

The Island Current

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One Dollar

SOLD! 1 ISLAND, 5 STORES, 5 APARTMENTS

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RICK DeWITT

A sidewalk auction was held on Oct. 2, 2011 between Hawkins and Schofield Streets. Sold were properties owned by former Islander Edmund (Red) Brennen (top middle), including Rat Island (bottom right) and the buildings between 270 and 278 City Island Avenue. Rat Island was sold for \$160,000 to Cross Street resident Alex Schibli (shown with his wife, Noelva, top right).

It was an unusual sight even for City Island. A sidewalk auction was held on Sunday, Oct. 2, on the east side of the avenue between Hawkins and Schofield Streets. Up for sale were properties owned by former Islander Edmund (Red) Brennen, including the much-publicized Rat Island and the block of buildings between 270 and 278 City Island Avenue.

Mr. Brennen, the former owner of Eastchester Towing and a longtime resident of City Island, had been trying to sell Rat Island since 2009 at an original asking price of \$300,000. The small rock formation, familiar to anyone who sails or kayaks between the north end of City Island and Hart Island, is mostly submerged at high tide. It is not known exactly why it is called Rat Island. Legend has it that prisoners (rats) escaping from Hart Island would stop there to rest, but the name "Rat Island" exists on a map dated 1851, which predates the existence of a prison on Hart Island.

Red Brennen hired a professional auctioneer, Ozzie Crisalli, of Syracuse Realty Group to handle the auction. He told *The Current* that he had used Mr. Crisalli when he auctioned off his marine business in 2004, including his tugboat and all the floating equipment.

The auctioneer told the crowd of about 100 people that Rat Island was three quarters of an acre at high tide and one acre at low tide. After mistakenly saying it was on the ocean, he set the beginning bid at \$500,000 and then lowered it to \$350,000. Under the watchful eyes of Mr. Brennen, the bidding began seriously at \$10,000 and ended with a \$160,000 bid by Cross Street resident Alex Schibli. In the end, the bidding was between Mr. Schibli and the off-Island developer Dr. Domenico Mignone, who has recently raised Islanders' concerns by proposing a senior residence for the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue.

Mr. Schibli, who attended with his wife, Noelva, and was described by Mr. Brennen as a "nice fella," is known to enjoy kayaking around Rat Island. He can see it from his home on Cross Street, and he has no plans to build a house on the island, although there have been houses on the island, the first during the 1890s and the other during the

1940s. He told *The Current* that the actual size of the island at high tide is more like one-third of an acre, but that the foundation for one of the houses is within that area. The current market value established by the city's Finance Department is \$426,000, with an assessed value of \$8,547 (down from \$14,670 in 1997). Friends have suggested that Mr. Schibli invite representatives of the Finance Department to join him on a boat ride to the island in an effort to reduce his tax burden, as there is little real-estate value to the property except to local birds and shellfish.

He has been approached by a group of Islanders who were interested in buying the island but could not afford the high price, and he may collaborate with them to construct a small boat landing that would be accessible to contributing members. He has no larger plans, however, since he wants to be sure that the seagulls who nest there remain undisturbed.

Many newspapers reported that Mr. Schibli was thinking about changing the name to Malina Island for his granddaughter, but he realizes that this doesn't make much sense. He isn't even sure if one can officially rename the island without going to a lot of legal trouble but if it's possible, he might propose a contest for a more appropriate name, such as Clam Digger Island. Stay tuned.

Although the Rat Island sale received a great deal of publicity ("The Cost to Own a New York Island" was one of the headlines), Islanders will probably be more directly affected by the second offering of the day, the five stores and five apartments between 270 and 278 City Island Avenue. The property accounts for 100 feet of frontage on the avenue and includes longtime businesses Fe Fi Faux decorative painting services and Remy's marine canvas maker.

The auctioneer described the offering as a two-story building with a basement and a green space in the back, which he claimed could be developed. He told the crowd that the net income is \$78,000 annually from rentals. At least two of the stores are empty, however, and some of the rentals were the final straw for Mr. Brennan after 40 years of owning the buildings. "I had some rotten tenants and had to evict three or four of them. It was nothing but aggravation because



the courts are on the side of the tenants," he told *The Current*. "It is a valuable piece of property in a prime location and I was tired of being a landlord."

According to members of his family, his daughters had expressed interest in acquiring the property and were disheartened when he decided to put it up for public sale. Another Islander did enter the bidding; Marcy Dusenbery posted the first bid of \$250,000, but she dropped out when the price rose above \$350,000. The final price was \$567,000, which was made by bidder number 60, who would not give *The Current* his name and said only that he was representing an off-Islander.

Mr. Brennen acknowledged the purchase by an off-Islander whom he has never met, but said that "City Island doesn't have to worry. My understanding is that he plans to fix up the property." However, he cautioned that the sale is not final until the actual closing, which is scheduled for 30 days after the auction.

Some of the current business owners are hopeful. "I would have liked it if the property

had been sold to a City Islander, so we would not have to worry about how it is going to be developed," Mary Colby, the owner of Fe Fi Faux, told *The Current*. "It is in the main part of town and my hopes are that it will receive the TLC that it needs and that the new owner will be involved in keeping the Island landscape quaint and beautiful."

Mr. Brennen said that for years he had been approached by Islanders who said they were interested in the property, but no one came up with the actual cash. "It was hard being an absentee landlord and dealing with all the fines and fees [levied] by the City of New York. When these sales go through, the only thing I will own in New York State is my EZ Pass."

Originally from New Rochelle, he made his home on City Island in an apartment on the corner of Fordham Street above the 5 & 10 cent store during the late 1950s. He worked in the marine industry and later started his own business of marine salvage and dock building. Red met his wife, Ulla, on

Continued on page 3

NY STATE PLANS "DAYHAB" CENTER ON CI

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The empty stores at 532 City Island Avenue, which once housed a branch of West Marine, have been leased by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), which plans to open a center where individuals with such disabilities can learn skills and have an opportunity to interact with the local community.

Jill Gentile, associate commissioner of OPWDD, explained at a recent meeting held at Community Board 10 that the large Southern Boulevard Day Program was being divided into three smaller facilities, one of them on City Island, which she felt was an attractive small community suitable for individuals in the program. The center would function from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the ratio of staff to individuals would be 1 to 3. Transportation to the site would be by minivans, which would not require parking spaces in what is already a congested neighborhood.

Ms. Gentile was asked by Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10, why her department had not

approached the community in advance of making a commitment to the site, especially as it is hoped that the individuals will become active, perhaps by volunteering or shopping here. Ms. Gentile explained that it was not required by law for OPWDD to obtain community approval, because this is not a 24/7 facility, like the two group homes already on City Island. She did apologize for not having taken this step, however, and hoped that City Island would welcome the center, which is scheduled to open before the end of the year.

Mr. Kearns made it clear that City Island residents would most likely be supportive, as they were of the two group homes, but he suggested that a different site might have been more appropriate and hoped that Islanders would be considered for both staff positions and as individuals who would benefit from what the center has to offer.

Ms. Gentile expressed willingness to address the City Island Civic Association or other groups to allay concerns about the center and the program.

BRIEFLY...

POTTER'S FIELD MEMORIAL: On Thursday, Nov. 17, those who are registered may attend a free bimonthly event on Hart Island, sponsored by several local groups, including Picture the Homeless, the City Island Community Center and the Anne Hutchinson Year. Those who attend meet at the Community Center between 9 and 9:30 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts and are then ferried to Hart Island. The program ends with lunch and a brief discussion at the Center. Special thanks go to the Community Center for generously donating the food and their space for every trip. If you wish to register for future bimonthly trips or need further information, call Anika at 646-314-6423 or e-mail her at anika@picturethehomeless.org.

BLOOD DRIVE, held by the Bronx Masons, will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or Signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation.

THE HISTORY OF CITY ISLAND will be the subject of a talk to be given by Barbara Dolensek at the East Bronx History Forum on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Huntington Free Library, which is located in Westchester Square next to the Apple Bank, across from Owen Dolen Park. The East Bronx History Forum meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Check the website www.BronxNYC.com for additional information.

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE, sponsored by the P.T.A. of P.S. 175 will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the school during voting hours: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Make your vote count and help the school at the same time. The P.T.A. is grateful to the business owners and families of City Island who have donated many generous gifts for the raffle. If you would like to donate a gift, please call Susan Goonan at 718-649-9258 as soon as possible.

CLOTHING DRIVE sponsored by the Bronx Masons will take place on Saturday, Nov. 19, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the City Island Masonic Temple, 241 City Island Avenue at Schofield Street. All clothes will go to the Salvation Army. Coats that are donated will go to the parish of St. Anthansius in the south Bronx.

DON'T MISS "THE CRUCIBLE": The City Island Theater Group's production of Arthur Miller's classic play about witch hunts in 17th-century Salem, "The Crucible," will open at Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Friday, Nov. 4, and will run for three weekends. Performances at 8 p.m. will be on Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. There will be matinee performances at 3 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 6 and 13. The Nov. 13 performance will be followed at 5 p.m. with a discussion of the play as an allegory of McCarthyism during the 1950s, when hundreds of Americans were accused of being communists or communist sympathizers. The play is directed by CITG president Nick Sala and Island resident Maria Provenzano and features a large cast that includes Nicole Colina, Carol Dooner, John Geil, Hannah Glick, Sarah Harrold, Hannah Ludemann, Julia McCarthy, Amanda Mola, Nicolas Pegutini, Sandra Prosnitz, Andrew Ravick, Matthieu Regney, Keith Rodriguez, Frank Siciliano, Benjamin Spierman, Bruce Weis, Elizabeth Vacca and Germania Vazquez. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS: The holiday season will begin on City Island with the lighting of the tree in Hawkins Park on Saturday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. followed by the Menorah lighting on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m. The City Island Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to welcome in the holiday season and share these special traditions with friends and neighbors.

45 BLOTTER

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

- 11 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 1 – FOUND FIREARMS
- 1 – POSSESSION AND SALE OF MARIJUANA

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Sept. 16 to Oct. 24, 2011.

9/16 – Police from the 45th Precinct opened an investigation into 11 acts of criminal mischief during the overnight hours on King Avenue and Tier, Beach and Reville Streets. Vehicles parked were "keyed" in acts of criminal mischief.

9/28 – At 9:15 a.m., an Island male was arrested at 37 Bay Street and charged with possession and sale of marijuana. The arrest was part of an ongoing investigation into drug sales on City Island.

10/4 – An off-Island male, 27, was arrested at 459 City Island Avenue at 11 p.m.

and charged with possession of a weapon.

10/9 – Officers on patrol responded to 703 Minneford Avenue at 6 p.m. and arrested an Island male, 50, and an off-Island male, 67, and charged both with assault. The two men were fighting and cross complaints were filed.

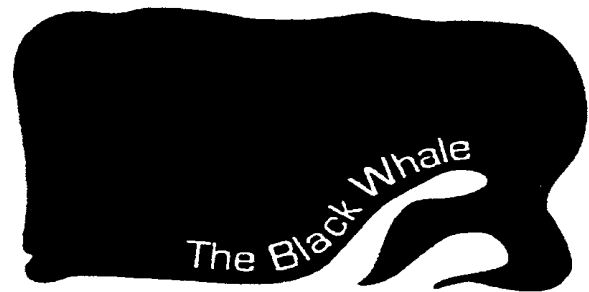
10/9 – Two guns were found in the mud off a marina at 673 City Island Avenue.

10/18 – Property was removed from an unsecured houseboat off 157 Pilot Street about 6 p.m. The incident is under investigation.

10/20 – Unknown perpetrator(s) broke into a boat in a marina at 551 City Island Avenue and removed a GPS navigation system and CD player in an act of grand larceny. About the same time, electronics were removed from two other boats in acts of petit larceny.

10/24 – Unattended property was stolen from a restaurant patron at 459 City Island Avenue.

Police from the Conditions Unit stepped up patrols around the Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue and Reville Street. Police are issuing summonses for quality-of-life crimes, including teenage drinking, and will disperse large groups of Island teens.



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101ST CHAMBER AWARDS DINNER

On Saturday evening, Nov. 12, the City Island Chamber of Commerce will hold a dinner-dance to celebrate its 101st year and to honor various individuals and organizations that have contributed a great deal to the community.

This year the dinner will be held at the Pelham-Split Rock Golf Course, which is a beautiful facility with wonderful views and endless parking. In this festive location the Chamber will offer a four-course dinner hosted by our Councilman James Vacca, with entertainment by the Lickety Split Band.

The honorees this year are as follows: Captain Russell J. Green, commanding officer of the 45th precinct, who will receive the Exemplary Community Service Award. Elliott Glick of Starving Artist Café

and Gallery will receive the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award. Island resident Carol Fitzpatrick is the recipient of the Tom Cerreta Accomplished Service Award. The City Island Community Center will receive the Catherine Scott Achievement Award, and the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum will receive the "Thanks for the Memories" award.

New City Island businesses will also be honored: Aggie's Roll, Bistro SK and Buddy's Hardware, and three dedicated Chamber volunteers, Stephanie Fisher, Rhode Levine and Evelyn Morgan, will be recipients of the Dedicated Volunteer Award.

The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the cost per person is \$75. To make reservations, call 718-885-9654.

Busy CI Summer for Police

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Capt. Russell Green (seated, right), commanding officer of the 45th Precinct, and Bill Zalanda (standing, left) from the Bronx County District Attorney's office addressed the October meeting of the precinct's Community Council, which was held on City Island at the American Legion on Oct. 4, 2011.

The October meeting of the 45th Precinct's Community Council met at the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post on Thursday, Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m., and Captain Russell Green, commanding officer of the precinct, took the opportunity to report on police activity on City Island over the past few months.

Thanks to traffic agents, whose services were obtained with the help of the Bronx Borough Commander Carlos Gomez, the congestion on City Island this past summer, in spite of heavy traffic, was minimized. This enabled the police to focus their attention on drug sales, underage drinking, noise control, drunken driving and the use of illegal fireworks.

Working with the Highway Patrol, the 45th Precinct officers, from June to September, made 25 DWI (driving while intoxicated) arrests, issued 24 summonses for fire lane violations and seized two motorcycles. In addition, 64 summonses were issued for illegal parking.

The Hollywood Barber Shop was closed and the proprietors arrested for drug sales, and the Library Bar was closed, in part because alcohol had been served to underage individuals. A total of 49 summonses were issued at Seafood City alone, 30 for drinking in the parking lot and 12 for excessive noise. The management of the restaurant cooperated with the police, greatly reducing the number of complaints. Captain Green managed to keep the noise levels on the waterfront to a minimum by engaging the the assistance of the Orchard Beach police boat.

Captain Green was pleased to report that the fireworks were kept more or less under control on July 4, but he noted that he would try improve the statistics regarding motorcycle confiscation and other noisy groups. He reported that there had been recent car vandalism on the

island that was currently under investigation, including break-ins, broken mirrors and a series of at least 25 cars that were keyed on Friday night, Sept. 16. Only 11 reports were made to the precinct, and he encouraged everyone to inform the Police Department of any such activity, by calling 911 for any illegal or suspicious activity in progress and 311 for any damage resulting from criminal activity.

He cautioned residents to avoid leaving valuables in their cars and suggested that automobile owners participate in the precinct's VIN etching program by calling 718-822-5487. This program involves etching a car's VIN on parts of the car that might be taken and reused, thus making the parts traceable.

Bill Zalanda from the Bronx County District Attorney's office, who was present at the meeting, expressed concern about the car vandalism. He said would be difficult to prosecute because there is little evidence, but he encouraged everyone to report what they knew. And as the Community Council chair, Bob Bieder, put it: "If the police don't get reports, it is assumed that no crimes have taken place," and this could jeopardize the number of officers assigned to the precinct in the future.

Captain Green said that he expected that City Island would have one sergeant and four police officers assigned for next summer, as they did this year, in addition to our community affairs officers, whose telephone number is 718-822-5449.

There were several Islanders present at the meeting, and Bill Stanton, president of the City Island Civic Association, spoke for all when he praised Captain Green for having done a superb job on City Island this year and for being so responsive to our complaints and our problems.

Previewing "The Crucible"

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Over three weekends in November, the City Island Theater Group will present a major production of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," directed by CITG president Nick Sala and Island resident Maria Provenzano. The large and impressive cast will bring to life a story based on the sinister witch hunts that took place during the 17th century in Salem, Massachusetts, but what many members of the audience may not realize, it also reflected another exceptionally dark period in American history, the McCarthy era of the 1940s and 50s.

In 1953, when Miller's play first opened on Broadway, Senator Joseph McCarthy had accused hundreds of Americans of being Communists or having Communist sympathies. McCarthy's witch hunts, which were carried out by the Committee on Un-American Activities, resulted in the blacklisting of many well-known individuals, including Arthur Miller himself, who went before the committee in 1956.

"The Crucible," which starred Arthur Kennedy and E. G. Marshall in the original cast, won the Tony Award for best play of 1953 and has since become a classic, both as a work of drama and as a reflection of the period during which it was written.

As Island resident and literature scholar Curtis Hart puts it: "Arthur Miller is a great and original American genius. Along with

Eugene O'Neill, he is among the finest playwrights produced in this country in the past century. Miller's own crucible consisted of his coming of age in the 1930s as a man and artist of the left and being severely tested for his beliefs in his appearances before Congressional committees in the 1950s. On that occasion, he was asked to "name names" of those whom he knew to be Communists. He refused.

"Both these experiences inform the background of fear and foreboding that suffuses 'The Crucible.' Although not an allegory, it is a work that reveals the sinister, dark side of our contemporary political history and our national psyche. It asks viewers to consider values like loyalty and conscience and the dangers of self-righteousness and moralism in both religion and politics."

"The Crucible," will open at Grace Church Parish Hall, 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, on Friday, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m. Performances at 8 p.m. will also be on Nov. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. Matinee performances will be held at 3 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 6 and 13. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

As a special offering, the matinee performance on Sunday, Nov. 13, will be followed at 5 p.m. with a discussion of the play and its political implications with the Rev. Curtis Hart, director Nick Sala, and one or two of the actors.

married in a City Island-style wedding (see article this issue), and Marcie is manager of the Bronx Equestrian Center (formerly the Pelham Bit Stable) on Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park.

Mr. Brennan now lives in Jupiter, Florida, but he is nostalgic about his life on City Island. He reminded this reporter of his fondness for her family, including Arthur W. Rauhauser, who once ran the department of bridges and tunnels, overseeing the Harlem River and other waterways, including Eastchester Bay and the Hutchinson River. "When I was starting out, I hit the Pelham Bay Bridge with my tugboat. Your grandfather and Billy McGee, who was the bridge operator at the time, kind of looked the other way and didn't report me. They gave a young guy starting out a break."

Residents are hoping the new owners of the property will give City Island a break and respect the wishes of the community.

Auction

Continued from page 1

a vacation in Denmark, and they eventually bought the house at 642 City Island Avenue, where they raised their three daughters.

He bought the auctioned property 40 years ago from Addie Cozzi Esposito. It has been home to many businesses over the years, including Sam Miller's General Store (1890s), the Hippie's Place (1970s), Kids and Company and Hair Ahoy (1980s), among others.

His daughters remain connected to the Island where they were born. Brenda Prohaska lives on Centre Street and is president of the City Island Community Center, a Girl Scout leader and works with the eighth-grade community service program. She is well known for her "blast emails" alerting Islanders to yard sales and other events of interest. Red's daughter Amanda was recently

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Thank You, City Island

Dear Relatives, Friends and Neighbors:

My family and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks for everything you have done for us during the past month, with Walter's collapse at home and at the Morris. The support that all the people gave us that night has been overwhelming.

Thank you to those of you who visited Walter at the hospital when I could not because of my own illness and those of you who came to our home to visit when he returned. The outpouring of love, caring and support that you showed my family and me at his wake and funeral Mass was truly amazing.

Thanks to those of you who sent flowers, Mass cards, had a Mass said at our local church or made a contribution to the American Legion Post 156 in Walter's name. The list of people is very long, and some of you I do not know, but your care and concern in our time of grief and need are much appreciated.

Walter touched many of you in different ways, whether it was by doing an electric installation or repair, working alongside him, offering advice, coaching a Little League team, exchanging or purchasing baseball cards, playing cards or just knowing him in some way. We are sure he would have appreciated the turnout for him. Thank you to all my friends who are still helping me now and I know will always be there.

Carmela Henning and family, Walter, Lisa and Philip

News from Appleton WI

To the Editor,

What a wonderful surprise when we received the last issue of *The Current*. The color is a dream come true. In the "old days" it was too expensive and the technology was not the best with our small press run. The photos are just great! And a happy anniversary to all of you!

I miss everyone and City Island but have abandoned the idea of visiting because of arthritis and the usual aches and pains of

aging. I am, however, surrounded by City Island memories, including paintings by Marg, photos by Rick and Ron, etchings by Mark, paintings by Niru, as well as a myriad of "what-nots" that represent City Island and the Sound. We have satellite photos in our home and north woods cabin and keep in touch with friends as well as with *The Current*. I am impressed with the number of people and activities, and although many of the names are new to me, I am so very pleased that there is so much happening on the Island.

I am much involved with a prayer shawl ministry at our church (a perfect at-home activity—no meetings!). I maintain a web group site for our aging high school classmates and organize regular reunion lunches for us. Bob is still working at his boat repair business, while I man the office end of the business. Bob is also doing a bit of singing. He hasn't lost that voice and although he doesn't do high Cs any more, it's all there! We, of course, are native cheeseheads and are very proud of our Packers. And now we are cheering for the Brewers and Badgers. Win or lose, this has been quite a sports season.

To the *Current* staff: keep up the great work. You are terrific! And to readers and advertisers: you are blessed for your support!

**Sally McPherson
Appleton, Wisconsin**

Halloween Thanks

The City Island Community Center would like to thank the City Island Theatre Group, the eighth-grade students from P.S. 175 who volunteered and all the other volunteers for their participation in this year's Haunted House. Special thanks go to Nick Sala, Carol McCabe, Maria Provenzano and Tommy Houlihan.

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Destination Wedding - City Island!

By **BRENDA PROHASKA**



We all love to hear about City Island weddings, who married whom, when and where, and where did they go for the honeymoon. And the wedding of my sister Amanda Brennen to Michael Libretto on Oct. 1 was no exception. Photographs of the wedding on Facebook got so much attention, especially because of their connection to City Island, that *The Island Current* staff asked me to bring you more details.

Amanda and Michael have been "more than friends" for a long time and have been living together on City Island for quite a few years. Mike was originally from New Rochelle, but he quickly became comfortable here and grew to love City Island, where Amanda was born and raised. Our father, Red Brennen, was also from New Rochelle originally but made his home here in an apartment on the Fordham Street corner of City Island Avenue above the 5 and 10 during the late 1950s, when he was working in the marine industry. He later started his own business of marine salvage and dock building. Red met his wife, Ulla, on a vacation in Denmark, and they soon bought the house at 642 City Island Avenue, where they raised their family.

Amanda and Mike became engaged on the way back from their annual trip to Sturgis (a bike rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota) and picked the date of Oct. 1, 2011 (10/1/11). They wanted to make their lifestyle of motorcycle riding and traveling, as well as their love of City Island, a part of their wedding. Amanda has worked for many years in event planning, first with Abigail Kirsch at the New York Botanical Garden and Fordham University and now at Macy's Merchandising Group, so she really wanted her day to be perfect.

The wedding invitations conveyed the journey theme with a compass and a ticket enclosed for the "Happily Ever After Party," which was held at Dudley's in New Rochelle. The bridal shower was held in July on the *Riptide III*, a fishing party boat that has been run by the Jorgensen family for many years (Christine Jorgensen was our mother's best friend). It was a fabulous party with some fun games, including pin the veil on Amanda, and the couple later relaxed

at home and opened all the wonderful gifts they received for starting their married life together. For their bachelor/bachelorette parties, the girls hit Point Pleasant on the Jersey shore and the guys hit Sin City, Las Vegas!

Of course, as with all good planning, plans changed many times over the course of time; one consistent factor was Mother Patty Alexander. Originally the couple wanted to get married at her Grace Episcopal Church, but it was too small for the number of guests, so it was agreed that an off-site ceremony would work best. During the planning phase, Mother Patty decided to leave Grace Church for another position, but she remained committed to officiate at the wedding, so she flew in from Maryland to perform the ceremony. Many of the guests are from the tristate area but some traveled from far away—Amanda's father from Florida, a cousin from Denmark, Michael's family from North Carolina and Florida, and friends from Ireland and South Dakota. Transportation by trolley was provided for everyone (along with an all-night cab service) as everyone headed to the reception. Mike's mother came from New Rochelle along with many City Islanders, including Amanda's godparents, Cookie and Billy Verleger.

Although the venue wasn't on City Island itself, the Split Rock Golf Course (a historic site, built in 1901), shares our zip code and signature 885- prefix. It also holds memories for Amanda and her sisters as they grew up riding horses past the facility on the bride trails, sometimes stopping at the clubhouse for a bathroom break or a soda. The semi-permanent tent was perfect for both the ceremony and the cocktail hour, which were held outside. After the ceremony, the groomsmen were able to ride in to cocktail hour on motorcycles, and then the couple made their grand entrance aboard their own bike. The 165 guests found their seats at the reception by the tags on the favors, which were little bottles of City Island Gold, the honey made here on City Island by the Gannon family.

All in all, the wedding was a perfect celebration, the reception was a blast, and the honeymoon was in Jamaica, another special island of flavor!

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Concerns Linger Over Senior Housing Project

By KAREN NANI

In spite of objections raised by various community groups, including the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Garden Club, Dr. Domenico Mignone continues to press ahead with his plans to construct a massive housing project for seniors in the lot at the corner of Schofield Street and City Island Avenue.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, Dr. Mignone, who is president of the Italian Hospital Society, presented the project to the Housing and Zoning Committee of Community Board 10. Although the original project was for a market-rate rental apartment building with nearly 200 units for seniors, Dr. Mignone declared that assisted-living facilities will now be built into the structure and that he was working with four potential operators of such facilities, which require special licenses and permits from the New York State Department of Health.

Although Dr. Mignone is confident that he can raise the money for this development, the only funding he has obtained so far is \$3 million from New York State, allocated by Senator Jeff Klein and Senator Diane Savino of Staten Island. These funds are specifically earmarked for assisted living, not market-rate senior housing, and can only be used for construction, not for the purchase of the property or development of plans.

Along with his architect, engineer and construction colleagues, Dr. Mignone

answered many questions posed by the Community Board representatives, as well as by 20 residents of City Island who had attended the meeting to protest the project. It was made clear to him that the Community Board was not in a position to vote on the project, which has not been reviewed by City Planning or the Department of Buildings. Dr. Mignone does not wish to obtain a zoning change but believes that he can get a variance for use of the property, which is zoned manufacturing (M-1) rather than residential. Such a variance could be authorized by the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA), which he says recommended that he approach the Community Board, although he will also be required to submit plans to the Buildings Department before the project can go much farther.

Inadequate parking, traffic congestion and major construction projects, including the new bridge, were raised as significant drawbacks to the selection of City Island as a location for such a large development. Dr. Mignone said that he was awaiting the results of a traffic study but did not see any of these issues as serious impediments to his "lifelong dream" of constructing senior housing on City Island.

Residents expressed concern that the number of units would seriously increase the population of City Island, where at least three major condominium projects have been approved for construction. They were also concerned about the difficulty that emergency vehicles would have entering the complex and the congestion that the facility might create for fire trucks on Schofield Street. The fact that the scope and design of the building are inconsistent with City Island's historical character was also raised as an issue, as was the question of the limited facilities that would be available to seniors.

Dr. Mignone will continue to try to gain some community support for the project as he explores the viability of the assisted-living aspect of the complex.

HALLOWEEN '11: DOCTORS, DEMONS, DOGS & SNOW?



Photos by RICK DeWITT


Halloween City Island style had some new chills in 2011, thanks in part to a sudden snowstorm on Saturday, Oct. 29. The City Island Community Center was transformed into a Haunted Hospital (bottom photo) staffed by macabre medics, as if going to the doctor weren't scary enough! The costume creativity of residents and off-Islanders reached new Halloween heights in the annual parade. Not to be outdone, local pets howled at the moon and had their own parade, sponsored by Doggie Island. Once again, police from the 45th precinct made sure the parade was orderly and the evening safe for all goblins, young and old.



Helping out at this year's Haunted House in the Community Center are (in no particular order): Nathan Simmons, Katrina Snyder, Elizabeth Paldino, Maria Provenzano, Susan Rauh, Camille Kaiser, Guillermo Vanegas, Devin Dyal, Ameer Baksn, Joan Mamara, Joe Cozzi, Fiorella deLima, Sensi Eddie, Stephanie Lodice and Joe Burke.

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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.

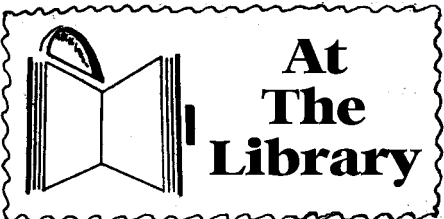
The **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue (718-885-1403) will present its first "Artist's Choice" exhibition from Nov. 4 through 30, with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 4, from 7 to 10 p.m. The second "Artist's Choice" exhibition will open on Dec. 2 (with an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m.) and close Dec. 31. Artists who would like to take part in the above exhibitions call 718-885-1403 to make an appointment to bring in your work. All work must be framed and ready to hang. There is a \$20 hanging fee for each framed piece and a 30 percent commission taken from the asking price.

Are you looking to rent a car? No need to leave City Island. Call **City Island Auto Body** at 718-885-1856 or stop by 138 City Island Avenue. The staff will be happy to help you.

We are grateful for the music and art that will fill **Starving Artist Cafe and Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) in November, including songwriters like Matt Turk (Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m.) and the Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick (Saturday, Nov. 26, 8 p.m., with John Guth on lead guitar). There's also the return of Peter C. North and the "golden oldies" stan-

dards on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. The Freakin' Ricans—Jorge Caraballo and Nick Morales—take the stage on Friday, Nov. 11, at 8 p.m. along with a number of special guests. And the poetry and art of City Islander Noemi Santana will be unveiled at a reception on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. Our open mic for singers, songwriters, comics, actors and poets is, as always, on the last Friday of the month, Nov. 25, at 8 p.m. And that's just a brief glimpse; check our website for complete listings (www.starvingartistonline.com). And note that we'll be closed on Saturday, Nov. 12, as the City Island Chamber of Commerce honors proprietor Elliott Glick for his community service, especially his work teaching music and guitar to young people!

Kaleidoscope Gallery is proud to announce the opening show and sale of art curated by Carolyn Stanford. As founder and president of Inside Out Art, she devotes her time to supporting and promoting the works of outstanding, self-taught, incarcerated non-violent offenders and ex-offenders. The show at Kaleidoscope Gallery features oils, pastels, prints and note cards by Willie Weaver-Bey. In the words of the painter: "My fascination with art came in 1991. My style tends to lean toward realism with abstractions. I love the celebration of color. With each image I try to tell a story." The opening reception will be Friday, Nov. 4, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., coinciding with the First Friday's Bronx Seaside Trolley. Willie's work will be available at Kaleidoscope Gallery for the entire month of November.



At The Library

Come Celebrate the Library's 100th Anniversary on City Island (1911-2011)

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

November Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Wednesday, Nov. 9, and Wednesday, Nov. 30; 11 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Toddler Time: Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; 11 a.m. 18 months to 3 years.

Story Time: Read-aloud picture books: Thursdays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17; 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 10.

Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, Nov. 29; 3:30 p.m. All ages.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: Sacagawea Bird Woman: Native American guide to the Lewis and Clarke Expedition: A play for ages 5 to 12. Monday, Nov. 14, at 4 p.m.

November Young Adult Programs

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL EVENT: Game Strike! Saturday, Nov. 19, at 1:30 p.m.

November Adult Programs

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

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

NEW! Introduction to Facebook Find lost friends, make new ones. Every other Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Call our number below for exact dates for November.

NEW! Introduction to the Internet in Spanish. Nuevo! Introduction a Internet Impartido en Espanol Every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Historian Jeremy McCue presents the life of George Washington (1732-1799). Saturday, Nov. 5, at 2 p.m.

Guitar Music of Spain: A concert of classical and contemporary acoustic guitar music. Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m.

Author Books Talk and Lecture: Captain Tom Walker (ret.) presents: Return to Fort Apache: Captain Walker, author of four books, will discuss his life working for the NYPD from the 1960s to the infamous 1970s, in the infamous 41st precinct more commonly known as "Fort Apache." Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Don't miss this event! Please come early.

Please check our flyers for any additional programs, cancellations, or last-minute changes for November 2011. We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

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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
171 Reville Street	8/3/11	\$ 330,000	2 family
75 Ditmars Street	9/15/11	\$1,137,000	1 family
186 Beach Street	9/26/11	\$ 625,000	1 family

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Anne Hutchinson Year Festivities Continue

By TOBY LIEDERMAN

Don't miss the City Island Theater Group's production of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," which opens on Friday, Nov. 4, at Grace Church Parish Hall (see Briefly). The similarities between John Proctor's witchcraft trial in 1692 and Anne's 1637-38 trials make this play a natural during our celebration of Anne Hutchinson's 420th birthday.

Philipse Manor Hall, State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Avenue at Dock Street in Yonkers is hosting an event on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. entitled "Who Was Anne Hutchinson and Why Are Three Schools, A River and A Parkway Named For Her?" There will be a lecture by Laura Chmielewski, assistant professor of history at SUNY Purchase, on "Anne Hutchinson's Life in the Puritan Migration to New England" and a talk by John Wright, director Thomas Paine Cottage in New Rochelle on "Native Americans, 1643." This will be the first public showing of an original 1648 book written by Scottish Professor Samuel Rutherford, which includes his ideas about the infamous Anne Hutchinson! The event is free, with refreshments provided by the Friends of Philipse Manor. Call Kimberly Flook, site manager, at 914-965-4027 for further information.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, there will be a tree planting ceremony in Pelham Bay Park in

memory of Anne Hutchinson. The free event will take place on the grounds of Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road, opposite Split Rock Golf Course. For more information, call park headquarters at 718-430-1890.

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m., there will be a free roundtable discussion at Lehman College on "1643: Anne, Native Americans and the Dutch." Meet at the Lehman Art Gallery rotunda, entering on Goulden Avenue at the Gate 4 entrance to the college. (Entrance ramp leads into the gallery building.) The general public, history buffs, seasoned historians, faculty and students are invited to take part. Share theories and facts and ask questions in an informal setting; there will be no lecture or formal presentations. Call the gallery at 718-960-8731 or the college at 718-960-8000 for more information.

A dinner to celebrate Anne Hutchinson festivities of the past year will take place at Artie's Restaurant, at the corner of Ditmars Street and City Island Avenue, on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. The cost of \$30 per person includes a choice of four entrees, salad, dessert, coffee and tip. Enjoy delicious food and friendship in honor of this "woman ahead of her time" (or was she "deluded by the devil"?). Call Patty Grondahl at 718-885-0727 to make reservations.

Pious Pets & Popular Pumpkins



On Sunday, Oct. 2, Father Augustus Onwubiko of St. Mary, Star of the Sea church, blessed Island animals on the commemoration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



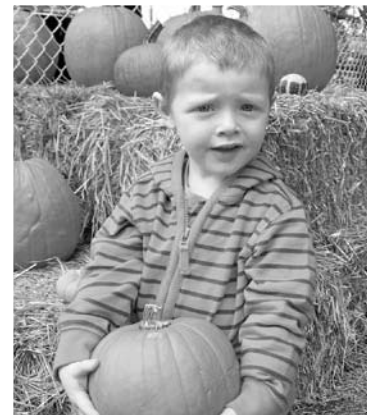
Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGER

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The annual Legion Fall Pumpkin Sale is becoming an annual success! Islanders flock to the pumpkin patch (aka parking lot), including two-year old Joseph Secola, who snagged a pumpkin to match the color of his hair. The hard working volunteers included Legionnaires (l. to r.) John Ulmer, Keith Shipp, Dave Carman, Joe Goonan, Ed Shipp, Walter Natiw, Peter Booth and Gene Valesio.

Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGER

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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

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 8, **Election Day**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue. PTA Election Day Sale, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 12, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course, 6 to 11 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 17, **Community Board 10 meets**, Providence Rest, 3303 Waterbury Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Sat., Nov. 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Chicken or turkey cut up with rice and beans.

Sat., Nov. 26, **Holiday Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

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

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school has re-opened and takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend. The class is currently studying the book of Genesis, in particular Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Our fall food sale was a huge success; we were blessed with beautiful weather and delicious goodies! Thanks to all who helped at the table and came by to gobble up the homemade treats.

A Fall Group Bible Study is currently under way and will conclude on Nov. 20. It runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. A roundtable type of discussion based on the subjects presented in the Biblical text being read. The study is aimed at an understanding of the text and its application to us as Christians today. It is led by George Cavaleri, Trinity's Lay Leader/Speaker. The study is a continuation of the New Testament historical narrative of the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke, chapters 16-20. The New Testament Text and a study outline will be provided, and no registration or fee is required. The study will resume during Lent of 2012.

All in the community interested in Bible Study are welcome regardless of whether you have or have not previously attended. In the words of Jesus, "Come and see."

The Budget Corner is packed with lots of newly donated items. The shop will be open on Nov. 1, 12, 15 and 19; Dec. 6, 10, 13 and 17. It will close for the Christmas holiday and reopen on or about Jan. 10. Remember, donations to and proceeds from the Budget Shop help Trinity to continue in programs and outreach on City Island.

Rick DeWitt

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

We began the month of November with the celebration of two special feasts: the feast of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls.

On Nov. 4, the first Friday of the month, we will hold our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special period of prayer.

St. Mary's School will hold its annual Turkey Bingo on Friday evening, Nov. 18, in the school gym. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. This is open to everyone. Come and bring the family for an evening of fun.

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass will take

place on Tuesday evening, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. We hope that the Tuesday schedule will make it possible for more people to gather to give thanks as a community of faith for the many blessings given to each of us and to our community. At the Mass we will collect canned and dried foods, which will be distributed to the poor. All are welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Sunday, Nov. 27, is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior to live among us as a man. We will place our Advent candle in a prominent place in our church as we mark off the weeks in anticipation of Christ's coming. We pray for peace in our world as we await the celebration of the coming of the Prince of Peace.

The Parish Council will meet on Monday evening, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Sunday, Dec. 4, in the school gym and in the Thrift Shop. Doors will open at 9 a.m. Come and browse and buy some great gifts for Christmas! The Christmas shop will remain open in the Thrift Shop on Thursdays and Saturdays from Dec. 8 to Dec. 22.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island, "Your Shul by the Sea" (located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets), is a very musical, unaffiliated, all-inclusive, egalitarian and spirited congregation that provides an exciting place for observance for Jewish families and individuals who come from many different communities and cultures. We gather together under the leadership of the innovative Rabbi Shohama Wiener; Cantor Elaine Faver, a composer and arranger; and the singing pianist Reb David Markus.

As usual attendance at our free High Holy Day services was outstanding (considering our small but haimish sanctuary).

Sabbath services are Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and they are open to all. We use Rabbi Marcia Prager's easy-to-read English prayer book with singable Hebrew. Some Friday nights are congregation-led (such as Friday, Nov. 4). Come and participate with accordionist Bob Berent and drop-in musicians.

That shabbat will be followed with a Chant Circle on Sunday, Nov. 6 (from 7:30 to 9 p.m.) led by Reb Eva. There will be lots of spiritual singing so come, lift your voices and souls. No talent needed, for Reb Eva's voice and flute will keep us in tune.

Rabbi Shohama, accompanied by guitar and possibly our band, will conduct her next Kabbalat "welcome" Shabbat at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m. The oneg that night will be provided by Karen and Marty Davidowitz in honor of their new grandson, Jonathan.

A "community infomercial" on Medicare Options will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 3 p.m. It will be conducted by Stephen Gottlieb.

An interdenominational Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 18, will honor all veterans.

We hope you enjoyed the chamber music concert held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30 and featuring music by Ibert, Rossini, Shubert and even Scott Joplin! This concert by the Bardekova Ensemble (with flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon) was made possible with funds from the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, the Music Performance Fund and private donations.

Contact us about your life-cycle service in our sanctuary or to sponsor one.

Bob Berent



Photo by BOB BERENT

Leading Temple Beth-El of City Island into a sweet and melodious new year, Rabbi Shohama Wiener conducts Rosh Hashana services with the assistance of (l. to r.), Reb David Markus on keyboard, Cantor Elaine Faver, Monty Renov on bass guitar, Alan Dattner on drum, Rabbi Shohama on guitar, Joshua Davidowitz on viola and Steve Gottlieb with his soprano saxophone.

Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, we held our annual "mock" baby shower. Our "Mother to Be" was Marge Sessa, who opened many beautiful baby gifts (dresses, pants, sweaters, onsies, coats, etc.), all of which were donated to the New York Foundling Hospital, which is a haven for babies in need. A great time was had by all and Marge is due any day!

Our next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. and our December Trim-the-Tree meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Keep in mind that the Auxiliary is selling Lottery Calendars for \$20 each; they make great Christmas gifts. Please drop by the Post if you are interested. Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Regina Murphy

City Island Republicans

Monday, Nov. 14, is our next meeting. It will be held at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. Last month we had our largest turnout in five years.

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls are open at P.S. 175 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS Senior Programs

Healthy Exercise Program: To feel better, be healthier and stronger and maybe even lose weight, join our fun-filled exercise program. You can attend all classes for \$20 per month or all classes for \$6 per week. Or for individual classes you may contribute \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance. Zumba Gold with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Sittercise with Patty on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays, leaving Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.; Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall; Fit for Life with Sarah on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

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

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

Transportation Services: Everyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Anthony Mazzella at 347-834-6466 a day ahead for Island and off-Island trips. Regular afternoon shopping trips are Monday: Bay Plaza; Thursday: Stop & Shop; every other Wednesday: Shop Rite in New Rochelle. Trips are also made to Fairway, Target, Trader Joe's, Home Depot, Cross County Shopping Center, the Christmas Tree Shop, Key Food, Empire City and more. The suggested contribution for round trips is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island.

Call to receive our detailed monthly calendar featuring trips and events, such as group theater discounts.

Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services and the NYC Department for the Aging.

Patty Grondahl

AARP Chapter 3303

Chapter members were kept busy on Thursdays in October, attending meetings on the 6th and the 20th, and in between enjoying lunch at the Sea Shore Restaurant on the 13th.

November promises to follow in close footsteps. President Karin Gorziska informed us that the chapter would be having a Pizza Bingo Party in lieu of a regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17. The admission fee of \$5 will get you a slice of pizza, a bingo pack and the opportunity to "hit the jackpot." Advance payment will be requested at the Nov. 3 meeting.

Still more good times are ahead. Kick off the holiday season by joining us for the afternoon Christmas Dinner Dance (\$49 per person) at the Davenport Beach Club on Thursday, Dec. 15. Members and friends, old and new, are invited. Sign up at one of our meetings and join the fun.

Chapter dues of \$15 a year per person for the coming fiscal year are still being collected. Members and would-be members are reminded that they must first be members in good standing of the AARP national chapter before they can be maintained as members of local #3303.

The chapter meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month (except January, July and August) in the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street. For the rest of the year, regular meetings will be held on Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

For more information on becoming a member or attending our social events, please call Karin Gorziska at 718-885-1740. Membership is not required to attend the above-mentioned parties.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Paula Huffell

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

Overeaters Anonymous:

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



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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

November Movie Night: Friday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m. \$2 per ticket. Concessions available. For more information, please e-mail BxShanley@optonline.net or call 917-721-8747.

NEW CLASS

Bee-Well Sessions with Angela Parrino, Ph.D.: Promoting literacy skills and health education in young children, ages 4 to 8 years old. One-hour monthly sessions highlighting the content of her children's wellness series. Emotional, physical, environmental, mental, interpersonal and spiritual activities for each session will reflect children's varied learning styles. \$20 per session includes a copy of featured book from the session, homemade animal cookies and a beverage, and a related plush toy based on character of the featured book. Call Dr. Angela Parrino at 718-801-7851 or e-mail gphoneytomes@yahoo.com.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

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

ADULT PROGRAM

Yoga Stretch with Norma: Thursdays at 7 p.m. This is an easy hatha vinyasa class suitable for all fitness levels. These yoga stretch poses help remove any fears

or challenges in doing these exercises, while they also assist with stress reduction and weight management. This class focuses on stretching and toning muscles that are often neglected, but so important to keeping you healthy and mobile. And best of all, Yoga Stretch is easy and fun enough for beginners, or those who just haven't exercised in a while. \$10.00/class 718-885-0535.

Fit For Life: A balanced cardio and strength training class for all experience levels. Classes offered Monday and Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. (children are welcome to come along with parents during Tuesday morning class only). For any questions, please call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122. Classes are \$8.00.

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

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

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

SheWorkHer: Learn basic home repair. SheWorkHer is women dedicated to helping women learn just how much they can do with a few tools and the right knowledge and how to save hundreds of dollars doing it yourself. Classes are every other Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call Nancy today 646-235-1175 and reserve your spot.

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

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

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

Amy Gottlieb

American Legion Post # 156 and Sons of the American Legion

The annual pumpkin sale was a great success. Despite the excessive rain, Ed Shipp was able to locate enough pumpkins to meet customer demand. Kudos to the hard-working volunteers: Peter Booth, Bill Clancy Sr., Joe Goonan, Maureen Grogan, Jack Grogan, Jim Livingston, Tom Lynch, John Mulfeld, Walter Nastiw, Ed Shipp, Keith Shipp, John and Linda Ulmer, Gene Valesio and Pete Zvara. Thanks also for the support from Captain Mike's, Amadiz



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

The Boy Scouts of Troop 211 and the Cub Scouts of Pack 211 enjoyed a fishing trip together this past summer on the Island Current.

Cigars, Paladino Realty, Cormac McEnery, Esq., Patrick Gannon, Nancy Kheck and City Island Gold.

November is an active month at the Post. The annual Military Ball, with a full-course dinner, open bar and live music, will be held on Friday, Nov. 11, at the Villa Barone Manor Restaurant. Earlier that day, the annual Bronx County Veterans Day ceremony will once again be held in Pelham Bay Park at the Victory Monument at 11 a.m. The Commander says that all former enlisted men should wear their good conduct medals.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, the Throggs Neck Veterans Day Parade kicks off at noon at East Tremont and Lawton Avenues and marches down East Tremont Avenue. Throggs Neck always marches in our Memorial Day parade, so it is important that our Post makes a good showing. The Post Commander would like to see a color guard at the parade. The Grand Marshal will be Joseph Garafalo, who will be 91 when the parade kicks off. Joe is the curator at a museum currently housed at John Dormi and Sons Funeral Home located on Morris Park Avenue. Joe invites all to see his trove of memorabilia.

The annual Servicemen's Dinner is on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. The cost is \$30 and includes the traditional roast chicken and roast pork dinner with all of the trimmings. Live music and open bar are included.

Sadly, we lost comrade Walter Henning, uncle of Commander Walter Natiw, during October, and Lifetime Ladies Auxiliary Member Virginia Deich, mother of past Ladies Auxiliary president Claudia Deich. The Post sends condolences to the families and asks that you remember Walter and Virginia in your prayers.

We have nothing to report on Sick Call. We did talk to Jennie Varian, who now resides at Meadowview Assisted Living at the Wartburg Adult Care Community, 2 Wartburg Place, Apt. 309, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10552, telephone 914-513-5807. Her husband, Donald, who suffered a serious stroke years ago, resides there too. Jennie says he gets excellent care. They were active in the Post for years. If you could spare a little time to give them a call or write a short note, they would appreciate it.

It was certainly good to hear that President Obama decided to bring the troops home from Iraq after nine years. Now let's get the rest home. We don't belong over there.

Saturday, Nov. 19, will be the Servicemen's Dance at the Post. It will be a roast pork dinner. Beer and wine will be served. All for \$30.

We are also here for all of your party needs. The Post can accommodate up to 100 people and we have some of the best rates on City Island. All members receive a discount. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-0639 or stop by the Post any time after 12 noon. If you know of someone in the service, kindly give their names to General Robert Menona (ret). The annual Christmas gifts will be dispatched in time for Christmas. Chance books that support this activity will soon be in the mail.

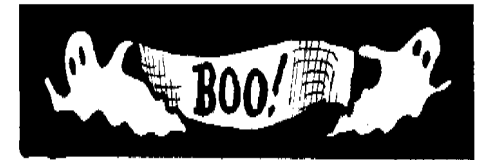
Comrade Michael Treat reminds us that 2012 dues are due for Post members, and Fred Ramftl reminds us that 2012 dues

(\$30) are due for SAL members.

There will be just one regular Post meeting, which will take place on Monday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m.; the Post executive board meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 21. The SAL meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m.

Until December, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus, and Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.



Cub Scout Pack 211

Well, it is certainly that time of year. With a delay in our registration we are in full swing, growing by leaps and bounds. We are being told that we are one of the largest Packs in the city. A testament to a great group of leaders. CSP211 would like to welcome Ryan Amos, Matthew Franco, Nicholas Barrata, Jason Lacina, Tobias Frei, Colin Kenny, James Shaw, Jack Phillipps, Jake Zawell, Matthew McGuagn, Marco Mazzella, Mark Browning, and Hudson Gheezee-Cheery as new scouts. We are sure you'll make us proud like the other scouts do.

We certainly have an excited groups of Scouts who are eager to do some exciting adventures and skills. Our theme for this season is PATRIOTISM. Our calendar is full and exciting, filled with fishing trips, camping, sleepovers and a visit to our Nations Capitol. Stay tuned for more. We meet on Tuesday eves from 630p-800p. Registration is open. Our email address is CUBSCOUTPACK211@aol.com if anyone has questions or ideas.

Angelo Bellocchio

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Wednesday Morning Prayer is suspended until further notice.

Sunday, Nov. 6: Lambs Babysitting available beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Scott Meyer, Senior Warden

AARP Chapter 318

Chapter 318 meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall, 113 Bay Street.

At the Nov. 2 meeting, we will enjoy pizza and bingo. The cost is \$7 per person.

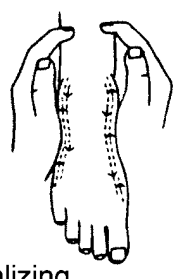
The next meetings will take place on Nov. 16, Dec. 7 and Dec. 21. On Dec. 21, we will have our Christmas luncheon at the Lobster House at 12 noon. The cost is \$40 per person.

New members are always welcome.

Rosetta Woods

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Didn't See That Coming

I love movies that have a twist at the end that surprises me. My favorite of the **Star Wars** Series is **The Empire Strikes Back** (1980), the second film of the original trilogy. Fleeing the evil Galactic Empire, the rebels abandon their new base on the planet Hoth. Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and Han Solo (Harrison Ford) escape in his spaceship, the Millennium Falcon but are later captured by evil Lord Darth Vader (body of David Prowse, voice of James Earl Jones). Meanwhile, Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) goes to the planet Dagobah to train to become a Jedi Knight mentored by the Jedi Master, Yoda (voice of Frank Oz). Near the end of the film, we are let in on a secret that profoundly affects both Luke and his arch-enemy, Darth Vader. The first time I saw the film, I didn't see that coming.

Beginning with the opening strains of John Barry's wonderfully steamy music, Lawrence Kasdan's **Body Heat** (1981) is a masterpiece of imagery and mood, reminiscent of 1940s film noir. William Hurt, as sleazy lawyer Ned Racine, teams with Kathleen Turner as sex-crazed Mattie Walker, who convinces him to plot against her husband (Richard Crenna). Ted Danson steals each scene as a dancing district attorney. Will they get away with their dastardly deed?

No Way Out (1987) stars Kevin Costner as Navy Commander Tom Farrell who is hired by college buddy Scott Pritchard (Will Patton) to assist Secretary of Defense David Bryce (Gene Hackman). Farrell develops a relationship with Susan Atwell (Sean Young), a woman being kept by a Washington official. A murder takes place and draws

Farrell deeper and deeper into a cover-up. The plot twist makes you want to take a second look, because nothing is what it seems.

The complex film **The Usual Suspects** (1995) begins with a massive explosion on a ship in a California harbor. Police detective Dave Kujan (Chazz Palminteri) brings in the only witness, Roger "Verbal" Kint (Oscar winner Kevin Spacey), who recounts the events that led to the disaster. Five days earlier, a truckload of gun parts had been hijacked in Queens, and five men were brought in as suspects: Kint, hot-headed thief McManus (Stephen Baldwin), ill-tempered thug Hockney (Kevin Pollak), flashy wise guy Fenster (Benicio del Toro) and Keaton (Gabriel Byrne), a cop gone bad now trying to go straight. When a robbery attempt goes wrong, they are visited by Kobayashi (Pete Postlethwaite), representative of Keyser Soze, criminal mastermind or myth?

In **Primal Fear** (1996) Richard Gere stars as Martin Vail, a famous defense lawyer who takes a pro bono case defending Aaron Stampler (Edward Norton), a Kentucky teenager charged with the murder of a Chicago archbishop. Assigned to prosecute is Assistant DA Janet Venable (Laura Linney), Vail's ex-girlfriend. The case becomes more complicated than Vail expected when a psychologist, Dr. Molly Arrington (Frances McDormand), concludes that Stampler suffers from multiple personality disorder. Its shocking twist ending made this film a big box office hit and earned Norton, in his screen debut, an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

In **The Sixth Sense** (1999), Haley Joel Osment is excellent as Cole Sear, an odd child who thinks he sees dead people. Cole is treated by child psychiatrist Dr. Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis), whose marriage to Anna (Olivia Williams) is on the rocks. Toni Collette is wonderful as Lynn, Cole's very concerned mother. This is a spooky, thought-provoking film with an ending that will make you want to see the movie again from the beginning.

Down With Love (2003) is tribute to the old Rock Hudson-Doris Day comedies. Set in 1962 Manhattan, Barbara Novak (Renee Zellweger) has written a book that takes the world by storm. Playboy journalist Catcher Block pretends to be a naïve astronaut in

order to seduce her. David Hyde-Pierce is Peter McMannus, Block's editor, and Sarah Paulson is Vikki Hiller, Novak's publisher. The clothing is a treat for the eye, in this comedy that has a twist you won't see coming.

On a more serious note, **The Lives of Others** (2006) is a German film set in 1984 Berlin. Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch) is a successful playwright who lives with his girlfriend, Christa-Maria Sieland (Martina Gedeck), an actress who stars in his plays. Captain Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe), is the Stasi officer who listens to their every move at home and develops some sympathy for them. The suspense comes from not knowing from one moment to the next what choices any of the characters will make.

Who is truly guilty in this story?

The Swedish film **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (2009) is based on the first book in Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy. It stars Noomi Rapace as Lisbeth Salander, a computer hacker with wild hair, body piercings and tattoos. An abuse survivor, Salander is hired to do background research on journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist). Blomkvist, in turn, has been hired by octogenarian Henrik Vanger (Sven-Bertil Taube) to look into the fate of his favorite niece, Harriet, who disappeared decades earlier. Vanger suspects foul play by one of his sinister relatives, some of whom were active Nazis during World War II. Can Blomkvist (or you) solve this mystery?

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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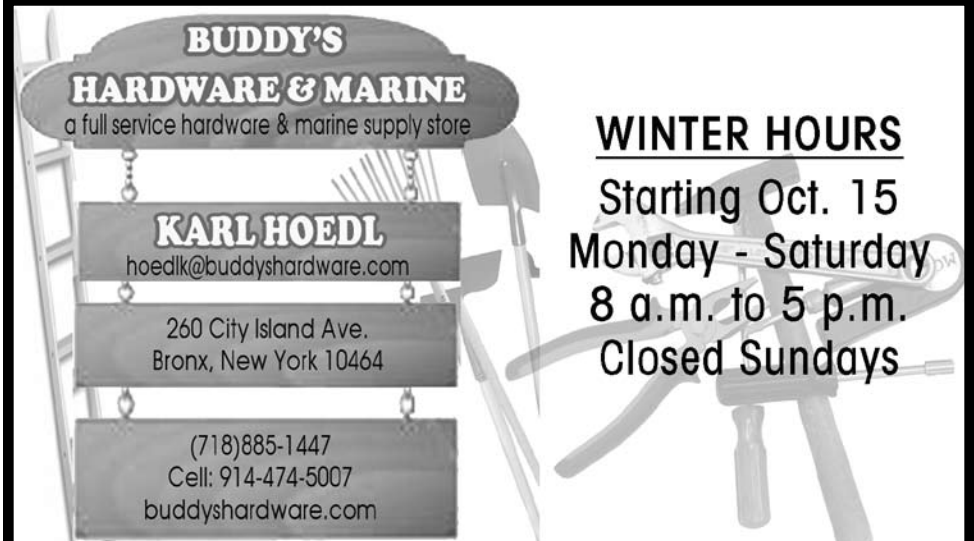
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Photo by PAT LAPORTE

On October 1, 2011, Pat LaPorte, Ellen Hebard and others manned the table at Trinity Church's annual food sale. With help from many bakers young and old, lots of goodies were sold, which helped make the fund-raiser a sweet success.

A Thanksgiving Recipe

By MICHAEL PROIETTI

It's the time of year when people start to ask questions about the best way to cook the turkey. We already have so much to be thankful for why not add one more thing to that list—moist turkey!

I'm a big fan of brining the bird. For those of you who have no idea what I'm talking about, let me explain.

A brine is a strong solution that tenderizes your bird. The basic brine is with salt, water and brown sugar, but you can use anything from beer and molasses to vinegar and pickling spice. One ingredient in almost all brines is salt. Why is salt so important? It works as a tenderizer and helps your meat retain moisture. (Indeed, salt is a cook's best friend: it tenderizes, helps retain moisture when applied with large amounts of liquid, preserves, pulls out moisture when added dry, and it's a terrific seasoning.) Sugar also help tenderize your bird.

The brining period is also a great time to get extra flavor into the bird, because the liquid can get seasoning into hard-to-reach places.

This may sound like a lot of work, but it really isn't, and the results are always great. If you feel like it is more than you want to take on, I can certainly understand and my feelings won't be hurt, but I do expect you to try this at some point. Try it out the first time on a small chicken. I promise that by the end of your chicken experiment, you'll be eager to brine your Thanksgiving turkey and will be giving me a call to come over and try your moist and well-seasoned bird!

Basic brine for a 12- to 14-pound turkey:

- 3 quarts of water
- 1 cup of sea salt
- ¼ cup of brown sugar
- 2 bay leaves
- 6 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 tablespoon whole black pepper
- 1 tablespoon dry sage
- 2 cups apple cider vinegar

Combine all the brine ingredients in a large pot and stir until the sugar and salt have dissolved. Thoroughly clean your turkey and put it into the pot, covering it with the mixture. Let it sit for 12 to 18 hours in the refrigerator.

One hour before roasting, remove the bird from the brine and rinse it. Pat the bird dry and season as you would normally do. Then let it sit for 45 minutes at room temperature. Then you can roast that bird the way you usually do. (Note: For the chicken test, quarter the brine recipe.)

A few hours later, enjoy your tender, juicy bird. And the next time you see me, tell me how it worked out. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Island resident Michael Proietti is a chef and television personality with a great enthusiasm and talent for great cuisine. He graduated from the New York Restaurant School in 1998 and served as sous chef at Asia de Cuba, where he gained experience, motivation and styles from various cooking traditions. He is now executive chef at a well-established New York hotel. Michael has appeared on the Food Network, where he has competed against top celebrity chefs; he also left his mark as a contestant on the Next Food Network Star program.



As *The Island Current* continues to celebrate its 40th year, the editorial board decided to reprint a column by one of our most popular columnists, Debby Kall, who passed away in 2000. There were many to choose from but we selected "Let's Eat" as particularly appropriate as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches. Those interested in the rest of Debby's columns may obtain a copy from the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, open Saturdays and Sundays between 1 and 5 p.m.

LET'S EAT (November 1989)

Years ago, disaster struck on Thanksgiving Day. My mother was cooking the turkey and she basted the bird in Glamorene instead of cooking oil. Apparently the Glamorene jug and the Wesson oil bottle had been on the same shelf in the back closet. Instead of roast turkey, the smell of rug cleaner permeated the house. Now for me, this would have meant nothing short of hysteria, but not for Mom. When she tried to wash off the turkey, we all screamed until she called up one of the local restaurants and had them deliver a cooked turkey. This saved us from having to call up the poison control number.

It is no secret that some people love food and enjoy being gourmands. They seek out new restaurants like prospectors staking claims in the Old West. After discovering a mother lode of fine food, they will introduce other food lovers to their discovery. Unfortunately, I am seldom spoken to in this way about food since I am not one of those epicures.

Believe it or not, my mother is a good cook. My mother-in-law is also a good cook. They both can get all the food on the table at the same time, hot, and feed up to fifteen people at once without incident. This is amazing to me. I am a failure in the kitchen, and I usually eat the same thing

day in and out without giving it too much thought.

If a group of my friends ventures out to a new restaurant and I am forced to make a food decision, I panic. I will turn to a friend and ask, "What should I have?" "Chicken," she will say. "You like chicken." So I always order the chicken. Sometimes it is disguised with a fancy sauce or it is mashed into a different shape, but it is chicken nonetheless, familiar and palatable.

When I took chemistry in college, I passed with a 68. Cooking, like chemistry, has a lot to do with having the right instincts for combining and balancing elements. Good cooks don't really measure anything. They just use a pinch of this or that, and they keep secret stashes of ingredients in small cabinets for use in preparing everything they make. I have salt and pepper and Mr. Bubble in my cabinet.

I have learned two dishes that I can prepare reasonably well. They are served only when we have guests. I volunteered to have Thanksgiving dinner at my house a few years ago, but the silence in the room was deafening. Finally, a member of my family asked if the menu would be lasagna or pasta salad. I got the message.

I thought that having children would develop my nutritional instincts. But basic food groups, balanced meals, and calcium for the bones are all phrases that fill my heart with dread.

After I have prepared broccoli, hamburgers, and baked potatoes, one of my kids will eat the entire meal and the other will ask for plain spaghetti. This worries me, because I am afraid I am fostering another foodaphobic.

In order to draw attention away from my culinary attempts, I have come up with a foolproof scheme. I take great pains to use lots of candles, the good china, and cloth napkins, with fresh flowers as a centerpiece. The guests are so stunned by the table setting that they say nothing about the food they are eating in the dark. They probably don't know what it is anyway. (Ah, well, does it really matter who eats what, so long as it isn't tons of red mooring meat or cholesterol-ridden eggs?)

So much socializing revolves around eating. Business lunches, coffee klatches, birthday dinners, eating out, dining in, taking out. I feel as if I'm missing something. The really big seasonal eating days are fast approaching. I have promised myself to try to get into the spirit of things. All those cookbooks I have stored in the basement next to the food processor and the juicer are coming out for the holidays.

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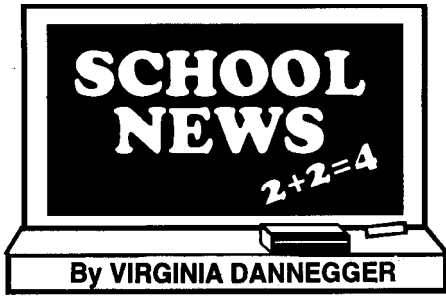
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Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start. The building of the upstairs walls is almost complete, and students and teachers will be moving upstairs to their beautiful, spacious rooms before the end of the month. These walls are a testament to what the community and the school can accomplish when they work together. We are grateful to all those in the community who took time to write letters and to our elected officials who helped get the project completed.

Although additional budget cuts have not allowed us to hire a full-time art teacher, we are once again collaborating with the Bronx Arts Ensemble to provide visual, musical and theatrical arts to our students. In addition, Councilman Vacca has once again given the school a grant for an after-school choral/drama program for students in grades 6 through 8. In addition, thanks to the generosity of our PTA, we are able to continue our work with Lincoln Center Institute in grades K through 3. This year's units of study are puppetry and flamenco dancing.

We are also fortunate to be the recipient of two technology grants. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Councilman James Vacca have provided us with funds to upgrade our technology program. Not only will we have state-of-the-art classrooms, but we will also have the technology to go with them!

The building continues to buzz after regular school hours. Our Extended Day Program, which began the second week of school, provides students in all grades with academic support, as well as test preparation for the Specialized High School Exam and the TACHS for eighth-grade students. The Sports & Arts program, which serves students in grades 5 through 8, includes a sports component that changes throughout the year, along with homework help, art and games. Another component of the Sports & Arts program is the many exciting trips that students attend during school holidays.

Several exciting events will be taking place in the weeks to come. They include our annual Family/Pajama Night for kindergarten through third grade, a Halloween movie and snacks for fourth and fifth graders, and the Halloween Dance for our students in grades 6 through 8. The PTA is also having its annual Election Day Sale on Nov. 8. We hope to see many of you there. As always, we greatly appreciate all of the support we get from our community.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 8, Election Day (school closed for students); Nov. 15, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 to 2:50 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m.

September Citizens-of-the-Month are Marcus Sipas and Alexander Persteins (kindergarten); Marc Browning and Jayden Rogers (first grade); Jennifer Gjonaj and Johanna Doyle (second grade); Kaltrina Rugova and Joseph Goonan (third grade); Rudy Etzel and Paul Mazzella (fourth grade); Caeleigh Patterson and Claudia Kimmel (fifth grade); Connor Hanley-Piri and Destiny Nieves (sixth grade); Danielle Giocondo and Connie Yew (seventh grade); Michael Pirraglia and Michael Santomasimo (eighth grade).

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The Students-of-the-Month for September are Patrick Clancy and Michelle Medina (Kindergarten); Avery Morant and Alvert Rodriguez (first grade); Frances Morales (second grade); Julian Coley (third grade); Nicholas Badillo, Elijah Frances and Daniela Zoquier (fourth grade); Timothy Hudson (fifth grade); Jasmine Billings (sixth grade); Miles Johnson (seventh grade); Angelique Cordero and Douglas J. Skinner (eighth grade).



From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

IRS Urges Taxpayers to Avoid Becoming Victims of Tax Scams

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is encouraging taxpayers to guard against being misled by unscrupulous individuals who try to persuade them to file false claims for tax credits or rebates. In addition, be wary of bogus emails. The IRS does NOT send emails.

The IRS has noted an increase in scams related to tax returns, frequently involving unsuspecting taxpayers who normally do not have a filing requirement in the first place. These taxpayers are led to believe they should file a return with the IRS for tax credits, refunds or rebates to which they are not entitled. Many of these recent scams have been targeted in the South and Midwest.

Most paid tax return preparers provide honest and professional service, but there are some who engage in fraud and other illegal activities. Unscrupulous promoters deceive people into paying for advice on how to file false claims. Some promoters may charge unreasonable amounts for preparing legitimate returns that could have been prepared for free by the IRS or IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance partners. In other situations, identity theft is involved.

Taxpayers should be wary of any of the following:

- Fictitious claims for refunds or rebates based on excess or withheld Social Security benefits.
- Claims that Treasury Form 1080 can be used to transfer funds from the Social Security Administration to the IRS enabling a payout from the IRS.
- Unfamiliar for-profit tax services teaming up with local churches.
- Home-made flyers and brochures implying credits or refunds are available without proof of eligibility.
- Offers of free money with no documentation required.
- Promises of refunds for "Low Income—No Documents Tax Returns."
- Claims for the expired Economic Recovery Credit Program or Recovery Rebate Credit.
- Advice on claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit based on exaggerated reports of self-employment income.

In some cases non-existent Social Security refunds or rebates have been the bait used by the con artists. In other situations, taxpayers deserve the tax credits they are promised, but the preparer uses fictitious or inflated information on the return, which results in a fraudulent return.

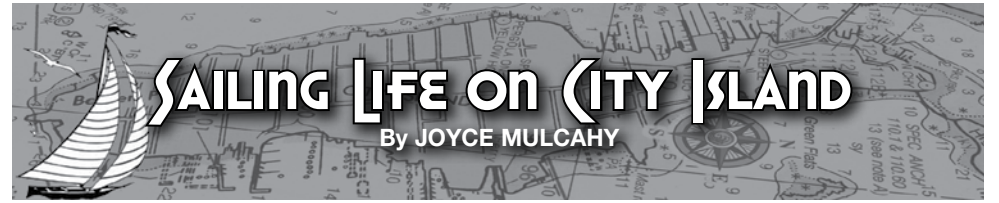
Flyers and advertisements for free money from the IRS, suggesting that the taxpayer can file with little or no documentation, have been appearing in community churches around the country. Promoters are targeting church congregations, exploiting their good intentions and credibility. These schemes also often spread by word of mouth among unsuspecting and well-

intentioned people telling their friends and relatives.

Promoters of these scams often prey upon low income individuals and the elderly. They build false hopes and charge people good money for bad advice. In the end, the victims discover their claims are rejected or the refund barely exceeds what they paid the promoter. Meanwhile, their money and the promoters are long gone.

Unsuspecting individuals are most

likely to get caught up in scams, and the IRS is warning all taxpayers and those who help others prepare returns to remain vigilant. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Anyone with questions about a tax credit or program should visit www.irs.gov, call the IRS toll-free number at 800-829-1040 or visit a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center. For questions about rebates, credit and benefits from other federal agencies contact the relevant agency.



Thoughts on the Promenade

Our summer-loving island is still welcoming, even with the autumn chill in the air. Although many boats are out of the water, set on their jackstands, winterized and covered, the water remains. I sat recently on a bench on the Catherine Scott promenade and people-watched while reading my book, or attempting to.

First I noticed a young boy, not more than 6 or 7, throwing stones in the water. His family sat on a bench nearby. He pumped his fist in the air with every plop in the water and shouted, "yesssss," as if he'd just caught the biggest fish in the harbor or clunked it on the head. Occasionally his father would say something in Spanish, and the boy would laugh. He ran over and gave his father several kisses on the cheek before running off saying, this time in English, "Let's play hide and seek, Daddy!" A young girl of about 10 or so joined them, and they all hid behind bushes and benches laughing as families do together on a carefree Sunday afternoon.

I returned to my book only to be distracted by the rustling of a plastic bag. An old woman sat near me, reached into her bag noisily for a tissue and a magazine. She put her feet up, sat back and read "Television Today." At least that's what I think it said, as my Russian is a bit rusty. This babushka, as they are affectionately called in Eastern Europe, had two sets of glasses on, but the darker set sat below the clear one. We met each other's eye and smiled.

Someone threw a piece of bread on the grass and pigeons from every direction whizzed past my head and descended. I was glad I was wearing a hat! I returned to my book and reread the same paragraph I had read a few moments earlier.

Before long, the reflection of the sun on the water caught my eye. A sailboat just off the bridge appeared surrounded by stars, or maybe diamonds, resting at its waterline. This is one of the boats that will remain all winter, I know, and I'm grateful it does. It reminds me, even on the coldest days, that sailing will come again. It's weathered and worn and needs work, but right

now, in the brilliant sunshine, it's grand.

And still, on this chilly October day, there are sailboats on the water. I see one or two on Eastchester Bay. I think I might like to be on that boat, but now I feel content right where I am, observing it, like the others who come to the promenade to see such things. I know how sailing makes me feel when I'm on a boat, and I wonder what those now watching feel. There is a sense of common appreciation for the City Island water view before us. I feel as if I'm in disguise. A sailor posed as a landlubber to see the world from a different point of view. I take notes and report back to, well, you.

The sun goes behind a cloud, and I turn the page of my book. I forget where I am, and I skim the page for some wording recall. Ah, yes, I remember now. Just then, a motorcycle roars and crackles behind me. It sputters and stops, as the man on its back removes his helmet and looks out, beyond the changing leaves, and the benches, and the people, to the water. He rests for a minute or two, then kickstarts his bike and roars off to Tony's or Jimmy's at the end of the island, I'm guessing.

I thought the promenade was a perfect place to read my book, but now I'm not so sure. There's a lot happening here, although I suppose one could ignore it. My book is good, very good, but I sense if I don't look up, I'll miss out on something.

A couple walks by hand in hand, happy, smiling, glad to be together, here by the water, watching the boats and the birds and the setting sun. An older woman is in a wheelchair being pushed by a younger woman about my age. It seems they have done this before, and her chair is placed facing the sun. The old woman's eyes close as she lifts her face toward the warm rays. Perhaps she's been inside for too long. A man, well into his 70s, rides one of those fold-up bikes, and I think he should be on something sturdier with a more comfortable seat. He grins as he rides by and, as if he knows what I'm thinking, telepathically sends me a message: "We are never too old, or young to feel blessed to be here!"

A father and daughter walk their bikes past me with ice cream cones in hand. They look for the perfect spot to park and discover it on a bench three down from me. I remember the times all my father had to say was "ice cream," and I'd break out into a grin. He is old now, and not sure who I am most days, but the familiar, most loving words I can say that will always fetch a smile are, "Dad, do you want to go for ice cream?" I wonder if these people here today know they are making memories.

So sailing is wrapping up for the season. It's been a wonderful ride! Cruising, racing, sunsets on the water. I am always thankful for the opportunity to live here and partake in such a wonderful sport with great people. What's a sailing columnist to write about in the off season? There's a lot. After all, we are the nautical island of the Bronx! I know many Island sailors, young and old, who have exciting stories to thrill and entertain us. Tune in next month! Now, if you don't mind, I'd like to finish my book.

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

NOVEMBER 2011

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0444	7.19	1103	0.79	1706	7.42	2349	0.37	Tue 01
02 Wed	0552	7.14	1213	0.95	1820	7.21			Wed 02
03 Thu	0051	0.60	0655	7.23	1318	0.94	1924	7.16	Thu 03
04 Fri	0148	0.71	0753	7.40	1417	0.79	2021	7.19	Fri 04
05 Sat	0242	0.72	0846	7.59	1511	0.57	2114	7.26	Sat 05
All times are Eastern Standard Time beginning Sunday, November 6									
06 Sun	0231	0.70	0834	7.76	1500	0.36	2101	7.31	Sun 06
07 Mon	0315	0.67	0919	7.86	1545	0.20	2146	7.32	Mon 07
08 Tue	0355	0.68	0959	7.89	1625	0.11	2227	7.28	Tue 08
09 Wed	0430	0.72	1035	7.85	1702	0.09	2304	7.20	Wed 09
10 Thu	0456	0.79	1102	7.78	1734	0.13	2334	7.10	Thu 10
11 Fri	0508	0.83	1111	7.75	1756	0.20	2350	7.04	Fri 11
12 Sat	0528	0.80	1130	7.81	1811	0.23			Sat 12
13 Sun	0006	7.06	0601	0.79	1202	7.87	1839	0.25	Sun 13
14 Mon	0037	7.14	0641	0.80	1241	7.89	1916	0.29	Mon 14
15 Tue	0116	7.21	0725	0.85	1325	7.83	1958	0.35	Tue 15
16 Wed	0201	7.27	0814	0.90	1413	7.69	2046	0.43	Wed 16
17 Thu	0251	7.33	0907	0.93	1507	7.49	2138	0.50	Thu 17
18 Fri	0346	7.39	1007	0.89	1606	7.27	2235	0.51	Fri 18
19 Sat	0446	7.51	1114	0.74	1710	7.12	2338	0.45	Sat 19
20 Sun	0549	7.71	1235	0.43	1821	7.08			Sun 20
21 Mon	0045	0.28	0655	7.99	1357	-0.04	1934	7.17	Mon 21
22 Tue	0155	0.04	0758	8.29	1502	-0.56	2042	7.34	Tue 22
23 Wed	0300	-0.23	0857	8.57	1601	-0.99	2142	7.51	Wed 23
24 Thu	0359	-0.43	0953	8.74	1655	-1.27	2238	7.63	Thu 24
25 Fri	0454	-0.53	1047	8.77	1747	-1.35	2332	7.67	Fri 25
26 Sat	0548	-0.50	1139	8.66	1839	-1.24			Sat 26
27 Sun	0025	7.62	0642	-0.33	1233	8.40	1931	-0.97	Sun 27
28 Mon	0120	7.51	0737	-0.07	1329	8.03	2024	-0.58	Mon 28
29 Tue	0217	7.36	0836	0.25	1430	7.60	2118	-0.15	Tue 29
30 Wed	0317	7.22	0937	0.55	1536	7.20	2213	0.26	Wed 30
DECEMBER 2011									
01 Thu	0418	7.11	1040	0.77	1642	6.89	2310	0.59	Thu 01
02 Fri	0517	7.08	1142	0.88	1745	6.70			Fri 02
03 Sat	0005	0.83	0615	7.12	1241	0.86	1844	6.61	Sat 03
04 Sun	0059	0.95	0708	7.20	1335	0.75	1938	6.62	Sun 04
05 Mon	0149	0.99	0759	7.31	1426	0.59	2028	6.67	Mon 05
06 Tue	0235	0.98	0845	7.41	1513	0.42	2115	6.73	Tue 06



Photo courtesy of THOMAS CASEY

If you think that the noise from the Rodman's Neck police firing range is loud, just imagine what life was like in the 1917, when the U.S. Navy opened a training station in Pelham Bay Park, just on the other side of the City Island bridge. The camp operated until 1919 in the area near Turtle Cove and what is now the City Island circle and Orchard Beach, but there is virtually no sign of it left. Tom Casey, from the East Bronx History Forum, gave a fascinating talk on the subject at the City Island Nautical Museum on Sunday, Oct. 16, with a slide show of postcards from the period, such as the one above.



THE SOUND OF CITY ISLAND MUSIC

City Islanders don't have to go very far to hear live music these days. On any given Friday or Saturday night, musicians are performing at any one of five Island venues (that is, five at last count). The Club is the most recent addition to the musical mix. There you can hear live performances of mostly cover material performed by, in many cases, City Island's own resident music makers.

Across the street, at The Starving Artist, the music tends to be original, in some cases, very original, but always interesting and fun to listen to. On the last Friday of each month, there is an open mic night for newcomers to the scene as well as seasoned vets. Performers have come up from Manhattan and down from Westchester to hone their acts at this unique venue. Some extremely well-honed acts that have performed at the Starving Artist have also performed on stages around the world!

Back across City Island Avenue, at The Snug, they play a wide range of music from acoustic originals to down home, Southern rock, City Island style. One of our favorite bands to perform there calls itself Blue Collar. They've got an acoustic as well as an electric version of themselves that you

can hear for yourselves every first Friday of the month.

Less familiar venues to Islanders (but just as entertaining) are to be found at The Seashore Restaurant and the Shrimp Box (formerly Tito Puente's). If you are a musician looking for a gig, what do you have to lose by talking to one or two of the proprietors of these five local establishments? It doesn't get much more convenient than gigging right here on City Island. If you just like to listen to live music, spend the next Saturday night walking the City Island strip. Close your eyes and you might mistake these streets for those in Nashville.

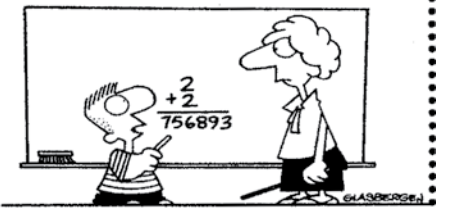
When you wake up Sunday morning, take another stroll passed one of our Island's churches. The music emanating from one of these may be historic. As we understand it, City Island churches house a couple of vintage, if not historic, pipe organs. An historic pipe organ would have been the kind that would have required a second person in order to function, since he would have supplied the required air by using a bellows. We say "would have been the kind" because after Thomas Edison and the harnessing of the power of electricity, the assistant was no longer necessary.

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

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By BUTCH NIEVES

Five Diet Tweaks for Flat Abs

If your stomach isn't as flat as you'd like it to be, then you have come to the right place. Exercise alone will not get you toned abdominal muscles. Diet is a huge part of the equation. Below I have compiled five very easy tweaks to your eating habits that will dramatically flatten your abs.

Diet Tweak #1: Don't eat after 6 p.m.

This is such a simple and effective way to lose fat. Late-night eating is the most damaging to your waistline, so cut it out completely.

These tips will help: Brush your teeth immediately after dinner. Once your teeth are brushed, you've put a period to the end of your consumption for the day. Change your evening routine. If you have always ended your day watching your favorite shows with your hand in the snack bowl, then now is the time to change. Find activities that don't revolve around food and stick with those.

The first few weeks will be the hardest, but soon your new no-food-after-6 p.m. routine will feel normal.

Diet Tweak #2: Cut back on carbs.

Notice I didn't say to cut out all carbohydrates, but rather to cut back on carbs. These diet tweaks are meant as lifestyle changes that you can stick with long term. Cutting back on carbs is a realistic and very effective way to lose weight.

Always choose whole grain bread and pasta over white. Whole grains are less likely to be stored as fat than processed grains. Eat half of the carbs you normally do. Eat your sandwiches open-faced and reduce the size of your pasta serving. Avoid carb-filled snacks between meals. Instead of crackers or chips, have fresh fruit and vegetables.

Diet Tweak #3: Eat more fiber.

Most people simply do not get enough fiber in their diets. Fiber is essential when it comes to getting lean since it is low in calories but it fills you up.

Instead of seeing salad as a side item, make salads into meals. Add protein to a large pile of greens for a guiltless meal. Make vegetables part of every meal. The benefits of eating more vegetables are too numerous to list; just know that your body will become healthier and leaner with each fibrous bite. Fruits are a delicious source of fiber, so incorporate fresh, seasonal fruits into your daily diet.

Diet Tweak #4: Drink tons of water.

Drinking plenty of water is another extremely simple way to promote weight loss. Chronic dehydration leads to false hunger signals and unnecessary calorie consumption. Drink a large glass of water before each meal; this will prevent overeating. Choose water instead of sugar-filled sodas and juices. Sugar-filled drinks are a huge weight-gain trap. Carry a water bottle with you throughout your day. Keep water in the car and at your desk for constant hydration.

Diet Tweak #5: Enjoy natural sweets.

Traditional sugar-filled sweets will quickly add up around your waistline. Instead of going for sugary sweets, enjoy natural sweets. Fruit is nature's candy. Reach for sweet, seasonal fruit for dessert. Avoid foods that contain white sugar or high fructose corn syrup. Use wholesome sweeteners, such as pure maple syrup, brown rice syrup or dates in your recipes instead of white sugar.

Eating right, coupled with challenging exercise, is the formula for a toned, lean body, so guarantee your results by tweaking your diet and, of course, keeping up with a regular exercise program.

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Islander Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Rick Sherman and Cheryl Simmons-Oliver (not pictured) represented the Bronx Rotary Club at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Orchard Beach on Oct. 16, 2011. Both walked in remembrance of their mothers, who lost their battles with breast cancer. All donations to the club earmarked for breast cancer were matched by the Bronx Rotary Foundation, effectively doubling their fund-raising for research.

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

Congratulations to Paul Nani, who will be celebrating his BIG DAY on Nov. 15. He is in for some special surprises! Happy birthday with love from Karen, Roger and Mark.

Happy 50th anniversary to former clam diggers and Earley Street residents Carol (Gauss) and Bob McKenna, who celebrated on Sept. 24 at a party thrown by their children, Lauren and Ken, at the Tappan Hilton. Bob, who married "the girl up the block," toasted his wife, saying "I didn't think I could love her any more than when she walked down the aisle of Grace Church in 1961, but here we are, 50 years later, and that love continues to grow." Many congratulations to this special couple from all your family and friends on City Island.

Keep up the good work! Joe DeWitt competed in his first Super Spartan Race on Staten Island on Sept. 24. He completed the eight-mile course with 21 obstacles in just over two hours. Way to go Joe! Love from Mom, Dad, Sam and Gwyn.

Clam digger Dan Treiber and mussel-sucker Reina Mia Brill of Earley Street are proud to announce the Oct. 12 birth of their twins, Waverly Abraham and Thora Evandra. Proud grandparents are Marsha Treiber, Arlene Brill, Harold Treiber and Sarene Shanus, who are all lending a hand. It takes a village!

Happy 24th birthday wishes to Winter Street's Bobby Swieciki, who will celebrate his big day on Nov. 12.

To my precious Opal. I loved you yesterday, love you today and will love you for many, many tomorrows. Yours - E.B.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to City Island's Seth Paiva and Hulya Dogan, who were married on Oct. 8 on



Photo by MARSHA TREIBER
Twins Waverly Abraham and Thora Evandra were born on Oct. 12 to Islanders Dan Treiber and Reina Mia Brill.

Coney Island's Steeplechase Pier. Parents of the bride are Nazan and Nurettin Dogan, and the groom's parents are Islanders Regina (Calbo) and Charles Kreig. A honeymoon in Bali is planned for a later date.

Happy birthday to my favorite daughter-in-law, Gia, from Susan Strazzera.

A special thanks to all our veterans on Nov. 11, Veteran's Day.

A very happy and safe Thanksgiving to all our readers, neighbors and friends.

Maria Swieciki



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Photo by KAREN NANI
Former Earley Street residents Carol (Gauss) and Bob McKenna, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sat., Sept. 24, 2011 amidst family and City Island friends, including (front row l. to r.) Lauren McKenna Morabito, Eileen McKenna, Rita Lynch, Kathy Lynch, Ellen Lynch Patterson, Georgia Nakis McNicoll, Carol McKenna and Lauren McKenna. Back row: Tom McKenna, Ken McKenna, Jimmy Lynch, Bob McKenna and Steven Michaels.



Seth Paiva and Hulya Dogan were married on Oct. 8 on Coney Island's Steeplechase Pier.



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