum represents a type of elegant country living that existed in the Pelham Bay region in the middle of the 19th century. Robert and Maria Bartow's seven children were an important part of the household's Christmas celebration. The holidays were a time for family and friends, and homes were decorated with natural trimmings to brighten the winter days and to welcome loved ones from far and near. Children helped to celebrate the holiday by creating simple decorations, singing carols, listening to seasonal stories and poems and gathering with friends for sleighing parties or formal teas.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the clock will be turned back to the 1850s for a holiday fundraiser, which has been divided into two age-appropriate sessions. The morning session, a Teddy Bear Tea, which is for young children ages 2 to 5, will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. The children, accompanied by their favorite dolls or stuffed animals, will listen to seasonal stories in the mansion, snack on holiday treats and create

a traditional decoration to take home. The morning will end on a high note as they sing traditional sleighing songs at the Carriage House and enjoy a "jingle bell" wagon ride down Shore Road.

The afternoon session, a Mom and Me Formal Tea, for older children ages 6 to 10, will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. and end at 3 p.m. Seated in the beautifully decorated double parlor, the children, along with their favorite dolls or stuffed animals and accompanying adults, will enjoy a traditional formal tea, listen to time-honored holiday stories and roll a real beeswax candle to brighten their own parlors. The morning will end with traditional sleighing songs at the Carriage House and the "jingle bell" wagon ride.

All children must be accompanied by adults. The admission for the morning session is \$18 for a child; the afternoon session if \$35 for each child and \$20 for each extra child. Seating is limited so call for reservations right away at 718-885-1461.

On Sunday, Dec. 5, between 5 and 7 p.m., there will be a guided tour of the beautifully decorated mansion, after which you will be invited to sip on hot mulled cider just as the Bartows might have done on a cold winter's evening. Admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are free. Call 718-885-1461 for information or e-mail bartowpell@aol.com.



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Clam Digger Gifts for the Holidays

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Are you sick and tired of getting and giving those same old holiday gifts like plasma TVs and fancy cell phones that take pictures, send e-mail and do just about everything else except stay connected when you're making an important phone call? Are you longing to show your friends and family exactly how proud you are of your home town or to share with them some of the wonderful history and nautical character?

Here are some suggestions for presents that will keep on giving, or that at least will keep on reminding everyone that you hail from a small community in Long Island Sound (some call it the Bronx, but we know better). I haven't included prices for most of these because they vary so much according to where they are sold.

DVDs

If you like movies, why not stock up on DVDs in which City Island has played a role, sometimes minor but sometimes not. All of the following DVDs can be found on *amazon.com* and some of them are available in video stores.

For those who love old films, try "Richard III," based on the Shakespeare play and filmed in 1912 in New Rochelle and on City Island. This is the first feature-length film known and was recently discovered in the collection of a film buff on the West Coast.

During the 1960s, City Island was used as a location for a couple of classic movies, including "Long Day's Journey Into Night" starring Katharine Hepburn (1962). All of the exterior shots were filmed in the yard of the house at 21 Tier Street. And Elizabeth Taylor gave Islanders a thrill in 1960 when she and Laurence Harvey visited his character's boat at Consolidated for "Butterfield 8."

The 1990s saw a revival of City Island as a favorite location for filmmakers. A few scenes for "Awakenings," based on the book by then-Island resident Oliver Sacks and starring Robin Williams and Robert De Niro, was filmed on Rochelle Street. Mr. De Niro liked the Island so much he used it as a setting for a couple of scenes in his "Bronx Tale" a few years later. "The Object of My Affection" (1998) has one short scene filmed on Bay Street, a memorable moment because the stars were Alan Alda and Jennifer Aniston.

In 1996, the entire Island was turned upside down during the filming of Joe Bologna's hilarious comedy "Love Is All There Is," in which City Island herself played a starring role. Many Islanders appeared in the film as extras, and scenes were set at Trinity Methodist Church, St. Mary's, the Lido and a number of private houses.

After the turn of the millennium, it became difficult to keep movie directors away—"Riding in Cars with Boys" (2001) starring Drew

Barrymore featured a scene at the Worm Bar; "Don't Say a Word" (2001) starring Michael Douglas was filmed partly at the Fordham Street ferry dock.

Gene Hackman made a visit to the Island that year for a couple of scenes in "The Royal Tenenbaums" that were shot on Tier Street. The same house was also the location for an independent film "Messengers," which has not yet been released (but hopefully will be ready for your holiday gift list next year).

City Island has also been the focus of much television activity, and many of these old shows are available on DVD. The series "Car 54 Where Are You?" is not available but you can find the various "Law and Order" shows, all three of which filmed episodes on City Island in the 2003-4 season.

Some people might enjoy seeing a City Islander on film rather than City Island itself, and for them we offer resident Vincent Pastore, whose most recent screen role was as Luca the Octopus in the successful Dreamworks animated feature "Shark Tale," which will be out on DVD by Christmas. Many will remember him as Big Pussy in the first season of "The Sopranos," also available on DVD.

Books

If you'd rather read than watch television, there are several titles that feature City Island, most of which can be found on *amazon.com*, as well as at certain local stores and the City Island Nautical Museum (190 Fordham Street; open Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.). Books devoted to the Island include the reissues of Alice Payne's "Tales of the Clam Diggers" and Allen Flood's "City Island" and the first edition of Catherine Scott's "City Island and Orchard Beach." Each of these is rich in information and lore, and the Flood and Scott books are full of historical photographs.

Speaking of photographs, the famous Rosenfeld collection produced by Island resident Morris Rosenfeld and his sons belongs to Mystic Seaport, which has an active publishing program. Their latest Rosenfeld book is "A Point of View" by Stanley Rosenfeld, his first book on marine photography that includes a great deal of information as well as wonderful color photographs of the America's Cup races.

Other Rosenfeld books available from Mystic include "Sleek: Classic Sailboat Photography from the Rosenfeld Collection at Mystic Seaport," "A Century Under Sail" by Stanley Rosenfeld and "Sails and Sailing" with a text by Franco Giorgetti. The last two volumes are available at the City Island Nautical Museum, along with "All This and Sailing too" by Olin J. Stephens, whose yacht-design office was on City Island Avenue opposite Nevins Shipyard, where many of his yachts were built. (By the way, don't forget to buy the cloudscape stamps at the City Island Post Office for your holiday

cards. One of the images was taken by David Rosenfeld of City Island.)

"Other Islands of New York City" by Sharon Seitz and Stuart Miller was recently the basis for a documentary film that appeared on PBS. The book is now available in a second edition and contains a wonderful section on City Island. Another city-wide volume is "Going Coastal" by Barbara La Rocco, who compiled useful information about the New York City waterfront, in which City Island, of course, plays a role.

Several Bronx books also feature City Island: "Landmarks of the Bronx" published by the Bronx County Historical Society; "McNamara's Old Bronx" by John McNamara, who also wrote "History in Asphalt: The Origin of Bronx Street and Place Names."

"As Time Goes By," a lovely memoir of City Island by the late Debby Kall is a compilation of her columns for *The Island Current*. You may find copies for sale at the museum or at Public School 175.

For lovers of historical fiction, two books about City Island by Katherine Kirkpatrick feature long-ago life on City Island. "Keeping the Good Light" tells the story of a young girl whose family lived on Stepping Stone Lighthouse in the year 1903, and "Trouble's Daughter" tells the dramatic tale of Anne Hutchinson's daughter who survived an Indian massacre and lived with the Lenape tribe that

inhabited Pelham Bay Park. Both are available at the Nautical Museum.

Other Gifts

You can't be a true clam digger or mussel sucker unless you have a City Island shirt of some kind. There are various historical designs (Fleet Weekend 2002 t-shirts are still available at the Nautical Museum, for instance), but there are always new variations on the theme and these can be found at numerous shops along City Island Avenue. The latest sports shirts I've seen come from Dottie Payne and enable wearers to declare their true identity (clam digger, mussel sucker or tourist). There are also designs with a map and a photograph of the City Island bridge. To order these \$23 shirts, e-mail *cityisla@cityislandclamdigger.com* or call 718-885-2519.

How about a custom-made piece of jewelry from Elliot Glick (Starving Artist Gallery, 249 City Island Avenue), who will create a tiny silver map of City Island with a jewel inset at the location of your own house. Or you can ask Jerry at JGL Liquors, 358 City Island Avenue, who will arrange to have his sister paint your name or favorite local spot on a lovely (empty) bottle for \$15.00. Or select some postcards with beautiful photographic images of City Island at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue. And for the bargain of the season, stop by J. J. Burck's, 526 City Island Avenue, for a tiny bottle of "City Island Beachfront Property," which sells for the dramatically low price of



Photo by G.V. PLAEGER

Several members of City Island's American Legion Post 156 commemorated Veterans Day at the Pelham Bay Park Veterans Memorial on Thursday, Nov. 11, to mark the signing of the World War I peace treaty. Islander William Clancy spoke at the ceremony about his son, an Army major who has recently left for Iraq, reminding everyone to support the troops abroad.

Development Continues Apace

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

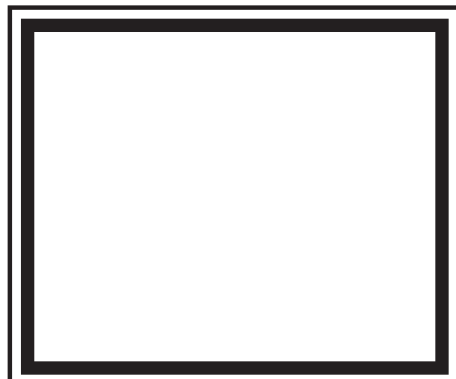
The lot that was once the site of Thwaites Restaurant, a venerable City Island landmark, will soon be completely covered with new buildings, the most recent of which is a commercial one-story building being constructed at 525 City Island Avenue next to Sugar and Spice Bakery. The bakery had hoped to buy the property to put in an outdoor garden spot, but the lot was purchased by Les Lerner's Beechwood Corporation, which plans to lease the space, about 3,240 square feet, to one or more shops. A spokesman for Beechwood told *The Current* that no spaces had as yet been leased.

Beechwood is also developing the former site of Royal Marina across the avenue,

where construction of 22 detached houses is likely to start in the spring, along with a commercial building and a marina.

Mr. Lerner has announced plans to build houses on two lots at Reville Street and City Island Avenue. There was once a lumberyard on the site, and more recently a small food shop called Café Rio. The shop and an old Victorian house, long vacant, have now been demolished. Mr. Lerner has informed neighbors that he plans to build several two-family houses on the property, but no building plans have as yet been filed. These lots were once zoned commercial but they are now zoned residential.

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Merry Christmas



Photo by Ron Ferner © 2004

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email: cormac@cormacmcenery.com
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Celebrating the Season City Island Style

By MONICA GLICK

Here (with thanks to Clement Moore, whose "Visit from St. Nicholas" was written nearly 200 years ago) is a story about all you will need to make your holidays bright—the perfect gifts for everyone on your shopping list; places to sit, sip and eat as you escape the holiday madness; ingredients for a homespun "stockings by the chimney" celebration. It's time again for City Island to become "Holiday Island."

"Twas the weeks before Christmas..." The festivities officially began at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27, with the annual Christmas tree lighting in Hawkins Street Park, with carols courtesy of Ken Farnum and the choir from St. Mary, Star of Sea Church. Next up is the lighting of the menorah, also in Hawkins Street Park, on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., marking the first night of Hanukkah.

Shops and restaurants on City Island Avenue will be open on Saturday, Dec. 18, until midnight. The jolly elves behind these events once again this year are members of City Island's Chamber of Commerce.

But it's best to let the galleries, restaurants, cafés, antique stores, unique shops and businesses tell the story of what's in store for you on City Island this Holiday Season. You can be sure there's a lot going on along our main street, City Island Avenue.

"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care..." You can find all you need for your chimney and other areas of your household at either one of these Island shops: **J. J. Burck** (526 City Island Avenue) or **Buddy's Hardware** (260 City Island Avenue). Also at Buddy's, there's sure to be a live Christmas tree or wreath—and the stand and lights and other accessories to go with it—all with your name on them. At the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue), there's a wide selection of holiday gifts for the home and the family, and all you will need to wrap it up in style! Finally, if the gifts are for lovers of the great outdoors—deep blue sea, specifically—check out **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) or **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue).

"Visions of sugar-plums..." You'll have visions of all kinds of sweet things, including pies, cakes and such, after visiting **Sugar & Spice** (536 City Island Avenue). Give Grandma the season off and bring her a pie from City Island's own bakery! If quick treats are what you want, try a doughnut and coffee from **Dunkin' Donuts**, right after you cross the City Island Bridge. If your vision is of a "new and improved" you, then perhaps a visit to **Curves** (268 City Island Avenue) is in order; maybe someone you love would like a gift certificate for membership as a holiday gift? Or the new you could be just a few steps away from the Island's bakery—at **A.J. Weight Loss Center** (538 City Island Avenue), where they will put together a personal training program made just for you.

"A miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer." **Timeless Sweets** (269 City Island Avenue), our Island's recently opened candy store, has both, in delicious chocolate. Proprietor Al Piscitelli invites you to explore the selections of candy for all ages and to come in and make your home, a gingerbread house, that is.

Treats and treasures from the past are on

hand at Island antique shops; you might even find something used by Santa himself. At **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue), owner Ruth Markowe invites you to find the perfect gift for all family and friends among the treasures she has searched out to fill the shop. Years of great gifts can also be found at **Wild Goose Chase** (314 City Island Avenue), **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue) and **Calliope's** (212 City Island Avenue). Fine reproductions of old photographs and books about City Island are on hand at the **City Island Historical Society** (190 Fordham Street), open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. And don't forget to shop at **Midtown Antiques** (310 City Island Avenue) and get 25 percent off most items; owners Mort and Violet Ellis are offering treats too—candy canes, just what the season ordered! At **Quality Antique Furniture** (270 City Island Avenue) you never know whom you'll run in to, in the window, that is. Last year's Pancho Villa has been replaced by an attractive pool player and who knows who else by the time we ring in the New Year; proprietor Leon Nuger will be delighted to introduce you to his many "friends" as well as fine furniture and treasured antiques.

"With the sleigh full of toys..." There are enough toys, stuffed animals, novelties and jewelry to pack any sleigh or shopping bag at **Exotiq International Arts** (280 City Island Avenue). Travel to more than 75 countries in this unique shop; there are plenty of Votivo candles on hand to light your way. Maybe one or more toys in the sack will be dolls from City Island's own **Doll Shop** (273 City Island Avenue). Or perhaps take a trip to **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (329 City Island Avenue) to find unique gifts, as well as nautical and stained glass treasures. Visit **Ceramics...and More** (30 Pilot Street) for selections by Toby Z. Liederman. Throw in a few gift baskets from **Arabica Coffee & Gift Baskets** (90 City Island Avenue) to finish off the shopping spree!

"Dressed all in fur..." To look your best for the holidays, stop by **Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue). Or drop in to **Personal Touch Hair & Nail Salon** (413 City Island Avenue) for a facial or complete beauty workout. And, while you're there, pick up beauty product baskets or gift certificates for some lucky someone on your shopping list. Maybe just the nails—toes or fingers—are in need of attention as you get festive this Holiday season. Then schedule a visit to **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue). And guys wanting the beauty treatment should stop in at **Flexus Barber Shop II** (464 City Island Avenue).

"Had just settled down for a long winter's nap." **Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast** (586 City Island Avenue) offers four-poster beds for nap-time or any rest time, as well as continental breakfasts at its new location in the historic and elegantly restored 130-year-old Samuel Pell house. You're sure to sleep satisfied after a bite to eat at any one of the nearby restaurants: **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue), **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue), **The Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue) or **The Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue). And have a hot toddy at the Sea Shore's cozy lounge, complete with fireplace and soft leather couches. Carry home a sleepy-time aid

Remember When...

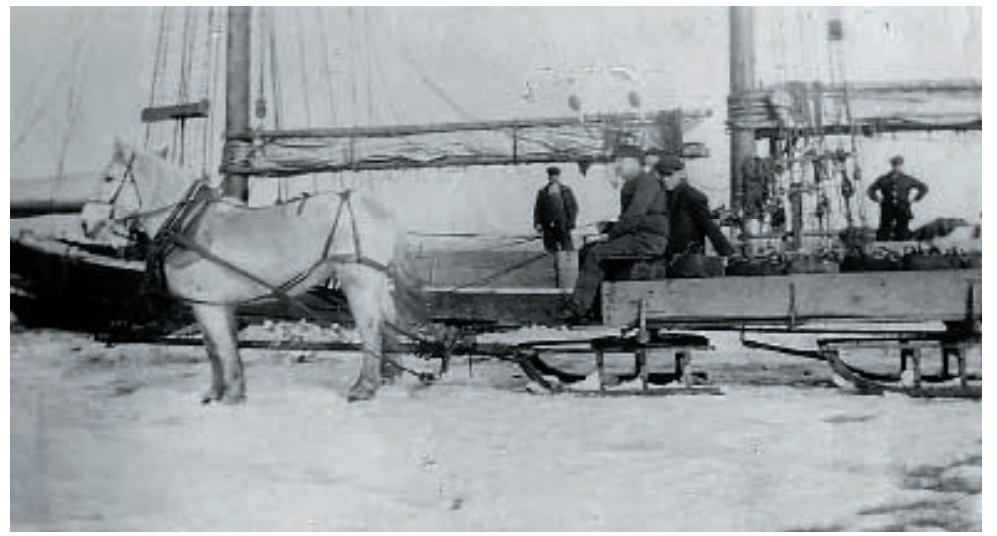


Photo courtesy of The City Island Historical Society

In the old days, solid ice was more common on Long Island Sound and around City Island during harsh winters and often passing vessels could be stranded. Sometimes the ice was thick enough for horse drawn sleighs to cross upon from ships back to shore transporting people and provisions.

from **Main Street Antiques** (278 City Island Avenue)—a beautiful handmade pillow, at a discount price. And while you're there, say "hi" to the mom and baby monkeys in the window, not to mention the giant zebra and some miniature ones too!

"When what to my wondering eyes should appear..." You'll be amazed at the savings on jewelry and craft items, from 30 to 50 percent off, at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue), as photographer/proprietor Ron Terner turns back time to return to the shop's roots as a fine art gallery and photography business. In addition to full photographic services, Focal Point is offering framing, restoration and fine printing of photographs and artwork. Studio portraits for the holidays will also be discounted (25 percent off) and will include an additional 8x10-inch print for free; please make your appointment today! Just down the block, at the **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** (327 City Island Avenue), there's also much to wonder at, a feast of art and furniture creations, by gallery owner Kathy Moses and other artists. The art of Mary Colby and the spirit of the season can always be found during these holidays at **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue).

"And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name." Surely there will be a lot of whistles and shouts of "bravo!" for those musicians "on the menu" at **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) this December. Featured will be the City Island Sea Majors (Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m.), singer-songwriter Sam Leopold (Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m.), the City Island Jazz Trio (Sundays, Dec. 12 and Jan. 2, at 3 p.m.), and an evening of holiday songs by Elizabeth Farnum, with Ken Farnum and Martin Bartolomeo (Saturday, Dec. 18, at 8:30 p.m.). On Saturday, Dec. 4, Starving Artist will host a celebration of the season, complete with tree lighting, holiday songs and story-telling for the young and young-at-heart. Always on the menu are handmade jewelry by owner/jeweler Elliott Glick and fine art / craft by various artists in the continuing "Holiday Group Show"—all perfect for gift-giving! And there's coffee, tea, espresso, cappuccino, daily specials and "Jen's Sweets"—all that you need to relax and refresh after and while you shop.

Perhaps on the morning after all that music at Starving Artist, you can start your next day's spending experience at the **Island Cafe** (205 City Island Avenue), gazing out the new full picture window to look to the peaceful waters past the school's playground. Or maybe **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue) is where you'll head for a quick bite or a cup of java. Later for lunch or dinner, try the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), or stop by the Diner's new **Snug** (302 City Island Avenue) for some hot holiday cider throughout the season. On the weekends, look for caroling out in front of this beautiful new Island storefront, and don't miss the holiday party on Friday, Dec. 17, starting with a visit from Santa from 4 to 7 p.m. and live music from Dawn & Greg beginning at 9 p.m. A block away, there's also plenty of musical times waiting for you at **B&B** (316 City Island Avenue), as well as fine food to fuel up for cold winter nights.

"He sprang to his sleigh..." Hop on board your sleigh, or other means of transportation,

to get to **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) during the holidays. Consider holding a holiday party here; the possibilities are endless. And don't forget about the classic Sunday brunch and the "dinner and a movie" offering on Tuesdays. What are you doing New Year's Eve? Stop in **The Black Whale** and find out what they're featuring, and pick up a gift certificate as a tasty treat for some or several on your shopping list.

Look for the indoor tree at **The Tree House** (273 City Island Avenue) decked out in holiday finery! Feast on delicious northern Mediterranean cuisine and get the details for the restaurants plans for New Year's Eve. Or try a delicious pizza pie on your way home from visiting City Island Avenue shopkeepers, especially after late-night shopping! A gift certificate from the Tree House is one gift no one will exchange. Perhaps spots close to City Island's lighthouse are where you'll want to enjoy a fine meal and a relaxing time. Try **Fran's Trattoria** (105 City Island Avenue), the **Lido Restaurant** (101 City Island Avenue), **Tito Puente's Restaurant and Cabaret** (64 City Island Avenue), **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) or **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue). Or make your way to the middle of the Island and visit the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue) or **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue).

"A wink of his eye..." There's a whimsical and delicious good time awaiting visitors to **Alice's** (296 City Island Avenue) during these weeks before the holidays, not to mention 100 kinds of tea, a takeout counter, breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert, a private party room, and their specialty scones and baked goods. Surely your "spirits" this season or any can be found at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue). Or maybe a fruit basket is the right fit. **Island Produce** (292 City Island Avenue), with fresh fruits and vegetables brought in daily, will make you a basket good enough to eat!

"Went straight to his work..." After business or a long day of the business of shopping and selecting gifts, why not let someone else do the cooking like Chef Rafael of **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), or the chefs at **The Pizza Place** (286 City Island Avenue). Or telephone City Island's very own **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue) and enjoy your meal in your own home. And there's always **Subway** (632 City Island Avenue) or **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue) for a quick bite. Then you might relax—if that's your thing—with a fine cigar from **Hispaniola Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue). Or maybe enjoy your take-home food with a DVD selection from **JTs Island Event** (294 City Island Avenue). While you're there, pick up a gift certificate for that stocking stuffer you've been looking for, or purchase a complete video game system.

"Drove out of sight..." Even after Santa is long out of sight, and Christmas Day is here, you'll still be able to pick up that last minute egg nog or clam dip at **Connie's** (307 City Island Avenue), which will be open briefly that Saturday.

And as we prepare at December's end to say goodbye to another Holiday season, you can almost hear that "jolly old elf" saying to all on our Holiday Island, "and to all a 'Good New Year'!"

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Special Holiday Shopping
December 18 until Midnight

Many shops and galleries will be open until midnight on Saturday, December 18th for your shopping convenience. The restaurants, old and new, invite you for a tasty meal any time during the day or night. Please take this opportunity to support our community businesses and restaurants during the Holiday Season and throughout the year.

Menorah Lighting
December 7, 6PM, Hawkins Street Park

We hope you enjoy the Avenue's Holiday Lights!



City Island Chamber of Commerce
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Phone: 718-885-9100
www.cityislandchamber.org
Information@cityislandchamber.org

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP
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(Required by 39 USC. 3685)


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- Cpl. Charles Brill
- Maj. Hailey A. Clancy
- Maj. Michael N. Clancy
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- CWO Joseph F. Goonan
- Sgt. Michael Joslin
- Lt. Christopher C. Muller
- Spc-4 Colin W. O'Brien
- Spc. Patrick J. Skea
- Sgt. Thomas F. Woods

If you would like to write to any of these active duty personnel, contact Commander Mike Rauh, 550 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464.

BETH RAUH, MUSIC DOCTOR

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

This month clam digger Elizabeth Rauh, the daughter of Judy and Mike Rauh of Centre Street, will receive her doctorate in choral conducting (DMA) from the University of South Carolina, not exactly what she envisioned when she was a student at P.S. 175 during the 1980s.

Nevertheless, music was always a part of her life, even as early as kindergarten, where she remembers singing songs at graduation. She also remembers enjoying Mrs. Rotello's Talented and Gifted shows, in which the students sang Broadway tunes and patriotic songs. "I liked singing in the big group," she told *The Current*, "but didn't think I was very good at it. I knew I could carry a tune, but I couldn't quite hit the high notes, and always tried to find creative ways to avoid them. My model for singing then was my best friend, Melissa Koller, who had a really pretty voice, always sang in tune and could hit all the high notes. I wished I could have a voice like hers."

In spite of her misgivings, Beth believes that her musical career really began at P.S. 175. "My mom says I came home from a Martin Luther King assembly in the first grade, sat down at our piano (probably for the first time) and picked out the notes to 'We Shall Overcome,' which I guess we had sung at the assembly. My parents asked if I wanted piano lessons, so I said sure and began studying with Lorraine Speros of Carroll Street. I took lessons with her until about the seventh grade."

Because Beth was shy, however, she wouldn't play in public, but when she was about 12 or 13, she switched to a new teacher at Ms. Speros's suggestion, someone who could prepare her to get into LaGuardia High School. After she started working with Mary Tanenbaum of New Rochelle, Beth started playing in piano recitals in her teacher's house and actually enjoyed it.

Although Beth was accepted at LaGuardia, she found out that she would have to learn a new instrument, in addition to the piano, so that she could play in an ensemble. That scared her away. "Looking back, I almost wish someone had said to me, 'Sing in the choir. Your

voice can be your instrument!'" But I have no regrets."

Instead, Beth went to Bronx Science, where she didn't study music, except for her private piano lessons. "I remember hearing the choir at Bronx Science and wishing it was something I could do, but I didn't think I had a good voice, and I still couldn't hit any high notes, so I stayed away, although I loved singing the harmony lines to all my favorite songs. But I really was enjoying my piano life at this time, especially playing duets. I played in recitals and competitions—once even at Weill Recital Hall, which is part of Carnegie Hall, and my family came to all sorts of performances. I must have turned a corner and shed my shyness, because I really loved playing for audiences.

"The only part that wasn't working for me at the time was music theory. I hated it! I didn't understand it, didn't like it and didn't want to learn it at all. Fortunately, this would change when I started college."

When she started looking at colleges, Beth thought that she would probably major in psychology and take a few music classes on the side. She didn't want to become a solo performer and didn't think a career in music would provide much income. Fortunately, she chose to attend SUNY Albany, where she met an exceptionally influential teacher, Dr. David Janower (DJ), who saw her talents and got her involved in choirs and eventually in conducting. It took Beth until her sophomore year to declare music as her official major, but she lived the life of a music major from the start. She had two amazing teachers, Dr. Robert Glarner for music theory (who was only there for a year), and DJ for ear-training.

"I didn't like music theory much before college and never quite understood it, but I'm so glad I decided to give it a shot again. It turned out I was really good at it and it was fun! In DJ's class I found out that, though my voice was still untrained, I was a pretty good singer, so I gained some confidence and even began shooting for some of the high notes. Even if it wasn't pretty, I was determined to hit all the right notes."

Making music with others was her specialty,



Beth Rauh.

however. She sought out people for piano duets and eventually played chamber music and piano concertos, and "with singing," as she puts it, "I found some kind of magic in singing with other people."

DJ encouraged her to join his chorale. "I will never forget my first day in choir. I was nervous and wouldn't look around the room much when I first entered. But all that embarrassment and nervousness passed as soon as we started singing. I hung on to the alto line as we sang a few pages of G. F. Bristow's oratorio 'Daniel.' And it was easy! I couldn't get over how good it sounded to be singing one harmony while other harmonies were moving all around me. And that was it: I was hooked on choral music forevermore."

In her sophomore year, Beth started singing with the Chamber Singers, a select *a cappella* ensemble. All over again I was shocked and nervous, sure I wouldn't belong. But DJ needed some altos who could sight-read, and that was me. And again I had a magical experience; it was easy and fun, and I made some of my best friends in that group. A year later I became the president of CS, and shortly after that DJ had me conducting them."

Conducting grew naturally out of Beth's interest in teaching and in taking some kind of leadership role in just about everything she did. She took her first conducting class in her junior year and felt it was the culmination of everything she had done in music to date. She got to be in a leadership position and to make music with many musicians. She became conducting assistant with the orchestra at SUNY too, but her heart was in choral conducting. She also joined DJ's professional group, Albany Pro Musica, and she grew vocally by singing with such good singers. She stayed in the group for the rest of her undergraduate years and looks forward to hearing their concerts now that she is back in New York.

During her five years of undergraduate work, Beth worked as an accompanist for a local choir, Singers for Enjoyment, which sang

popular songs for a lot of nursing homes, and she also played keyboard and helped direct the choir at Christ the King Church. Finally, she earned her B.A. in music, concentrating in music theory.

Deciding at last that music was definitely her future, she looked into every music graduate program in the country (for choral conducting) and chose the University of South Carolina. She began studying there in August 1998 and received her master's degree in choral conducting in May 2000. Without wasting a moment, she dove into the doctorate program, successfully defending her doctoral document on Nov. 4, 2004.

This major work of research, titled "Choral Settings of E. E. Cummings's Seasonal Poetry" enabled Beth to explore her fascination with Cummings's work and with the ways various choral composers brought his words to life through voice. Her favorite piece was "the first of all my dreams" by Bill McGlaughlin, which had first sparked her interest when she sang it in the graduate school choir. "The poem talks about the evolution of a love relationship throughout all four seasons, concluding with Cummings's (and my) favorite, spring. McGlaughlin's choral writing is just perfect—the vocal parts and the piano accompaniment really enhance the meaning of the poem."

Beth is drawn to music in which words and music enhance each other, especially music of the Baroque era. "There is such great text-painting in madrigals and other choral music of the time." She would love to get six or eight people together to sing in an early music group, although she also likes working with larger groups.

During the years she spent on her doctorate, Beth worked in the opera department at USC, where she was the chorus master, although she also coached principal singers and worked with instrumentalists. She was also a teaching assistant in the music theory department, with responsibility for two or three classes each semester. Now that she has finished her degree, Beth will begin looking for a job teaching music in college, hoping that she will be able to give to other students what her own teachers gave to her.

After Beth finished her class work in the summer of 2003, she moved back with her boyfriend to City Island, where she lives on Centre Street in a small house she rents from her parents. She has been serving as director of music ministries at Holy Child Jesus Church in Richmond Hill, Queens, playing organ and piano for Masses. When she started, there was one small choir, but now there are five (adult English, adult Spanish, teen English, youth English and youth Spanish), and she is thinking about starting a sixth (for senior citizens).

So far as the future is concerned, that will depend on the college lucky enough to hire her, but she suspects that she might find herself back in the South. "We are happy here, but I got spoiled by the beautiful weather of South Carolina while away at graduate school."

Meanwhile, now that Beth has more free time on her hands, she will probably turn her attention to arranging some songs for choir. "I like two of my arrangements ('Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' and 'Down in the River to Pray'), and the choirs I've passed them around to seem to really like them too, so I'll probably try to get them published somewhere. And I have a bunch of other songs already in my head that I'll start work arranging soon. I really got into Southern folk tunes while in the South. Those songs are probably where I'll start next."

Wherever she lands next, Dr. Beth Rauh will undoubtedly become an integral part of the community, for surely, as the old rhyme has it, "she will have music wherever she goes." We

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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

DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 4, **Grace Episcopal Church Crafts Fair and Bake Sale**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. City Island Avenue and Pilot Street.

Tues., Dec. 7, **Hanukkah Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 4 p.m., sponsored by Temple Beth-El and the Chamber of Commerce.

Sat. Dec. 4 to Sun. Dec. 12, **POTS Christmas Giving Program**, St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church or Exotiq, 280 City Island Avenue. Donate new articles of clothing, including sweatshirts and pants, gloves, hats or socks. Call 718-885-2137 for information or see article this issue.

Sat. Dec. 18, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street; drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Cooked ham with sliced potatoes.

Sat., Dec. 18, **Holiday Island Shopping**, 1 p.m. to midnight, City Island Avenue.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JANUARY

Thurs., Jan. 20, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Villa Barone Restaurant, 3289 Westchester Ave., Bronx.

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

FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 5, **Art for the Heart Auction**, 6:30 p.m., Morris Yacht Club, 25 City Island Ave. Sponsored by the PTA of P.S. 175.

Chapter 318 AARP

Chapter 318 always meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church hall at 113 Bay Street. We have blood pressure readings taken on the first meeting of every month between 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. We also have a notary public available before and after each meeting to notarize any document free of charge. Please see Margaret Iacone.

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Dec. 14. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street. Call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

Our annual Christmas luncheon is on Friday, Dec. 3, at the Marina del Rey. There will be an open bar, cocktail hour and music by Johnny Dell. Please come and join us, as this is a great affair for only \$40. Please see Gloria Salacan or Florence Quinn for reservations.

The Christmas party for our members will be on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Please remember to bring a grab bag gift worth at least \$5. Ladies should bring gifts for ladies; men will bring gifts for men.

We are under way for 2005. For starters, Flo Bonicoro has scheduled an overnight trip to Atlantic City on Feb. 22 and 23. Please try to come, as this is a wonderful trip. Reservations are going fast. Other trips scheduled: March: Westbury; April: Ace in the Hole; May: Polkafest in Mt. Haven, Pennsylvania. For prices and more information, please attend our next meeting and see Flo Bonicoro or Marie Tirelli.

Marie Tirelli

Chapter 3303 AARP

The New York AARP office has notified us that this state has more than 400,000 children living in households headed by a grandparent or other relative. Under current law, it can be difficult for grandparents who do not have legal custody of the children in their care to make important health and school related decisions. The Caregiver Consent Bill, which would fix this

problem, passed the legislature earlier this year. Now the governor needs to sign this legislation into law. Please call Governor Pataki toll free at 1-800-295-5855 and urge him to sign the bill (S.6818-A.11079) into law. Help give grandparents the help they need in raising their grandchildren. We urge all our members and other interested citizens to make this important call to the governor.

Although there is a shortage of the flu vaccine at the present time, the chapter is asking our members who haven't received their flu shots to continue calling hospitals and health clinics often. Hopefully they will receive the vaccine so that our members can get their flu shots.

On Thursday, Dec. 16, beginning at 12 noon, we will hold our annual Christmas celebration at the beautiful Davenport Beach Club in New Rochelle. It will include a cocktail hour, open bar, dinner, dancing entertainment, sing-a-long and much more.

Prices and more details for these events will be discussed at our meetings or call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

City Island Theater Group

We are proud to announce that our production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" was a success. Our last three performances were sold out! What a great way to end the 2004 season, which was filled with many successes. A big thank you goes out to the City Island community for its continued support.

Our next production, Noel Coward's romantic comedy "Private Lives" will be presented in February, our first show in our 2005 season. Auditions will be on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. A weekend audition date will also be assigned; call 718-885-3066 for further information. The auditions will be held at Grace Church, 104 City Island Avenue.

All are welcome to come to our annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church. This is a great way to learn more about the theater group and to join the fun. We will elect new members and officers of the board of directors, as well as closing out the year and looking ahead to the future. The more who come to the meeting the merrier. We would love to hear your comments. Hope to see you there.

It's time to haul out the holly, so be on the lookout for the City Island Theater Group singing Christmas carols at The Snug. If you see us, join in. As always, we wish everyone a happy, healthy and, of course, theatrical holiday! See you at the theater!

Nick Sala

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, "Your Shul by the Sea," a welcoming Jewish Renewal Congregation, conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue, (between Beach and Bowne Streets).

Rabbi Shohama will lead the services on Dec. 3 and our Torah study group continues on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Rabbinical students Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper will lead the group on Dec. 4 and 18, respectively. (Daniel will start his group with a short Spirituality Service.)

The community lighting of our menorah in Hawkins Park will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, the first night of



Photo by BOB BERENT

A special musical Shabbat celebrating the 350th anniversary of Jews in America was held on Friday, Nov. 19, at Temple Beth-El. The program highlighted Jewish music by American composers, including the temple's cantor, Elaine Faver. Shown here is Rabbi Shohama, who led the celebration, dancing with Cheryl Berent and other congregants.

Hanukkah. Please join us and bring your friends.

Our annual Hanukkah party will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Join us for a very special afternoon with Rabbi Shohama, musical storyteller Akiva Wharton and the wonderful magic of David Fletcher. There will be crafts for the kids, kosher hot dogs, lots of potato pancakes, applesauce, cold drinks, coffee, tea and delicious desserts, plus a special raffle drawing. Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 children.

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

Classes led by Rabbi Wiener offer Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind (SHOHAM) and will be conducted on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The classes are a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the priests of biblical Israel. Free for members; \$15 per class for non-members.

Yoga-Tai Chi classes, led by Marc Kaplan, continue on Tuesdays, Dec. 14, 21 and 28, from 6 to 7 p.m. His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

We wish all our friends and neighbors a most happy holiday and healthy New Year.

Visit our Web site at www.yourshulby-thesea.org.

Bob Berent

Cub Scout Pack 211 News

The Cub Scouts of Pack 211 are in full swing. Our young boys are enjoying themselves immensely and working toward their badges.

On Oct. 30, the entire pack, along with their families, went to Alpine Boy Scout Camp for a day filled with festivities. Our young boys learned how to shoot at the archery field. They all participated in a scary skit and visited the legendary haunted house.

At the November pack night, some of the boys were recognized for their achievements and later on were entertained by the infamous "John the Magician."

On Dec. 17, we will perform our annual Christmas caroling at Pilot Cove for our respected elders.

The cookbook fundraiser is going well, just a few books left. Great gift idea! See your local Cub Scout.

Angelo Bellocchio, Cub Master

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

Tuesday, Dec. 7: Menorah Lighting in Hawkins Park, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12: Hanukkah Celebration, 2 p.m., with Rabbi Shohama Wiener and entertainment.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

Sunday, Dec. 12: Pastor Sue's open house.

Sunday, Dec. 19: Children's Christmas pageant, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street

Saturday, Dec. 11: Celebration of New Ministry and Institution of The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve. Festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist with music, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 26: First Sunday after Christmas. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with Christmas music, 10 a.m.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

City Island Avenue near the Bridge

Saturday, Dec. 18: Confessions, 4:30 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19: Lessons and carols concert, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, carols at 7:15 p.m. and masses at 8 p.m. and midnight.

Saturday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon. No 5:15 p.m. mass.

Sunday, Dec. 26: Masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

Saturday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day masses at 8 a.m. and 12 noon. Feast of Mary, Mother of God, No. 5:15 p.m.

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If you wish to submit, for inclusion in this column, information regarding events and activities at the City Island Community Center, please call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202 no later than the 15th of each month, except December and July. Leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Ongoing Events

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192.

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

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

Art Classes: A show of work from "Building Blocks," "Patterns from around the World" and "Experiments with Paper and Paint" will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. These classes are funded in part by a grant from the Bronx Council on the Arts. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

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

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

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

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-885-2011.

Photography Classes: For adults and teens. Call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

Step Aerobics Classes: Sundays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Mondays and Wednesdays 7 to 8:00 p.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

Yoga: Basic level Hatha Yoga classes include yoga postures, deep relaxation and breathing practices, and stress management for peace of mind and physical well-being. Call Annette at 718-885-0724 for further information.

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

City Island Civic Association

Pastor Sue will host her annual open The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association (CICA) will be on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2005, at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. The meeting will start promptly at 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and neighbor.

It was voted in September to have our monthly meetings start at 7:30 p.m., instead of 8 p.m. Make note of the new time; also note that there is no meeting in December.

At the January meeting we will continue our discussion of possible changes in the constitution and by-laws of the organization. One suggestion is that officer elections be held every two years with the terms of half of the officers up for an election in alternate years. Copies of the current constitution will be available for members to take home. A committee will be formed to take on this project.

It has been agreed by both the Chamber of Commerce and CICA that representations of each organization will meet regularly to confer on Island issues.

Don't forget the '311' Citizen Service Center for access to all non-emergency City Services and to register complaints on quality of life issues.

Happy holidays to all.

Frank Fitts, President

City Island Nautical Museum

Our "Remembering Skippy Lane" evening was a great success. In spite of the inclement weather, more than 20 people came to share their memories of Skippy. Author Katherine Kirkpatrick sent in her memoir of Skippy's role in her first novel, "Keeping the Good Light" (see reprint in this issue), and photographer Susan Farley donated her portrait of Skippy to the museum in his memory.

The evening was also memorable because of Jane Protzman's marvelous photographs of water around the world—from glaciers to tropic seas—taken during her trips in recent years. The exhibition will be on display through the winter so come and visit us at 190 Fordham Street. We are open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

We are still renovating the Community Room and preparing to work on the School Room and Office. Anyone who is willing to volunteer their time would be very welcome. Call Tom Nye at 718-885-1700 to find out what help he needs.

Now that the end of the year is here, it's time to renew your membership in the CIHS, or to open up a membership for yourself or for a friend (a great holiday present for residents past and present). Regular individual memberships are \$20, seniors and juniors \$10 and families \$25. Please send your check to City Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 82, City Island, NY 10464.

We also have an endowment fund that needs to grow, and donations would be more than welcome. Remember that we are a tax-exempt organization, which means that all donations are tax deductible.

With best wishes to all for the holidays and the New Year.

Barbara Dolensek



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The annual Servicemen's Dance was held at Post 156 of the American Legion on Nov. 20, 2004. The kitchen crew (shown above) led by Bob Menona helped make the evening a social and financial success.

Legion News

The month of November found many Islanders remembering their departed friends and neighbors. Memorial masses were said for Michael and Annabelle Hecker, brother and sister of past Commander Vincent Hecker. On Tuesday, Nov. 16, a funeral mass for Anne Costello was celebrated at St. Mary's. An Army nurse during World War II, Anne served in the European Theater of Operations. For more on Anne, see her obituary in this issue.

On Friday, Nov. 12, Islanders paid homage to Captain Frederick "Skippy" Lane at a gathering held at the City Island Nautical Museum. Those present contributed tales about his myriad adventures on the Island and at sea. Born on City Island, Skippy was a bona fide clam digger. One adventure worthy of mention was that of a dead deer on Lane's Beach, which they removed and transported to the City Island Bridge. Skippy provided block and tackle and the deer was hoisted to the top of the bridge. The operation was completed before dawn and at first light, a motorist saw the deer but thought that it was a man. A call to the 45th Precinct brought police, emergency units, harbor police and ambulances. The coroner, after a cursory examination of the deceased, declared it a deer. Although a number of Islanders knew the culprits, their identity was never revealed and to this day, the case is among the unsolved in the 45th Precinct cold case files.

For those of you who subscribe to The Bronx Times Reporter, a large photograph of the ceremony marking Veterans Day appeared on the front page of the Nov. 18 issue, and a photograph is also in this issue of *The Current*. Present at Veterans Grove were Mike Rauh, commander, John Ulmer, Dave Carman sergeant at arms, and Ed Shipp. A formidable foursome indeed. Since I did not participate in the Throggs Neck Veterans Day parade, I cannot comment on it.

The Post Servicemen's Dance was a social and financial success. The kitchen crew, supervised by retired General Bob Menona, did an excellent job.

The Sons of the American Legion Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be held Saturday, Dec. 4. The names of those who met their untimely demise in World War II will be read and a wreath will be placed at the monument at the bridge.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, Santa Claus will visit the Post for the annual children's party.

Regular meetings will be Monday, Dec. 6 and Monday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The Post annual Christmas party will be held on Monday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. This festive event always attracts a large crowd. Come early for parking and good seats.

If you're wondering why no flags appeared on the avenue between Bowne and Cross Streets, it's because my new volunteers did not materialize. Could be that the weather was a little brisk on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

If you know of anyone in the service, let us know. For an update of Islanders serving in Iraq, see my article in this issue.

For you World War II buffs, the Battle of the Bulge began on Dec. 16, 1944, 60 years ago, and the siege of Bastogne ended on Dec. 26, 1944.

Until 2005, at ease.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Pastor Sue will host her annual open house at the parsonage on Sunday, Dec. 12, starting at 3 p.m. All are welcome to come and join Pastor Sue during this time.

On Dec. 19, children in the Sunday school will have their annual Christmas pageant, which is held during the regular 10 a.m. service. Their Christmas party in Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

Our Candlelight Service will be held on Friday, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m.

George Cavalieri will end his current bible study course on Dec. 12. He will resume a new course in the spring during the six weeks of Lent.

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located on the corner of City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, will officially welcome its new priest-in-charge, the Reverend Patricia Alexander, on Saturday, Dec. 11. The Celebration of New Ministry service will begin at 10 a.m. and be followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. The service will be officiated by Right Reverend Catherine Roskam, who led the parish in celebration of the Holy Eucharist for five consecutive Sundays this summer.

Rev. Alexander, also referred to as "Mother Patty," actually began serving our community in mid-September and is responsible for initiating many new and exciting church activities. Throughout its history, which began in 1849, the church has been led by other priests, but Mother Patty holds the distinction of being its first female leader. Before this assignment, she served as priest associate at the Parish of Christ the Redeemer in Pelham and assistant at Saint Matthew's Church in Bedford, New York. Before earning a Master of Divinity degree at the Virginia Theological Seminary in 2001, she was a research assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury in England.

After graduating from Yale University in 1998, Rev. Alexander was employed as an elementary and middle-school teacher at the Greenwich County Day School. She is married to Rev. Randolph Alexander Jr. (rector of Christ the Redeemer in Pelham), and they have two children, William, age three, and Peter, a one-year old.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join the celebration on Dec. 11. For more information, please call the parish office at 718-885-1080.

Joe Nixon

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Public School 175

The kindergarten children are continuing to learn about letters and sounds and how they blend together to make words. In math they are studying graphs and patterns. The children are also learning about how holidays are celebrated throughout the world and preparing for the annual holiday show in late December.

The first-graders recently attended a music outreach concert at Lehman College. In cooperation with Lincoln Center, the children have made important connections between the journey of the pilgrims to the New World and that of present-day refugees to our shores.

Grade 2 has been working on special projects with Ms. Patty from Lincoln Center and have begun reading their holiday literature.

The third-graders have been assigned their first International Day project. They will each conduct an informal interview with a person who immigrated to the United States in order to obtain a better understanding of another culture and time period.

The fourth grade will be going on a trip to Gracie Mansion as part of a study of New York. The children have also started writing their autobiographies/memoirs, which is a major project this year.

Mrs. Fateman and Mrs. Mazzella have announced that this year the fifth grade will put on a production of "Fiddler on the Roof Jr."

The sixth grade has just finished an intensive unit on Mesopotamia and is now beginning a new unit on ancient Egypt.

The seventh-graders will attend the Chamber Theatre Company at SUNY Purchase. This year the students will watch as actors bring to life some classic tales by Edgar Allan Poe, such as "The Black Cat" and "The Cask of Amontillado." Ms. Horowitz has many interesting assignments that the students will complete to prepare them for this wonderful event.

Grade 8 is working hard in math, language arts and social studies to prepare for the major exams they will have to take at the end of this school year. This is an intensive year for the students and the expectations are high.

The New York State Library provides city schools with free access to a vast collection of on-line information resources via NOVEL (New York Online Virtual Electronic Library). Children will be taught how to access these resources and use them correctly.

Special thanks to Mr. Weis for supplying the music at this year's Halloween party and for taking pictures during the special events at P.S. 175.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

November was a very busy month. The eighth-graders took the TACHS exam (Test for Admission to Catholic High Schools). Some students also took tests for specialized city high schools. We anxiously await our results.

The Thanksgiving holiday was centered on the theme of gratitude. Students read and did art and music projects that embody the spirit of gratitude for all with which they have been blessed.

On Thursday, Nov. 18, the Archdiocesan Mission Team came to give a marvelous presentation on the role of the missions and what individuals can do. Sister Pauline spoke about how each one of us can make a difference.

In conjunction with our mission presentation, we held a Thanksgiving Mission Awareness Day. Arts and crafts, sports and food, and fun, fun, fun, were had by all. A substantial sum of money was made and will be divided between the religious congregations on City Island. It is a day we hope will become a great tradition for St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

Turkey Bingo was a great success and everyone had fun. Thank you to all who came out and supported us. The proceeds will be used to help furnish the new art/media center on the second floor of the school. Thanks to all who volunteered for these events. Nothing can be accomplished alone.

As December comes upon us, we are readying ourselves for Christmas with Advent preparation. December's theme is "Stay awake, be ready. . . Jesus will come to us soon." The children begin each morning by lighting an Advent candle. Each candle is significant in the preparation for Christmas. Songs are sung and prayers are said. We remember especially our troops at this time. We pray for peace and an end to violence in our world.

As you walk through St. Mary's halls, the sound of music permeates the air as the children prepare for their Christmas shows, which will be held on Dec. 20 and 21. We especially want to invite senior citizens from Pilot Cove to come and see our shows. We will be sending out more information as we get closer to the date.

On Dec. 5, Pre-K through Grade 3 will be seeing the Tom Hanks film "The Polar Express." The classes have been involved in creative projects based on the classic Chris Van Allsburg story.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our open house, which will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 15. Feel free to come in for a look and a cup of coffee from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. See what St. Mary, Star of the Sea has to offer you and your children.

Needless to say, the school year is well under way. We are very proud of some wonderful changes that have taken place. Our newly renovated kindergarten, our new state-of-the-art sound system, and the beginning stages of a new media/art center are only some of the great things happening here at St. Mary, Star of the Sea.



Photographer Rick DeWitt celebrating his opening of City Island pictures at Ron Turner's Focal Point Gallery. Pictured are (back row, l. to r.): Ron Turner, wife Susan holding their daughter Ruby, Laury Hopkins, and Rick DeWitt. Front row: Nancy Adams, Gwyneth Hopkins, Miriam and Joe Nixon.

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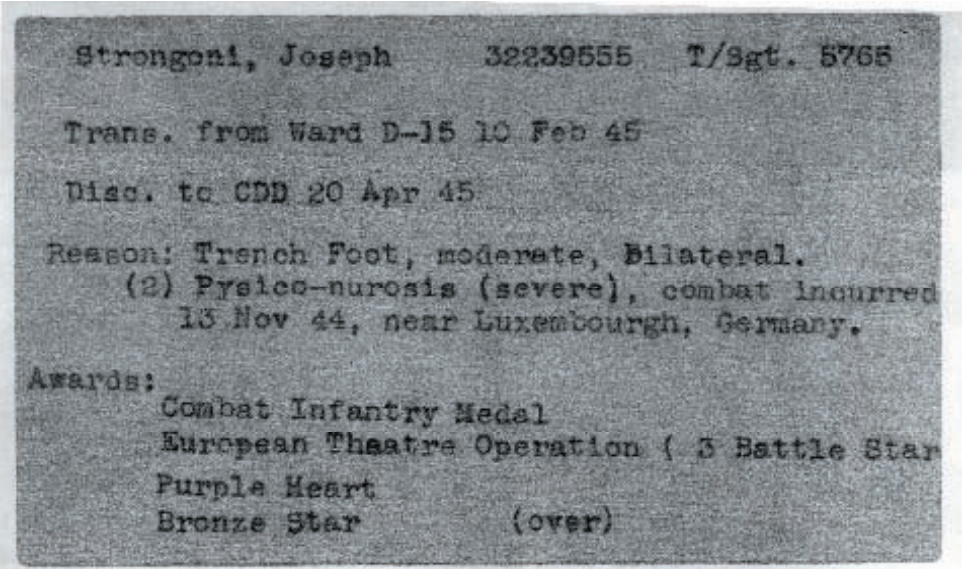
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JOSEPH STRONGONI: C.I.'s Modest Silver Star

By RUSSELL SCHALLER



Joseph Strongoni was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star and other military honors for his bravery during World War II. Above is the front page of his Presidential Citation for "leadership and gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty."

This is the story of one of your neighbors who served with distinction in the European Theater of Operations during World War II: Joseph Strongoni, Tech. Sergeant with the 51st Armored Infantry, 4th Armored Division, 3rd U.S. Army. He was awarded the highest military honors, but he is modest about his bravery and survival.

Like many Islanders, Joe is not a clam digger. He was born in the Bronx, one of three brothers along with Andrew and Anthony. He came to City Island in 1935 to reside with his grandmother. He attended P.S. 17 and went on to Theodore Roosevelt High School majoring in Language Arts and graduating with an academic diploma.

These were the Depression years and jobs were hard to find, but Joe found work as a mail clerk while he studied voice at the Henry Street Settlement in Manhattan. As a tenor, he sang classical numbers at church services, weddings and other occasions.

Late in 1941, the winds of war had reached a crescendo and on Sunday, Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor was bombed. We were at war and a patriotic fervor swept City Island. Young men enlisted, most just teenagers. Joe and his brothers soon found themselves in the service, Joe and Andrew in the Army and Anthony in the Coast Guard.

Most Islanders inducted into the Army would find Fort Dix, New Jersey, their first home away from home. Joe arrived there in Feb. 1942. His training then began at Pine Camp in upstate New York, where the weather was extremely cold and it snowed most every day.

Joe longed for the spring, but when it arrived he was on his way to California and the Mojave Desert. This was training ground for troops destined for North Africa. However, preparations for the invasion of Europe were in progress and Joe's division was dispatched

to southern England. The journey across the Atlantic was not without tragedy. Several ships in the convoy, which left Boston, were attacked by a German Wolf Pack and sunk.

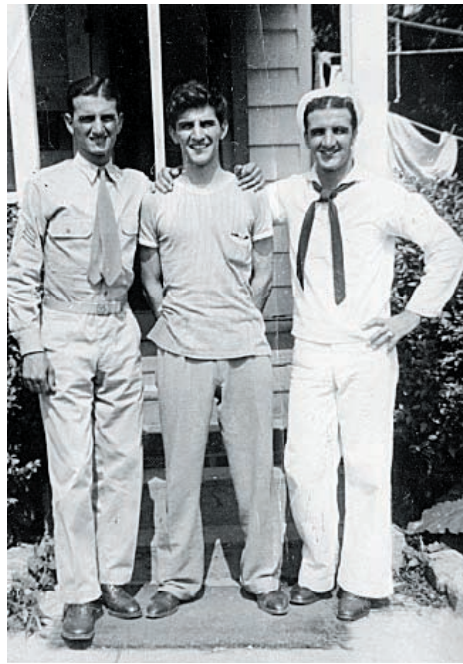
The arduous trip over, Joe arrived in Plymouth, England. Housed in Quonset huts and fed a diet of powdered potatoes, spam and Brussels sprouts, Joe adapted well to his new environment. The training was rigorous to prepare the troops for what lie ahead.

On June 5, 1942, Joe's unit was loaded aboard a Landing Ship Tank for the journey across the English Channel. The rough waters caused many to become seasick. Arriving off Omaha Beach in the early hours of D-Day, June 6, the troops on Joe's ship were transferred to a smaller landing craft and headed for Omaha Beach. By nightfall, over 2,000 men had been killed on Omaha and 3,000 had been wounded. Joe, in the first wave, had miraculously survived.

Sgt. Buster Hamlett from the 116th Infantry Regiment described the scene on D-Day. "As I walked painfully back to the beach, thousands of parts of bodies lined it. You could walk on bodies, as far as you could see along the beach, without touching the ground. Parts of bodies - heads, arms, and legs - floated in the sea. As I stepped between my comrades, I realized what being in the first wave was about."

Joe vividly recalls the Normandy hedgerows. They divided large tracts of land into small fields. Because of their density, they were natural hiding places for small bands of enemy soldiers and snipers. Joe's platoon suffered high casualties fighting an invisible enemy. He recalled talking to a soldier next to him, hearing a ping, and then silence as the soldier fell dead on the ground.

There are many small hamlets in Normandy, most if not all built around a Catholic Church. Towns like this had to be taken by the Infantry, house by house. It was in such a town



Islander Joseph Strongoni and his brothers, Andrew and Anthony (top photo, l. to r.), all served during World War II and survived. Joe and Andrew served in the Army and Anthony was in the Coast Guard. Joe is shown in the center of the bottom photo with his platoon in France in 1942. The platoon had a brief respite from fighting after D-Day when General Patton's Third Army ran out of gasoline. After fighting resumed, none of the other soldiers in the photo survived. The photograph was taken by a French girl, who sent it to Joe after the war.



that Joe would earn his first medal, the Bronze Star.

Standing aside a front door, Joe kicked in the door, observed and heard nothing. As his eyes adjusted to the changing light, he realized that he was face to face with a squad of German soldiers, weapons ready. Joe felt his knees weaken as he barked an order to surrender. To his surprise, they put their weapons down and were taken prisoners.

There were a number of humorous incidents too. In the Armored Infantry, troops travel via

vehicles called half tracks. They are fast and mobile having tracks in lieu of rear wheels. Their armor is relatively light. On a reconnaissance mission, Joe and a squad of his men came upon a train bound for Berlin. On board was a cache of currency, monies evidently taken from captured American troops.

Joe had his men fill a duffel bag with the unexpected largess. The duffel bag was tied to the rear of the half track and the happy warriors headed back to their base. The Germans however were not far off. A near miss from a mortar round ruptured the duffel and scattered the money. Oblivious to their own safety, Joe and his men began chasing the bills, the dispersion of which was now aided by a brisk breeze.

It was at Metz, in France, that General Patton's 3rd Army literally ran out of gas. It seems that gasoline for Patton's troops was diverted to General Montgomery's forces. While this unscheduled respite was welcomed by Joe's platoon, it was not the case for the general. The delay allowed the German Army more time to bolster the defenses in the vicinity of Metz and Nancy.

It was here that Joe would earn the Silver Star and also almost lose his life.

A platoon consisted of 60 men and was led by a lieutenant. The survival rate of lieutenants during the invasion was not very good. Joe wisely turned down a field commission and remained a tech sergeant. In this capacity, he still led his platoon for as many as 35 days. Of the original 60 men in his platoon, 59 would be killed or wounded.

Joe was hit in the vicinity of Metz. His platoon, which he was leading at the time, was engaged with the fanatic Hitler Jungen. Although only teenagers, they would fight to the end. A mortar shell fell among a group of soldiers, Joe being among them. Most were killed, but Joe recalled a medic standing over him saying, "this one is still alive." His last recollection was of being placed on the hood of a Jeep for transport to a field hospital. Joe woke up in a military Hospital in England. After spending over seven months in the Mayo Clinic in the U.S., Joe was released in April 1945.

Joe came back to City Island where he met and married his wife Mary. Joe and Mary have a daughter, Michelle, a survivor of the World Trade Center tragedy. Joe worked 38 years for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. He is a member of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 on the Island.

His myriad awards include, the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Medal, European Theater of Operations (three Battle Stars), the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, a Presidential Citation for Leadership and Gallantry, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Award.

Joe is the epitome of the 'Greatest Generation.' Should you see him on the street, just say thanks to this modest hero.

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REMEMBERING SKIPPY LANE

by KATHERINE KIRKPATRICK

Author Katherine Kirkpatrick, a former Islander, prepared a special memoir read aloud at the gathering in honor of the memory of Skippy Lane, held at the City Island Nautical Museum on Friday, Nov. 12, 2004.

One day, as I was riding my bicycle down City Island Avenue, balancing my groceries on the handlebars, a car followed me. A heavysset, older man with cropped, white hair rolled down his window. In a gruff but friendly voice he called out, "Want a ride?"

That was my first memory of Skippy Lane. It was the summer of 1990, just after I'd moved to City Island, when I was in my mid 20s. I didn't give Skippy my groceries to transport that day. But soon after that we became friends. Everywhere I'd go on the Island I'd see him.

Why is it that on City Island, the home of more than 5,000 people, it's always the same 50 you keep running into? That's one of the great joys of living on the island. You can form friendships and a sense of community almost instantly. The only requirement is that you remain open to having new experiences. Then all those wonderfully unique individuals, City Island clam diggers—such as Skippy Lane, retired captain of oil tankers—welcome you.

Skippy liked nothing better than acting as tour guide to newcomers. He loved City Island as I grew to love it, too, and he was proud of it. I'm wondering how many hundreds of people he showed around the Island in his lifetime. If I ever had visitors, I brought them over to Skippy's house to see his living room of nautical treasures. Then Skippy would take us on a drive, cruising at ten miles an hour, with cars honking at us from behind.

Here's the house where he was born, he'd

say. Here's his old school, now condos. Here's the former location of an old shipyard, where he'd go when he was supposed to be at school. Here's a street that was under water during the hurricane of 1938. The tour usually had a few moments of real excitement: Vicious guard dogs barked at us as we pulled up to the white mansion owned by, according to Skippy, the mafia.

Skippy enjoyed showing the places in Pelham Bay Park where gangsters buried their victims. It was often Skippy himself who would tip off the police; Skippy had an unusually keen sense of smell and, from his 40 years at sea, knew the scent of a corpse. Besides, who else but Skippy would be poking about Pelham Bay Park at 5 in the morning? His daily, early-morning routine included dropping off a newspaper and coffee to the park ranger.

It was Skippy who first pointed out to me that gulls always face into the wind. It was Skippy who took me to see a 300-year-old tree on the golf course off Shore Road. Skippy possessed sharp powers of observation and an eye for beauty. He had an excellent memory, a love of history, especially maritime history, and liked to read. Through him I learned a great deal, especially since he repeated himself so much. If I missed some of the details in the first go-around of a story, I'd be sure to hear them again.

Creating a book together gave our friendship focus. Skippy referred to "Keeping the Good Light" as "our book" and that's accurate. Though I did all the writing, Skippy provided much of the historical background and many ideas that helped to shape the plot. I wanted to write a historical novel set on City Island but couldn't decide which time period. Skippy



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

At the Nautical Museum's evening to honor Skippy Lane on Nov. 12, 2004, many Islanders shared their stories about Skippy and a great time was had by all. Susan Farley donated her portrait photograph of Skippy to the museum in his memory, and Katherine Kirkpatrick, author of "Keeping the Good Light" wrote a special memoir (this page).

chose the year 1903. That way, we could include one of Skippy's favorite America's Cup winners, the *Reliance*. Skippy wanted to make sure I presented City Island at its very best, in its heyday as a yacht-building center.

In the book, one of the main characters dies. In an early draft, the death occurred on the *Reliance*. Skippy was incensed. "You're maligning the reputation of a great sailing vessel," he said. "All right," I replied. "Then help me come up with the details for another tragedy. We need a shipwreck." I'm so glad I asked Skippy that request. It prompted him to tell me about the time he'd witnessed the wrecking of a schooner on a reef near City Island as a young boy. We used this dramatic story, changing the real-life names.

Skippy himself made a cameo appearance in the novel as Captain Elijah Gildersleeve. My main character, Eliza, who lives at Stepping Stones lighthouse, writes a message in a bottle and throws it out to sea. Captain Gildersleeve finds the bottle. I wrote this episode because Skippy had a hobby of releasing drift bottles during his voyages around the world.

Several times during the writing of the book, Skippy took me out to Stepping Stones lighthouse in his Rhodes 19. Because there was no place to dock, we'd circle around the lighthouse. To see the lighthouse up close, I'd swim to it.

One time I climbed up the ladder of the lighthouse and found the padlock on the front door unlocked. What luck! I crept inside. I flipped a switch and was surprised when a light turned on. I climbed up the spiral stairs to the very top of the tower and waved at Skippy. I was having so much fun exploring that I didn't return to the boat for fifteen minutes. Tears ran down Skippy's face when he saw me. "I didn't know what happened to you. I thought you'd been electrocuted!"

Another time Skippy taught me to row. There's a scene in the book in which Eliza rows from the lighthouse to City Island. Skippy said I'd gotten my details all wrong. So he stood on the beach of Horton Street shouting orders at me as I reenacted the drama.

Skippy read every draft of "Keeping the Good Light." Unfortunately, he tended to call me up on the phone every 15 minutes to give his critique. He'd go on a sort of tirade, insisting, for example, that I take out the word "boat" and use "vessel" or "yacht" instead. "It's an insult to call a great vessel a boat," he'd say. He even caught grammatical errors and misspellings that a professional copy editor failed

to detect. Remarkable for someone with an eighth-grade education.

One of my favorite memories of Skippy was at my 30th birthday party in April of 1994. About a hundred people came. Skippy sat in the middle of a couch, in the center of all the action, telling stories. It was a happy time because I'd just learned that Delacorte Press was going to publish my novel. My sister came to the party from Virginia. She decorated a cake with a picture of Stepping Stones lighthouse.

Authors rarely meet their jacket artists. But in my case, the jacket artist for "Keeping the Good Light" visited me on City Island. He wanted to take pictures of someone posing in a rowboat. Skippy provided his turn-of-the-century pram and even gave it a new coat of paint for the occasion. I sat in the boat wearing a period dress. Later, it delighted Skippy to see his pram on the cover of the novel, but he demanded to know why I didn't appear in the illustration.

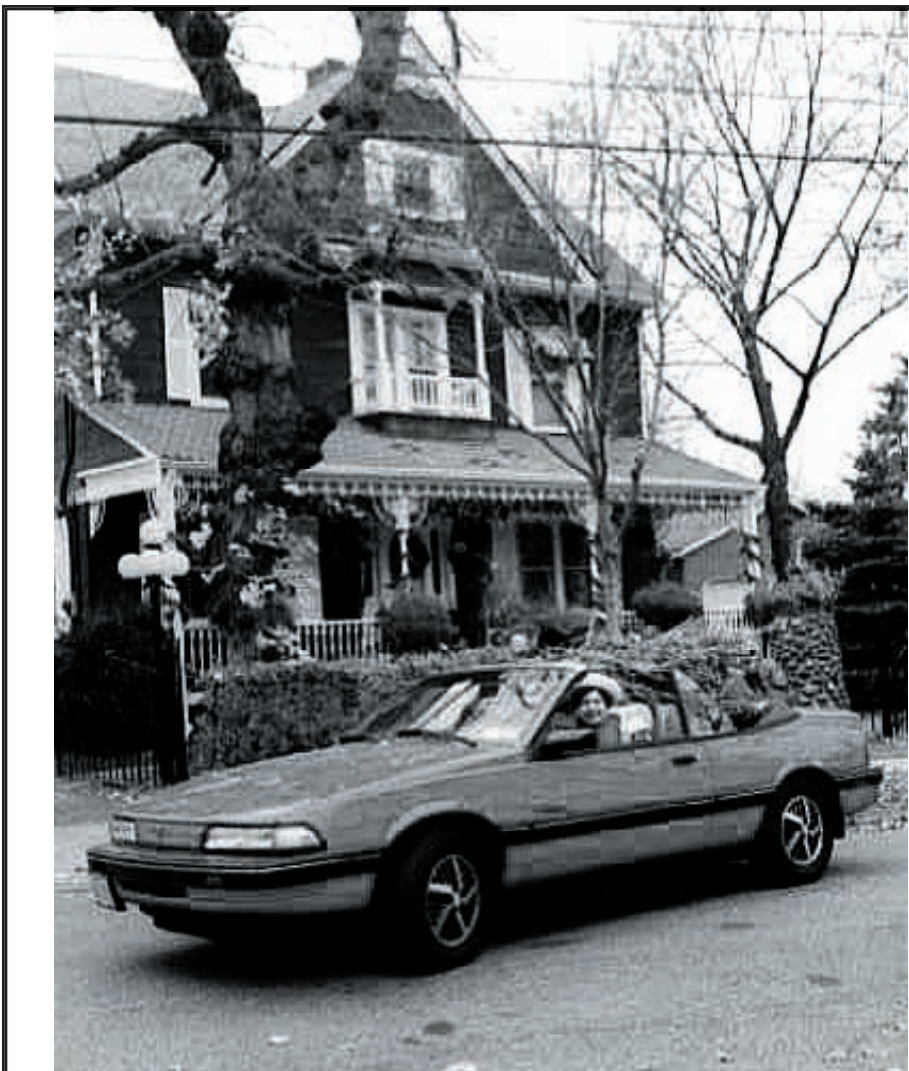
Seeing the book published was, I believe, a highpoint of Skippy's life as well as my own. Over the years, he read drafts of my next few novels, too. As Skippy's health declined, he left his home less often, and our excursions became less frequent. I still stopped by his house regularly, though, until I married and moved from the Island to Seattle in 1999.

The last time I saw Skippy in person was in June of 2001. My visit to City Island was constrained because my husband and I had our twin baby girls with us. Skippy wasn't able to come to my friend's gathering because, by that time, he could hardly walk and no longer drove a car. When the party was over I persuaded my husband to let us spend a little more time on the Island so I could see Skippy. We drove to his house where he was waiting on his porch. I carried my babies in their car seats up to Skippy so he could see their faces.

When I learned of Skippy's death this fall, I'd just been getting ready to send a copy of my fifth published book to him at his nursing home. He would have been proud.

I often think of Skippy and remember the nine years I spent on City Island with great fondness. I never loved a place as much as I loved City Island. Skippy and I shared that same feeling for the Island.

I'll close with one of Skippy's phrases: "Old sailors never die, they just lose mooring." Where has Skippy gone now? I like to think he is off somewhere, having more adventures around the world, or in the universe at large.



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The McGowan family expresses its sincere thanks to the City Island community for its support and kind words on the passing of our beloved mother, Barbara. Your kindness is appreciated.



The Miracle of Believing

J. M. Barrie (played by Johnny Depp), the Scottish playwright who created the children's classic "Peter Pan," is the subject of the biopic **Finding Neverland**, "based on true events." With a bit of literary license, this tells the story of the childless Barrie's encounter with Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet), a widow with four sons, and of the attachment he forms with the entire family. Their relationship is greatly disturbing to Barrie's beautiful but rather cold, ambitious society wife, Mary (Radha Mitchell). Also disapproving of the liaison is Sylvia's mother, Emma du Maurier (Julie Christie), who fears that her daughter's reputation is being ruined.

This is actually a rather chaste film about a playwright whose most current work is a flop, as the movie begins, much to the dismay of his backer, Charles Frohman (Dustin Hoffman). Through his friendship with the Davies boys, however, Barrie finds the childhood he missed and wonderful inspiration. He is very much a man who does not want to grow up. Depp is simply marvelous in an understated way, showing the affection and creativity that launched the children's classic. Twelve-year-old Freddie Highmore steals every scene as Peter, the boy upon whom Barrie based his play.

The widow Davies has a disturbing cough throughout the film, and although her family is concerned, no one is more frightened that Sylvia herself. There is magic in the film's resolution, with a lesson about believing that touches the heart. Although the film has a PG rating, it is really a sophisticated period piece for adults, contrary to the next film which is wonderful for the entire family.

At the tender age of eight, a young boy has resisted writing a letter to Santa Claus and has allowed his sister to set out the milk and cookies on Christmas Eve. He is awake in his bed, filled with doubt yet still listening for Santa's sleigh bells, when a tremendous noise outside startles him into bathrobe and slippers. Running downstairs and opening his front door, he encounters a very large railroad train called **The Polar Express** and a conductor waiting to invite him on board. And thus begins the film based on the Caldecott Award-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg (author of another story made into a well-known children's film, **Jumanji**).

This is no ordinary film. It is a rather new technological invention, "performance capture," where a human actor performs movements that are translated into lifelike animation. The characters

look very much like the storybook figures themselves come to life. I had the good fortune to see the IMAX version, and it was truly an extraordinary movie-going experience.

Tom Hanks, executive producer, plays the train conductor, as well as other characters. The primary roles, all nameless, are the young hero, an African-American girl he meets on the train, an annoying know-it-all type of kid, and a sad and lonely boy who keeps to himself in the next railroad car. They are all off on an adventure to the North Pole, where they will meet Santa and his elves.

The film isn't about a commercialized North Pole, with jolly creatures in the sugary, comic-book type of animation. There is a darker quality as the art comes alive on the wide silver screen. Some scenes are dazzling, particularly one in which acrobatic waiters serve hot chocolate on the train. Another great scene shows a train ticket being blown away, much like the floating feather in **Forrest Gump**, as it travels into the wild with a pack of wolves. There is also a seemingly requisite roller-coaster ride to keep the kiddies' attention.

This is a fine film for the entire family. There is a strong message at the end, because the main story is about believing what your heart tells you, and not necessarily what you see. What a nice thought to take with us into the holiday season.

Happy holiday, and until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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These events will take place in an outdoor canopy regardless of weather conditions so dress appropriately. Warming refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. by December 10, 2004. Please call (1-888) 375-1400 (Yonkers) or (1-888) 828-1800 (Bronx). December 1, 2004.

Sunday, December 12, 2004
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
F. Ruggiero & Sons, Inc. Funeral Home
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(one block west of Yonkers Raceway)

Sunday, December 12, 2004
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
F. Ruggiero & Sons, Inc. Funeral Home
726 Morris Park Avenue - Bronx, NY 10462

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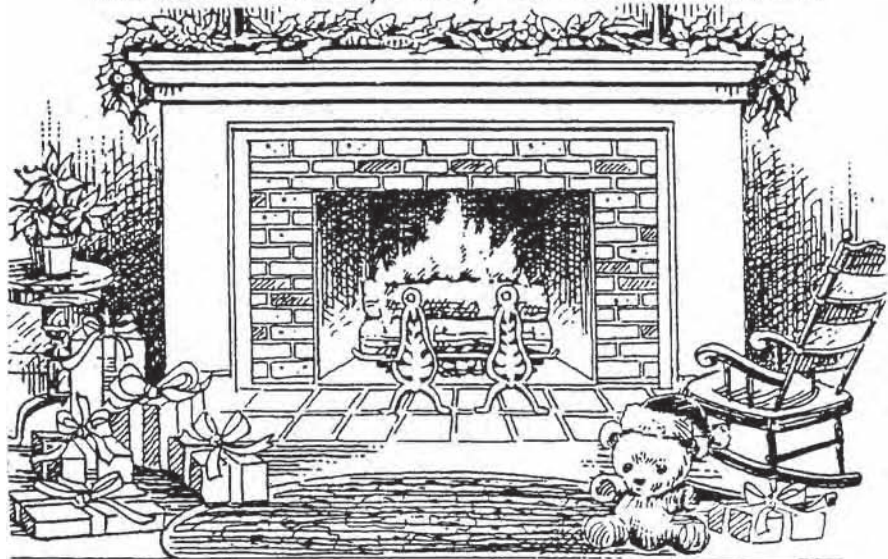
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Obituaries

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



Madeline "Helen" Grimaldi

Madeline Grimaldi, a longtime resident of City Island, died on Nov. 1, 2004. She was 91.

Known to Islanders as Helen, she was born Madeline Pistello in Omaha, Nebraska, but grew up in East Harlem. In 1955 she moved to City Island with her husband, Michael Grimaldi, and three sons.

Mrs. Grimaldi worked for many years as a waitress in the family-owned Lido Restaurant. She was very happy living on City Island and was often seen walking along City Island Avenue carrying packages to her home on Fordham Street.

Called Aunt Helen by her friends and neighbors, she was well respected in the community and adored by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She held traditional Sunday dinners at her house and was happiest when she was with her family. Preparing Italian meals was her passion, and she did so well into her 80s. She also enjoyed frequent trips to Atlantic City.

Her last few years were spent at United Hebrew Geriatric Center in New Rochelle, where she received excellent care.

Mrs. Grimaldi was predeceased by her husband of 53 years and her daughter-in-law Joann. She is survived by her sons and their wives, Tony and Betty, and Mickey and Pat of City Island; and Freddy who lives in Morris Park; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Grimaldi was the last of her generation and was loved by many. She will be missed.

Anne Costello

Anne Costello, a longtime resident of Tier Street, passed away on Nov. 11, 2004, at the age of 81. Born on Oct. 6, 1923, on the side of a mountain in Francistown, New Hampshire, Anne McKeon grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she attended high school. After graduation, she became a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital and decided to join her brothers by enlisting in the Army in 1944, where she served with the Army Nursing Corps until 1947.

After returning home, in 1948, one of her patients set her up with a blind date for the prom at Holy Cross College; the young man was a senior named Thomas P. Costello, whom she married a year later. After their wedding, she joined him in the Bronx, where he was attending Fordham University Law School, and in 1953 they moved to a house on Minneford Avenue on



Anne Costello, who served as an Army nurse during World War II.

City Island. Two years later they bought a larger house on Tier Street, where Tom still lives today.

The Costellos raised five children, but Anne also continued her nursing career by working the night shift in the emergency room at Jacobi Hospital. Later, after the children were in school, she worked as a nurse for the Hearst Corporation.

Anne Costello was active on City Island in various ways, including the Garden Club, the AARP, the American Legion and St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, where she worked in the thrift shop and taught lesson on Wednesday afternoons. She also volunteered for several years helping troubled young people at a methadone clinic on the Island.

She enjoyed activities off the Island as well, especially those of a cultural nature. She could often be found at the Bronx Zoo, the New York Botanical Garden (where she volunteered), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center and the theater. After her children were grown, she enjoyed traveling and made several trips to Ireland, as well as to England, Alaska, the American West, France, Italy, Spain and even China.

Anne leaves her husband, Tom, and her five children, Michael and his wife, Gayle, of Stamford, Conn.; Tom Jr. and Donna, of Cary, North Carolina; Marianne and Frank Quattrociocchi of Cortlandt, New York; Regina and Stephan Knapp of Kings Ferry, New York; Marie and Paul Inserra of Cary, North Carolina; and 10 grandchildren.

A mass was celebrated in Anne's memory at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Nov. 16, and she was interred at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Cherry Valley, Massachusetts.

Annabelle Hecker Pereira

Former Islander Annabelle Hecker Pereira died on Nov. 11, 2004, in New Rochelle. She was 60 years old.

Annabelle graduated from P.S. 17 and attended Walton High School in the Bronx. A longtime Islander, she worked at Anna's Harbor Inn, Neptune Inn and the Island Pub.

She is survived by her loving husband, Roy; her brother, Vincent; and her children and their spouses: John and Linda Hayes, Mary Pat and Tom Antonioli, Danny and Sue Hayes, Jill and Kevin Farrell, Kate and Greg Briante, James and Stacey Hayes, and Christina Schroth and Vin Marion.

She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren, a great-granddaughter and her lifelong friend, Vicky Koller.

A memorial service was held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Sat. Nov. 13. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at www.jdrf.org.

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Social Security Changes

The Social Security Administration has announced a 1.4 percent cost-of-living adjustment for 2005, which will mean an increase in the average monthly benefit for retirees to about \$955. The maximum benefit payable to someone retiring at the full retirement age will rise to \$1,939 (this is up \$114 over the 2004 maximum benefit amount). The Social Security portion of the FICA and self-employment taxes will now apply to the first \$90,000 of wages or net earnings from self-employment, up from \$87,900 in 2004.

The full-retirement age for those born in 1939 has increased to 65 years and four months; for those born in 1940, the full retirement age is 65 years and six months.

Retirees under the age of full retirement can continue to work and earn up to \$12,000 in 2005 but beyond that they will lose one dollar of benefits for every two dollars of earnings over the limit.

If an individual reaches full retirement age in 2005, an earnings limit of \$2,650 per month applies for each month that benefits commence before the full retirement age. For every three dollars in earnings over this limit, retirees will lose one dollar of benefits.

Retirees who are at least the full retirement age can earn any amount without causing a reduction in benefits. However, retirees who continue to work—regardless of age—will, of course, continue to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes on their earnings.

New rules apply to amounts deferred in tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2004. I would advise you to read through the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, which was signed into law on Oct. 22 this year. There are penalties for certain early distributions and delayed payouts, but as in the past, deferred amounts are subject to SS taxes and Medicare taxes in the year the money is earned, not in the year it is received.



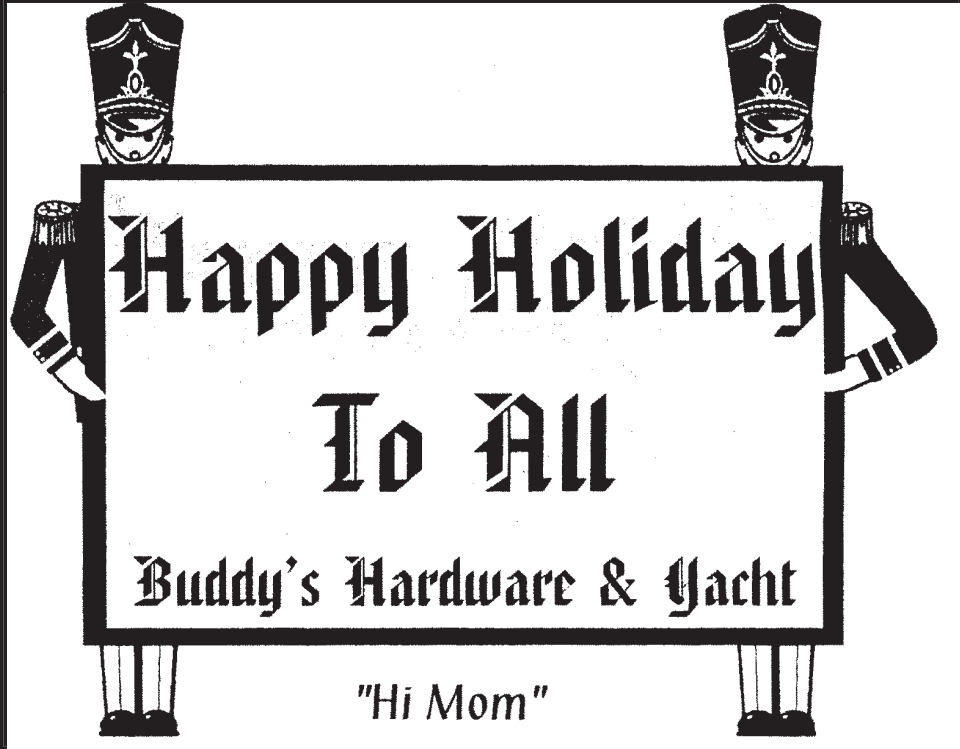
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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, DEC. 19, 10:00 AM
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE, DEC. 24, 10:00 PM


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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. 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

DECEMBER 2004

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0145	6.7	0731	1.2	1337	7.2	2008	0.7	Wed 01
02 Thu	0219	6.7	0814	1.3	1419	7.1	2047	0.8	Thu 02
03 Fri	0300	6.7	0903	1.3	1506	6.9	2133	0.9	Fri 03
04 Sat	0346	6.8	0956	1.3	1558	6.8	2222	0.9	Sat 04
05 Sun	0437	6.9	1053	1.2	1654	6.7	2315	0.8	Sun 05
06 Mon	0530	7.1	1155	1.0	1754	6.6			Mon 06
07 Tue	0009	0.7	0624	7.4	1259	0.6	1854	6.7	Tue 07
08 Wed	0104	0.5	0717	7.7	1403	0.1	1952	6.8	Wed 08
09 Thu	0159	0.2	0810	8.1	1503	-0.3	2049	7.0	Thu 09
10 Fri	0254	0.0	0901	8.4	1559	-0.7	2143	7.2	Fri 10
11 Sat	0348	-0.2	0953	8.6	1654	-1.0	2236	7.3	Sat 11
12 Sun	0443	-0.3	1045	8.7	1748	-1.1	2330	7.4	Sun 12
13 Mon	0539	-0.3	1138	8.6	1844	-1.0			Mon 13
14 Tue	0026	7.4	0638	-0.2	1233	8.3	1942	-0.9	Tue 14
15 Wed	0126	7.3	0743	0.1	1334	7.9	2042	-0.6	Wed 15
16 Thu	0232	7.2	0856	0.2	1444	7.5	2145	-0.3	Thu 16
17 Fri	0345	7.2	1012	0.4	1608	7.1	2249	0.0	Fri 17
18 Sat	0455	7.2	1123	0.3	1724	6.9	2351	0.2	Sat 18
19 Sun	0559	7.3	1229	0.2	1831	6.8			Sun 19
20 Mon	0051	0.2	0659	7.4	1329	0.0	1931	6.8	Mon 20
21 Tue	0147	0.3	0753	7.5	1426	-0.2	2025	6.8	Tue 21
22 Wed	0239	0.3	0844	7.7	1517	-0.4	2115	6.8	Wed 22
23 Thu	0327	0.3	0932	7.7	1605	-0.5	2202	6.8	Thu 23
24 Fri	0412	0.3	1016	7.7	1649	-0.5	2246	6.9	Fri 24
25 Sat	0452	0.4	1056	7.7	1730	-0.4	2327	6.9	Sat 25
26 Sun	0528	0.6	1132	7.6	1806	-0.2			Sun 26
27 Mon	0004	6.8	0555	0.7	1200	7.5	1837	0.0	Mon 27
28 Tue	0036	6.8	0612	0.7	1217	7.4	1858	0.2	Tue 28
29 Wed	0057	6.8	0635	0.8	1239	7.3	1911	0.2	Wed 29
30 Thu	0115	6.9	0709	0.7	1311	7.3	1938	0.3	Thu 30
31 Fri	0144	7.0	0749	0.7	1349	7.2	2009	0.4	Fri 31

JANUARY 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0215	7.0	0829	0.7	1429	7.0	2051	0.4	Sat 01
02 Sun	0259	7.1	0917	0.7	1517	6.8	2137	0.5	Sun 02
03 Mon	0348	7.1	1010	0.7	1610	6.5	2227	0.5	Mon 03
04 Tue	0439	7.2	1108	0.7	1708	6.3	2321	0.6	Tue 04
05 Wed	0539	7.3	1216	0.6	1812	6.2			Wed 05
06 Thu	0020	0.8	0336	7.6	1334	0.3	1821	6.3	Thu 06
07 Fri	0126	0.6	0728	7.7	1455	-0.1	2032	6.5	Fri 07
08 Sat	0234	0.3	0843	7.9	1600	-0.8	2139	6.8	Sat 08
09 Sun	0345	0.1	0948	8.2	1657	-1.0	2240	7.1	Sun 09
10 Mon	0451	-0.2	1045	8.3	1750	-1.2	2338	7.4	Mon 10
11 Tue	0552	-0.5	1143	8.4	1842	-1.3			Tue 11
12 Wed	0030	7.9	0650	-0.8	1240	8.3	1932	-1.2	Wed 12
13 Thu	0124	7.7	0748	-0.8	1338	8.0	2024	-1.0	Thu 13
14 Fri	0219	7.7	0848	-0.6	1439	7.8	2116	-0.7	Fri 14
15 Sat	0317	7.8	0947	-0.3	1542	7.2	2211	-0.3	Sat 15
16 Sun	0417	7.4	1050	-0.1	1648	6.8	2308	0.1	Sun 16
17 Mon	0518	7.3	1153	0.0	1752	6.6			Mon 17
18 Tue	0008	0.4	0619	7.2	1255	0.1	1853	6.3	Tue 18
19 Wed	0108	0.8	0717	7.2	1355	0.1	1951	6.3	Wed 19
20 Thu	0202	0.7	0812	7.2	1447	0.1	2044	6.4	Thu 20
21 Fri	0254	0.7	0903	7.3	1538	0.0	2133	6.5	Fri 21
22 Sat	0341	0.7	0949	7.4	1621	0.0	2219	6.7	Sat 22
23 Sun	0424	0.7	1032	7.4	1702	0.0	2300	6.8	Sun 23
24 Mon	0500	0.7	1109	7.4	1757	0.1	2358	6.9	Mon 24
25 Tue	0530	0.8	1137	7.4	1805	0.1			Tue 25
26 Wed	0004	6.9	0649	0.8	1152	7.4	1822	0.1	Wed 26
27 Thu	0017	7.0	0811	0.4	1211	7.4	1837	0.1	Thu 27
28 Fri	0038	7.1	0943	0.3	1242	7.3	1904	0.0	Fri 28
29 Sat	0105	7.3	0721	0.3	1319	7.3	1938	0.0	Sat 29
30 Sun	0142	7.4	0802	0.2	1401	7.1	2019	0.1	Sun 30
31 Mon	0228	7.5	0848	0.2	1448	6.9	2103	0.2	Mon 31



Here Comes The Snow Again

I was reminded recently of an old student of mine—Yin Fu Chen, a fourth-grader, who had come to New York from China and had never seen snow. To her, seeing snow was one of the main reasons for coming to America (her parents had other ideas, of course). I remember a few times after school in December when snow seemed imminent and how excited even I was at the prospect, but nothing happened. It finally did happen for Yin Fu over the winter break, and as much as I wish I could have been there, it was just as warm and fuzzy to hear her tell it after the fact. She remembered everything—the exact time and place, the taste . . . everything!

If it weren't for the little kid in each of us, snow would probably become nothing more than a major nuisance, a kind of messy rain that we have to pick up after. After all, how many of us who must drive from here to there for the holidays would actually choose a white Christmas? This holiday season, when it's snowing again or threatening to do so, and that tiny tot in you is covering somewhere behind the Scrooge, consider the following facts and deepen your appreciation for the fluffy cold and white stuff.

First, each of the frozen droplets that join together to make a single snowflake comprises more than 180 billion molecules of water. So imagine the number that must have been needed to form the largest snowflake of them all—a whopping 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick. It was recorded at Fort Keough in Montana on Jan. 28, 1887.

Another thing about those molecules is how they fit together; that fit is what

accounts for the fact that the vast majority of snowflakes are six-sided. Finally, the vast majority of scientists will tell you that no one snowflake is like any other. And they owe this conclusion to another one of their own who took about 400,000 photographs to prove the point. Wouldn't it have been something to have a photograph of that "whopper"?

Other holiday happenings that deserve our appreciation include the Holiday Lights Festival at the Bronx Zoo and the 13th annual Holiday Train Show at the Botanical Garden. What you will see at the Garden is a spectacular assortment of New York City landmarks (Brooklyn Bridge, the Guggenheim, Statue of Liberty, etc.) made entirely from plant parts. The electric trains that wind back and forth throughout the display bring it all to life in a way you will not soon forget. You can view the show during regular Garden hours from now until Jan. 5.

On every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from now until Dec. 19, the Bronx Zoo will be turning on its holiday lights between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m. After the 19th, the lights go on every night (except the 24th and 25th) until Jan. 9. This year's show, the Zoo's eighth annual, includes more than 140 animal sculptures and a brand new Polar Express exhibit (like the movie). There will also be real reindeer, camels and a few surprises.

If driving is not for you, take a walk instead. Many City Islanders get into the spirit of things with a display or two of their own. Let us know your favorites at jdsstrat@msn.com.

Happy Holidays!

ST. MARY, STAR OF THE SEA

Christmas Schedule 2004



CONFESSIONS
Saturday, December 18
4:30 to 5:00

LESSONS AND CAROLS CONCERT
Sunday, December 19
7:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE
Carols: 7:15 PM
Mass: 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and
12:00 Noon

* No 5:15 Mass in anticipation of Sunday

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26
Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and
12:00 Noon

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Masses: 8:00 AM & 12:00 Noon
(Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
*No 5:15 Mass in anticipation of Sunday

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Photo by JUDY RAUH

The 2004 ING New York City Marathon drew a record field of more than 36,000 runners for the annual five-borough race on Nov. 7, 2004. Hendrik Ramaala of South Africa completed the 26.2 miles in 2 hours 9 minutes 28 seconds. Paula Radcliffe of Great Britain, the women's world record holder in the marathon, won the women's race in 2:23:10.

Pictured above are the City Island marathon runners (l. to r.): Mike Rauh, Dr. Kerry Murphy, Marje Kos and Dave Kos. Mike completed his 27th consecutive N.Y.C. Marathon in 4:33:47. Kerry finished in 4:09:36. Both felt the effects of the balmy temperatures and bright sun. Marje and Dave once again volunteered at the New York City race, using their ham-radio skills. Marje was in the small electric car that accompanied the lead women, and Dave was in the car with the lead men. They both then ran in the Philadelphia Marathon on Nov. 21, 2004, finishing together in 4:37:22.

Not pictured is Julie White, who competed in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. on Oct. 31, 2004. Her time was 4:23:38. Julie was also among the volunteers at the ING New York City Marathon.

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Box 6

(Continued from page 4)

- Sumo Wrestler, Nicky Lotrionte
- Over the Hill Lane Bryant Model, Regina Kreig
- Pez People, Danielle and Amanda Mackenna
- Crab Lady, Gerry Samiento
- Kid in Trash, Gwen DeWitt
- Racecar and Driver, Jonathan Gardelle
- Bluebird, Aela Mansmann

Second Honorable Mention:

- Dorothy, Karen Gillesi
- Mummy Queen, Roberta Gjonaj
- Shrek, Mike Lobretto
- Spidergirl, Brianna Whelan
- Baby Lion, Michael Bivona Jr.
- Wizard, Abraham Yaith
- Dinosaur Baby (sorry, we didn't get the name)
- Nosferatu, Joe Burke
- Tattooed Lady, Steve Werner
- Jason with Chainsaw, Armando Candalaria

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Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

City Island Cub Scouts Pack 211 went to Alpine Boy Scout Camp on Oct. 30, 2004, for a day of festivities, including archery and a visit to a haunted house. Shown on the trip are (kneeling, l. to r.) Jack Green, John Nagy, Nicholas Labriola, Michael Labriola and Michael Bellocchio. Standing are Mitchell Santiago, Kyle Williams, Dylan Cullen, Nicholas Bellocchio, Jan Kelly, Andrew Brown, John Branley, Michael O'Connor, Nicholas Ruggiero and Dan Green.

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