

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## BRIDGE CLOSING DISRUPTS ISLANDER ROUTINES

By KAREN NANI



Photos by RENA HANSEN

**The Pelham Bridge over the Hutchinson River closed at the end of January and will remain closed until at least mid-March as repairs are made to the floor of the bridge. Traffic is being detoured to the Hutchinson River Parkway during this phase of the work.**

The closing of the Shore Road (Pelham Parkway) Bridge for 45 days has upset the routines of many City Islanders whose driving habits are well established. Fortunately, the rehabilitation project is on schedule and the bridge will reopen on March 16, 2002, according to officials at the Department of Transportation (DOT).

The bridge closing is part of the large rehabilitation project that began in September of last year. In the current construction stage, the entire metal deck and outer sidewalk are being replaced, which necessitates the bridge being completely closed to traffic and pedestrians. The contractor handling most of the work is John P. Picone, but two DOT engineers oversee the operation at all times.

Although there were many signs announcing the closing, residents (including this reporter) drove up to the bridge several times before remembering to take the detour. "I really have to think about where I am going now," said Hawkins Street resident Emily Leni who, like many, are on "auto pilot" when driving off City Island.

One Islander was so used to driving up

Pelham Parkway from the bridge, that she couldn't figure out the detour route on the Hutchinson River Parkway at first. "The signs were confusing and I got lost!" she exclaimed. The only way onto Pelham Parkway is now off the Hutch, as many residents call it. Islanders have been taking the Hutch exits for Pelham Parkway (West or East) or exiting onto I-95 to gain access.

School buses and commercial traffic have also been affected and rerouted. They are now being allowed to use the Hutch for a short stretch to get around the bridge closing. Normally, there is a commercial vehicle restriction on the parkway. The Mount St. Michael High School bus, which picks up students on City Island and in the Pelham Bay area, changed its schedule after the bridge closing to arrive on the Island a half-hour sooner each morning.

DOT had to make modifications to the Hutch approach ramp from City Island to handle the increased vehicle and commercial traffic. The southbound Hutch is temporarily reduced to two lanes prior to the Hutchinson River Bridge, which is not

under construction, and the approach ramp from City Island is now a dedicated lane. Drivers do not have to yield to oncoming traffic when entering the parkway. This allows more room for larger trucks and buses to accelerate and join the flow of traffic.

The Shore Road and the northbound approach to the Hutch, including the entrance to I-95, remain the same. One Islander said, "I'm doing more in New Rochelle since the bridge closing because I can use the Shore Road."

After the bridge reopens, work will still continue. The last stage (stage four) is

on schedule to be completed around May 10, or "before Mother's Day," according to DOT. This stage includes the mechanical work on the motors that raise and lower the bridge. Before the closing, Islanders noticed the lighted barge on the west shore under the bridge. This provides access to the masonry and the "vascule pits" containing the motors beneath the roadway surface, according to the contractor.

As Mother's Day is the heaviest annual traffic day on City Island, residents worry that a traffic disaster is in the making if the bridge is not reopened by May 12.

## BILL STANTON, P.I.: City Island's Man in the News

By JULIE A. ELLIS-CLAYTON



Bill Stanton at Ground Zero.

Almost a year to the day I wrote my first article about Bill Stanton for *The Current*, I was asked to pen an update on this peripatetic adventurer. And with good reason. If one were to research Bill Stanton's whereabouts for, say, just the first few days of February, this is what would be found (with a minimum of detective work!).

On Feb. 1, 2002, Mr. Stanton is identified as a private eye hired by celebrity lawyer Dominic Barbara, who proved the innocence of National Parks Ranger Richard Koester. Mr. Koester had been the unlucky dupe in an international cyber romance with Chinese scam artist Mae Zheng, who accused him of various sexual offenses when he refused to marry her after a whirlwind three-day Staten Island romance.

Mr. Richard Koester was suspended from his job and arrested, and he faced jail time until Mr. Stanton set up a classic sting operation, posing as a wealthy businessman and inviting Ms. Zheng to rendezvous with him at the Essex Hotel in Manhattan. There he captured her on videotape admitting that she was part of a prostitution ring that preyed on American men.

Mr. Stanton summed up the whole affair: "You have guys who are lonely, who are looking for love in all the wrong places over the Internet, and these women are cashing in on their loneliness." Newspaper articles and press conferences ensued.

While that story was breaking, Bill Stanton was flown to the Olympic Village in Salt Lake City, not to relax and enjoy the upcoming events but as a security expert for WABC's Bill Beutel, who filmed a report on

security lapses that aired on Feb. 4.

During the report, Mr. Stanton pointed out various security weaknesses, including the protective fencing that surrounded the Olympic Stadium, ("bare minimum, regular wire fence") and lack of guards around the perimeter of the stadium ("nothing, no sensor devices, no camera devices").

He and Beutel also investigated properties close to the Olympic village, where they found unprotected power plants and train yards containing chemical trucks. All in all, it was not a comforting report, but one that, at the time of this writing, has thankfully not been tested.

The day after Mr. Stanton returned from Utah, he professed that he was a bit tired, but the ever-present enthusiasm and energy in his voice belied his physical state. He had been interviewed by the *New York Times* and would be attending meetings about a television series based on his life that was in development.

In his spare time (whenever that is), he has also managed to write "The Anti-Terror Checklist," a book touted by Oprah, who featured it on her Nov. 2 show, where he shared airspace with none other than Tom Ridge, head of homeland security.

His favorite topic of conversation these days, however, isn't himself or his accomplishments, but his home town, City Island. Mr. Stanton is a man in love with the town he grew up in. He has lived all over the country, "Hollywood with all the beautiful people; Denver—Rocky Mountain High," but he says that City Island remains to him

Continued on page 11

## BRIEFLY...

**READING RAINBOW'S** eighth annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest encourages children in grades K to 3 to use their innate creativity to write and illustrate their own picture books. All entrants receive a certificate of achievement from LeVar Burton, host of the popular children's series. From among tri-state area entrants, Thirteen will select a first-place winner and runner-up in each grade category to participate in the national contest. Prizes for national contest winners include a computer, printer, a VCR and a Reading Rainbow library set featuring 10 videos and books. Library sets are also awarded to each winner's local school and library. For complete rules and entry forms, visit Thirteen Kids online at [www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org) and click on the "Kids" icon or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Thirteen, Reading Rainbow Contest, 450 West 33rd Street, New York, NY 10001-2605. For further details, call Thirteen's Ready to Learn Helpline at 212-560-2713. The deadline for entries is March 29, 2002.

**THE EXCEPTIONALLY GIFTED PROGRAM**, housed at P.S. 153x, will be accepting applications for Grade 1 only for the 2002--2003 school year. This program is open only to students who would be attending District 11 schools. Applications are available at all District 11 schools or can be picked up in Room 127 in the District Office, 1250 Arnov Avenue. Completed applications must be returned no later than Friday, March 22, 2002, to Barbara A. Neuner at the above address. For information, call 718-519-2630.

**THE COMMUNITY CENTER AWARDS DINNER-DANCE** will be held on Saturday, March 9, at the Harlem Yacht Club, 417 Hunter Avenue, from 7 p.m. until midnight. There will be live music by The Total Eclipse. Tickets are reasonably priced at \$49 per person. For reservations, stop by the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, or call Tom Smith at 885-9001.

**HIGH 5 TICKETS FOR TEENS** are on sale at a Ticketmaster outlet near you. Join thousands of teens who have enjoyed theater, dance, music and film through High 5 Tickets to the Arts, an organization that brings teens a variety of arts and entertainment in New York City, all for \$5 a ticket or less. Tickets are now on sale at New York City and selected Ticketmaster outlets and online at [www.high5tix.org](http://www.high5tix.org). Events through May 31 are available. In all, a total of 721 performances at 91 different venues are available to teens this spring. High 5 catalogs are free and can be found at bookstores and public libraries throughout the five boroughs and at participating Ticketmaster outlets (which include HMV Records, Tower Records, The Wiz and other stores). Current listings of events can also be obtained from High 5's hotline, 212-Hi5-TKTS (212-445-8587).

## 45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during January 2002. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

### JANUARY

- 2 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF  
(1 to a vehicle, 1 residential)
- 1 - PETIT LARCENY (from a boat)
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY (auto)
- 1 - ATTEMPTED GRAND LARCENY (auto)
- 1 - THEFT OF SERVICES
- 5 - LOST PROPERTY
- 2 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT

Police report the following arrests and incidents for the month of January:

1/3 - At 2 p.m., an unknown vehicle struck another vehicle on City Island Road and Pelham Parkway. After striking the vehicle, the driver fled the scene in a waiting vehicle. Police are investigating to determine if the first vehicle was stolen.

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**FOCAL POINT GALLERY:** Calling all young City Island artists 17 and younger to bring in your artwork to the Focal Point Gallery for the 13th Young City Island Artist Exhibition. Work will not be accepted after March 10. An opening reception for the artists will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information call the gallery at 718-885-1403.

**BAROQUE CONCERT:** Elizabeth Farnum, soprano, and Edward Brewer, harpsichordist, will perform the works of Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi and more at the Riverdale YM-YWHA, 5625 Arlington Avenue, Bronx, on Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m. Admission ranges from \$11 to \$15. For information, call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718-601-7399.

**U.S. POWER SQUADRON BOATING COURSE:** The City Island Power Squadron will conduct an eight-week public safe-boating course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning Monday, March 11, 2002, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Participants must be 12 years or older and will receive a Personal Water Craft (PWC) certification after completing the course. Topics will include boat types, handling and terminology, seamanship, navigational aids and more. The instruction is free but there is a materials charge of \$50. For information, call Jim at 718-863-3855 or Dan at 718-822-1284 or visit [www.cityislandpowersquadron.org](http://www.cityislandpowersquadron.org).

**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S "GONDOLIERS":** The Albert Einstein Symphony Orchestra will perform a complete concert performance of the "The Gondoliers" on Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. The orchestra, soloists and a mixed chorus will present this operetta in the Robbins Auditorium, Forchheimer Building, 1300 Morris Park Avenue, Bronx. Contributions are suggested. For more information, visit the Web site [www.einsteinorch.tripod.com](http://www.einsteinorch.tripod.com).

**BOY SCOUT FLOWER SALE:** The City Island Troop 211 annual plant and flower sale will be held on Thursday, March 28 through Saturday, March 30 in front of Trinity Methodist Church on City Island Avenue between Tier and Bay Streets. The scouts will be on hand with a wide selection of Easter plants and spring flowers, so come out and support them from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

### St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church "Come Home for Easter"

#### Holy Week Schedule 2002



#### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23  
4:15 - 5:15 and 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24  
VIGIL MASS - SATURDAY, 5:15 P.M..  
SUNDAY - 8:00, 10:00 A.M. & 12:00  
Noon  
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

#### PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, MARCH 25  
7:30 P.M.

#### THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

#### 8:00 A.M. - TENEBRAE

Consists of Psalms and Readings  
NO MORNING MASS

#### HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28

#### SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE

LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M..

Procession to Repository  
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

#### GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE

PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS - 3:00 P.M.  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:30 P.M.

#### HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL- 8:00 P.M..  
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

#### EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

MASS - 8:00, \*10:00, and 12:00 Noon

\* Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:00 A.M. Mass

# Bicycles and Broccoli

BY JANE PROTZMAN

The doctor made a house call. She arrived on her bicycle, not to treat my cold but to bring me copies of her books and magazine articles and to talk about her role as an activist in the field of medicine. When asked what she likes best about living on City Island, Dr. Carolyn Dean said she loves the small-town atmosphere and joked that she feels extremely safe here, especially since she lives next door to Vincent Pastore, a former Soprano.

Dr. Dean's path to City Island began in Canada. She was born in Newfoundland and grew up in Nova Scotia, where she obtained her M.D. from Dalhousie University. Even before she attended medical school, however, she had an interest in an organic life style, and during her internship at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, she studied homeopathy, herbal medicine, Chinese medicine and acupuncture. She went on to manage a successful naturopathic practice, where she applied these disciplines and became a certified dietician-nutritionist (C.C.N.) and naturopathic doctor (N.D.).

Naturopathic doctors believe that doctors are teachers. In Toronto Dr. Dean educated her patients and the public, through television and radio, by presenting "alternative options and choices" based on common sense. She became concerned about the deluge of ads that promote drugs, junk food and an unhealthy life style, and she wanted people to be exposed to other advice and opinions.

In her practice Dr. Dean used both traditional and naturopathic approaches. "Listen to patients, make them part of the process and then provide a diagnosis and work together to develop an acceptable treatment plan."

In 1993 Dr. Dean was on a year's sabbatical when she accepted an offer to be the clinical research director of Holeopathic Pharmakeia, Ltd., in New York City to study herbal and homeopathic therapies and acupuncture. Her one-year project turned into seven, and after living all that time in Manhattan, in a company apartment, she and her husband, Bob, began to look around for a place to live outside the city. Former patients from Toronto suggested City Island, and a mutual friend, Brigitte Shotimirin, of Health and Esthetics on Bay Street, found them a place to live right away.

"My husband and I have been together 35 years, and we just love it here," Dr. Dean told me. He is a writer, media analyst, radio host, consultant and the biggest fan of her work. Since they don't own a car, they are often seen riding their bicycles on the Island and on the bicycle path to Orchard Beach.

Dr. Dean is a busy woman. She is still active in Holeopathic Pharmakeia, she has her own line of herbal tinctures and homeopathic remedies and has written three books (see Resources), with two more on the way, one on magnesium and one based on her series in "Natural Health" magazine. She regularly gives seminars and lectures and makes numerous radio and television appearances, including "The View" and "The Today Show." The subject of her most recent lectures have been on the effect of pesticides and on the use of naturopathic testing and treatment of heavy metals in our bodies.

Dr. Dean and five other doctors are in the process of giving three-day lectures in 10 cities around the country to educate physicians on integrative medicine, in the hope that the medical disciplines can work together. She is also on the board of governors at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine.

One thing she especially misses on City Island is access to organic fruits and



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Dr. Carolyn Dean

vegetables. In Manhattan she was a member of a farm cooperative, and she is hoping to establish a similar program on City Island through the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Community-Sponsored Agriculture Program (CSA) and a New York State farmer. If enough families sign up, it will be possible to set up a 24-week program starting in the spring, when weekly deliveries of in-season organic fruits and vegetables can be made to a central drop-off point on the Island, to be picked up by members.

"Eating organic vegetables and fruits is one of the most important things you can do to stay healthy," she says. "You are what you eat. If you eat junk food, you develop a junk body."

This is the basis of Dr. Dean's philosophy: "Take responsibility for your own and your family's health, as a key to wellness." Anyone interested in learning more about this cooperative program may call her at 885-1104 or email her at [holeopharm@pol.net](mailto:holeopharm@pol.net).

As for curing my cold, Dr. Dean recommended more common-sense advice: "Drink a lot of fruit and vegetable juices, chicken broth and ginger tea. Take vitamin C, and wear a hat outside for starters." As she sped off on her bike, I felt better already.

### Resources

"Dr. Carolyn Dean's Natural Prescriptions for Common Ailments." Paperback edition, McGraw Hill, 2001. ISBN: 0-658-01216-9 (available at Exotiqua and The Starving Artist Gallery)

"Menopause Naturally: A Wide Range of Natural Therapies to Help Women Through This Challenging Passage (The Women's Self-Care Library)." McGraw Hill, 1996. ISBN 0-87983-681-4

"Homeopathic Remedies for Children's Common Ailments." McGraw Hill, 1995. ISBN 0-87983-668-7

For information about the food cooperative program:

Community-Sponsored Agriculture (CSA)  
800-516-7797  
[www.reeusda.gov/csa.htm](http://www.reeusda.gov/csa.htm)

For more information about holistic medicine:

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians  
8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 300  
McLean, VA 22102  
1-877 969-2267 (toll free)  
[www.aanp.net](http://www.aanp.net)

# Students From P.S. 175 Participate in Future City Contest

BY JULIE A. ELLIS-CLAYTON

On Jan. 26, 2002, five teams of eighth-graders from Public School 175, accompanied by their science teacher, Ms. Karen Heil, and a volunteer engineer mentor, Mr. Gauthum (known to the students as Mr. G.), traveled to Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, to participate in the 10th annual Future City Competition.

This competition, sponsored by the National Engineers Week Committee, was begun in 1992 to raise an awareness and appreciation for engineering among middle-school students, and it has rapidly become one of the most successful educational programs of its kind. Teams are composed of 2 to 4 students, who along with their teacher and volunteer engineer mentor design a futuristic city, using SimCity 3000™ software donated by Maxis, a California-based firm.

Each team must create a computer-generated blueprint, as well as a 3-D scale model of a section of their city that contains at least one moving part. Materials must be 100 percent recyclable, and the total cost of the project cannot exceed \$100. A 100-200-word description and a 300-500-word essay on a specific engineering topic must also accompany each entry. This year's theme was current energy policy, including research, exploration,

generation and conservation.

Students at P.S. 175 got involved in this ambitious event after Ms. Heil heard about it. She told last year's seventh-grade class about the competition, and they began working on their projects when they entered the eighth grade. The teams and their towns were as follows: Nick Vaughan, Eddie Ciarletta and Mike Maniotis created the environmentally friendly award-winning NME (an acronym of their first names). The city of Chalupa was invented by Mallory Byrnes, Danielle Lyons, Ashley Marichal and Lena Huberman. Founding fathers Stephen Pecoraro, Matt Rodstrom and Frank Cebek unveiled the city of L.A.K.E. (Living At Knew Environment). Joe Gilmore and Phil Choy presented Timberland, and Katie McCormick, Krista Karabel and Kaitlyn Ricci staked their claim with Mckicville.

Katie McCormick, a cofounder of Mckicville, summed up the event for everyone: "Working on the Future City Competition was a lot of fun. I learned a lot, and it was a good experience. Ms. Heil did a great job working with us, and I would like to thank her and Mr. G. It was a great experience."



Participants in the Future City Competition held recently at Polytechnic University. Back row: Ms. Heil, Frank Cebek, Matt Murphy, Matt Rodstrom, Stephan Pecoraro, Lena Huberman, Ashley Marichal, Danielle Lyons, Nick Vaughan, Joey Gilmore, Eddie Ciarletta and Mike Maniotis. Kneeling: Phil Choy, Katie McCormick, Mallory Byrnes and Krista Karabel.

# C.I.C.C. Awards Announced

At its seventh annual awards dinner-dance, the City Island Community Center will celebrate the valuable contributions of six individuals who have generously given their time, energy and commitment to the City Island community.

The Drue Breen Award for Dedicated Community Service will be given to Frank B. Ring Sr. for his volunteer work on the Island since he moved here in 1994. He has been a crossing guard at P.S. 175, a head usher at St. Mary Star of the Sea, a Fleet Weekend worker, a coach for the Little League and a chef for the Community Center. He is well known for his good humor, friendliness and positive

attitude.

Ulla Brennen will be given an award for Outstanding Community Service. For many years she has helped to keep the Community Center open by holding many fund-raising events and by helping to run the Center.

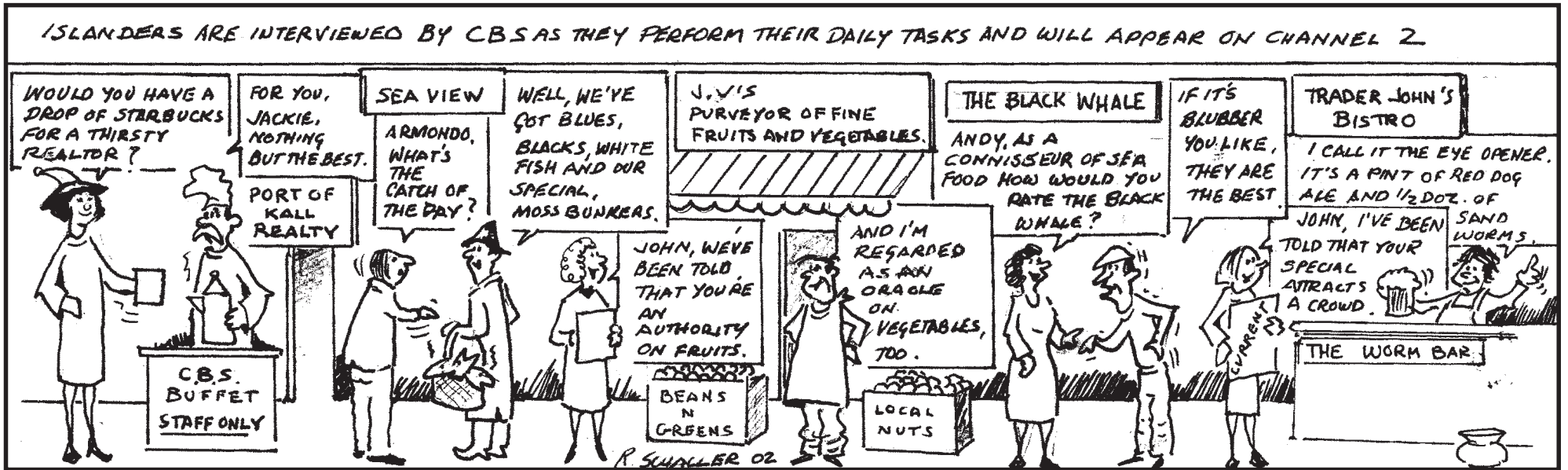
Bill Aguado and Ed Friedman of the Bronx Council on the Arts have provided assistance and advice to community cultural groups and artists throughout the Bronx, including the Focal Point Press, the City Island Theater group, the Community Center, the Historical Society and Nautical Museum and CIAO, to name only a few.

The Youth Spirit of Community Award will be presented to Nancy Garcia and Ashley Steine for having volunteered their time to the teen center. They have brought toys to children at Jacobi Hospital to cheer them up, and they have also held events to raise funds for the East Bronx Hunger Program and the Urban Horizons Early Childhood Discovery Center. They continue to organize dances and fund-raising events for the teen center.

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**Fair Winds or Foul:** A column of editorial commentary on local items.

**Foul Winds** to the vandals responsible for the recent wave of graffiti on Island businesses and residences. Several commercial security gates have been defaced at the north end of the Island, leaving a bad first impression as people drive onto City Island Avenue. These quality-of-life crimes tarnish us all and Islanders should call the 45th Precinct (822-5411) or Community Board 10 (892-1161) and report any incidents of graffiti.

**Fair Winds** go to two Island students from P.S. 175 who overheard some residents complaining about the graffiti. They decided to take action and they cleaned the "Stop Hating" message scrawled on the shed behind the VFW flagpole at the beginning of the Island. These young people didn't sit around waiting for some bureaucratic solution. Let's follow their example and help our neighbors and local businesses clean up the graffiti on their property.



Fair winds to two Island sixth-graders who decided to take action when they saw graffiti painted on a building near the City Island bridge: Kenny Clancy and Kelly Carmody, age 11, didn't like what they saw and, with paint donated by City Island Restoration Corp., they eliminated the unsightly vandalism.



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

**Piece of the Island**

To the Editor:

This is the second year that we have given a subscription of *The Current* to our family back in California. It brings them great joy and much happiness to have a piece of the Island sent to them. They so enjoy it all.

Thank you for doing such an outstanding job. *The Current* is very special to us all. Many thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Curr

**Wanted: St. Mary's Class of 1966**

To the Editor:

Some of my classmates and I are trying to put together a St. Mary's reunion for the class of 1966. It will be held on April 28, 2002, at the City Island Yacht Club.

We are trying to locate everyone in the class. Please call me at 885-1820 or call Anne Martie DeCristofaro Gerhard at 914-962-1302. Or email [AReilly52@aol.com](mailto:AReilly52@aol.com).

Patti Jawski

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# A Winter's Day At The 2002 Boat Show

BY BILL CLANCY

Friday, Jan. 11, was one of the few winter days of this year. Walking across 34th Street into a stiff west wind was great for my ruddy complexion, but also a reminder of how lucky we have been this winter. As much as I am always amazed at the job Con Ed does for us every day, I do not like to pay them any more than I have to.

I took an early leave from my department store construction job in Westchester, subbed down on the 6 and the N to Macy's Herald Square en route to my winter favorite, the New York Boat Show. I always love the anticipation and the energy of the show. Today was no different.

Meeting number-one son, Bill, at a conveniently placed nerve center, we set out to solve our first dilemma: no tickets. Due to the recent anthrax scare, the Marine Manufacturers' Association, which is in charge of the show, decided not to clog up the mail with their usual packet of info, ID's and passes. It was no trouble, however. We received our computer-generated cards and were on our way in mere moments. The crowd was lighter in the accessory section, so that is where we made our first stop.

Poly Planar had a very interesting display of waterproof speakers. They were available in every shape and size and were moderately priced, from Warminster, Pa. North Minneford had two fine reps at their table, Sonny Panzarella and Dave Haupt. They were telling all about their facilities, their marine services and boat sales.

Upon leaving them, we ran into Bill Nye. Good gentleman and husband that he is, he was shopping for a boat for his wife, Nilda. The Nye family had the Dor-El for umpteenth year, a fixture in the Harlem Yacht Club fleet. That, along with the Standridge family boat and a one-room house boat with flower boxes all over it, are etched in my childhood memory.

Included also in my good memories: Ray Vidal, the Starace family (Ray's Chris Craft), Artie and Mildred Stelter, Joe Burck Sr., Charlie Gack, the Maffia family and the Vivola family. They were business people who were kind to kids who loved boats and the water. All these places of business, by the way, were roughly between Beach and Cross Street. They all kept a "book," meaning that you as a 10- to 12-year-old had credit. They were incredible people and obviously not forgotten. Most of their services were listed as "no charge."

One time my brother Kevin ordered a "gold cup racer" life preserver. It cost \$75 at a time when you could buy a small boat and motor for \$50. My father, the Chief, flipped out. Joe Burck Sr. did not flinch; Kev was good in his "book."

Excuse my reverie; we digress from our purpose. We made a few quick stops at Go 2 Marine, an internet supplier from Washington State of hard-to-find marine parts. We spoke to Mike Green, ace salesman, and gathered a wealth of information as he took us on an Internet shopping tour. It was very interesting but I don't see it beating Joe Brandi of Bridge Marine.

Our next stop was Plasteak, a plastic substitute for the real wood. We spoke to Eve Gribble and expressed our horror. She had heard it all before and was very gracious in her defense. As a carpenter who uses more synthetics than not, I have come to accept so-called progress over the years. When I recall all the great wood workers I worked under in the last days of the boat-building era on City Island, men like Mike Sullivan, Jerry Moen, Adolph Koester, Bill McDaniels Sr., George Hawkins and Bill Hodges, among others, I know they would be absolutely aghast at plastic teak. "A 3/4-inch 4 x 8 sheet costs \$160," Eve told us, "and it doesn't rot."

We talked to Ted K. at the Boat Pillow Exhibit. This is a Bronx company that makes canvas-covered foam cushions that you fasten around your dock. They were in various shapes and lengths and reasonably priced. Ted works for American Classic Ice Cream and has been bringing his products to City Island, especially Sammy's restaurants, for more than 30 years.

The most interesting booth in this section was the aptly named Best Marine Imports. The slogan was "unique products for your boating needs," and so they were. A few of them were: a beautiful stainless steel 20-pound Danforth anchor for \$400; a universal ball joint to be attached to it for another \$100; the "stripper," a collar with blades that attaches to the prop shaft forward of the prop and chews up any line that could get attached to your prop. These were all made in New Zealand, and although they were expensive, they were all innovative and useful.

All this talking to salesmen necessitated a libation stop. As we were waiting on the line, I spied a sign on the wall that read "Giving, offering or receiving bribes is a violation of the Javits Center rules." Only in New York would you see such a statement. At the counter a big pretzel was \$3, a pint of water \$2.40 and a pint of Bud \$4.50.

While having our beer, we spoke to a team of men from Liberty Landing Marina in Jersey City. Port Captain Bill David, Dockmaster Dan Chuli and Jim Park, who acted as spokesman. We heard about their experiences on 9-11 and the days following. With the closing of the Holland Tunnel for six weeks, their "dinner boats" were pressed into service as ferries. They moved about 2,000 people twice a day to and from Pier 16 at the South Street Seaport. They worked from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to get the people who normally ride the bus or the Path train to work during that difficult time. While they were paid for their hours, they were very proud of their service.

We also heard a few great stories of the Sea-Tow boats who evacuated many people from the shoreline on the day of the murderous attack, many from perilous places. One item I had not heard before was that there was an underwater shock wave created by the falling buildings, which tore into the Jersey shoreline a few minutes after the collapse.

While on the WTC subject, allow me another digression. The American Legion was involved in a few events at ground zero in recent weeks. It appeared nationwide on C-Span and was reported in last month's *Current* that the 2,300 or so missing at the Trade Center are now added to the 87,000 missing since World War 2. Sobering, isn't it.

We wandered now to the boat section. There were two interesting-looking men at a booth with a lot of pictures. We inquired about the purpose and found out that Whisper Yachts of Garrison, New York, was a broker for unusual crafts.

There is a 50-foot Hong Kong junk built in 1972 going for \$175,000 and a 40-foot Norseman catamaran going for \$239,000. My favorite was the Gokstad Viking ship built in Iceland, powered by 50 rowers. It is larch planked on oak frames, going for 500 grand. The Tomsen brothers, Tom and Phil, should buy it for their Irish and Italian friends to row them around. Imagine a beach landing at the Morris Yacht Club! Joe Riviello would be smiling. How many big igloos would you need on that baby?

Sunseeker was next on our list, always an exhibit with the most luxurious, most expensive line of yachts. Jim Ross of City Island has been running the firm out of the Castaways in New Rochelle for many years and is always happy to talk to local reporters. I am very happy to report that Jim is very successful and is expanding his horizon quite dramatically. His new venture, as announced by a two-page ad in the January issue of *Boating*, is Jim Ross Yacht Sales. It will be a selected brokerage, a yacht chartering service, a representative of Linssen Yachts, a Dutch building, and, most importantly, the builder of Sea Star custom yachts. Sea Star will be super yachts, with a 97-footer and a 175-footer now under construction. If this wasn't big enough news, Jim's son is in Australia preparing to bring back to the States a new sports car. Junior, an RPI graduate, and his former mechanic father have collaborated with race driver Jack Brabham to produce the fastest off-track production car in the American market. You will be reading about this when it arrives. Whew! It is always good news when a City Islander makes good.

As we were going over to the next exhibit, we ran into Kathy and Ed Silard. Kathy and her sister, Judy Di Maio, lost their mom, Eileen Fitzmaurice, just the week before. Mrs. Fitzmaurice and her husband, Mike, who passed away late last summer, were longtime Islanders and among the best we ever had.

We then bumped into Peter and Jane La Scala with a friend. Peter, a traditional fixture at the show, has been retired for two years now. Jane chimed in very good-naturedly, "but I'm still working."

Had a nice conversation with a very pleasant salesman, Dr. Rocco Morrelli, a dentist from St. James, Long Island. The good doctor was the owner of a Regal Sport Yacht and a friend of the dealer. He was simply helping out and having a ball.

We were passing a lot of interesting advertising now: Navigator Yachts, a high-end line, was offering a free Lincoln Navigator with the purchase of one of their big jobs; Boston Whaler was offering a stock option; one manufacturer, whose brand escapes me, offered a 72-hour training course at their plant in Georgia; Bay Watch Yachts had no one who looked like Pamela Anderson. A big barge of a houseboat had a slide going from the top deck over the stern into the water. The video clip showed at least three Bay Watch babes using the slide. As Fireman Kev McAdams says, "Ooh, la la."

The two best sayings we heard were "you don't have to be rich and famous to have a life style" and "never approach a dock faster than you want to hit it." Rich Riordan at Royal Marina should hand out cards with that slogan. With the closing of Stenderhofs Marina in Throggs Neck, Richie might also have to piggyback all the slips.

Somewhere along the way we saw Skipper, the friendly dolphin. He was a big hit with the young kids. Next year we'll ask Frank Fitts to send the Easter Bunny down to meet Skipper.

We finally arrived at the Bridge Boat Yard set-up. They were not listed in the program, but we knew they were on board. We finally got to meet Ron Tenyeck Jr., the new owner of the yard. In

his second year at Bridge, Ron has a reputation as an innovator and a good boss. The old crew is still in place, with John Burke on the gas dock, Joe Caruso with the engine stethoscope and the incomparable Pat La Scala at the ready. The gas dock was moved farther out in the channel, new pilings were driven and a lot of new slips added.

A newcomer to the cast was ace salesman and City Island raconteur Tommy Diehl. Always cool, always knowledgeable, Tom was very busy telling prospective buyers about all the lines that Bridge is selling. The most interesting story was that Mr. Tenyeck has purchased a couple of the molds of the well-regarded Black Fin line. He is building them in Florida, and you will see them soon on City Island.

We had been there for about five hours and had not seen one sailing craft, so we went looking. Dr. Ruth Westheimer has said that "sailing is the second sexiest sport" but you would never have known that at the Javits. There were a couple of sailing dinghies and a couple of good-sized Hunters and Benetan's, but that was it. I have tried to tell all my sailor friends to get a Jet Ski or a rowing shell, because sailing is passé. As everyone knows, though, the ragmen are an obstinate bunch. People of the caliber of Mike Treat, Robin Ricca, Richie Coar, Claudia Deich, Tony Rosco and John Mazzante, no matter how good, usually tell you, not the other way around.

The best craft I saw that day (meaning that I would possibly buy) was a Protector. A hard-bottomed inflatable 28-foot, with cabin and twin 200 HP outboards. Made in New Zealand, this is a cool, tough-looking boat. The first time I ever saw a large inflatable was at Martha's Vineyard about 10 years ago. The Coast Guard was using them for tow and rescue work, and the Coasties said they loved them. It would be the perfect middle boat for summer raft-ups with Doug Malin, Billy Gerhard and Throggs Neck Jerry and Ruth.

The greatest increase in equipment sales was in the electronic field. To the uninitiated, this is a daunting field of knowledge. Forget VHF and UHF, now we are dealing with satellites and maybe multiples of them. There are so many initials that it is mind-boggling. GPS, DGPS, WAAS, NAUTEX, LC, LMZ---my goodness. Buddy Scollon and I thought we were doing well knowing about AC-DC, which we read in the *Village Voice*. In the 1950s City Island had one of the first electronic stores around. It was Giles and Foerst, where the Post Office is now. The two technicians were Jack Eberhart and Harry Burke, both since passed on. They must have been geniuses.

The two newest good ideas are: 1) a Minnesota firm is selling first-class re-manufactured marine engines with a two-year factory warranty. These are all big-name engines. 2) A New Jersey firm is renting any piece of gear you would ever need on your boat for one day to one month. We are talking from refrigerators to navigation systems to anchors. Who would be using this is the question, but it is comforting to know it is available ... isn't it?

The last piece of information I will leave you with is a concept that was very common on City Island docks in past years. We always called it a floating tire. The real name is a Tidal Control Device (TCD). It goes around a piling and floats up and down with your dock line. The folks at Sagmans were specialists.

Hope everyone enjoys the article as much as your reporter enjoyed the show. See you next year! (P.S. Ducky Rauhauser, Gene Valesio, John Moore and Paul Mazzella were also at the show that day, but they avoided us. Beer is dear, you know.

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**What's Going On In There?**  
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 Kathlyn Moses Gallery** at 327 City Island Avenue will have its grand opening on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. On exhibition will be paintings by Lois Weingarten and Mary Rappold, photography by Tony Correa and painted furniture and paintings by Kathy Moses. Stop in for refreshments and wish Kathy good luck.

Dianne and John O'Sullivan from **O'Sullivan's Travel** would like to thank all those who traveled with them last year. They are looking forward to the trips they have planned for 2002: April 13 to 23: a nine-night trip to Ireland; June 19 to 28: a nine-night Vancouver and Alaska Adventure aboard Celebrity Lines' new *Infinity*; Aug. 17 to 24: a seven-night Bermuda Cruise aboard the *Zenith*; Aug. 30 to Sept. 9: a 10-night Labor Day Caribbean Cruise aboard the spectacular *Galaxy* sailing from Baltimore; Nov. 30 to Dec. 7: the 16th annual all-inclusive trip to Aruba. Most trips start at under \$1,500 per person. For details on any of these trips, please call Dianne O'Sullivan at 718-885-0715.

## Islanders To Celebrate Women's Herstory Month

BY TOBY Z. LIEDERMAN

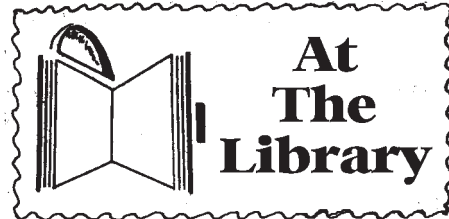
The annual March Women's Herstory Month celebration on City Island will take place on Sunday, March 10, at the Black Whale Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.

A small group of City Island women began meeting every March about 10 years ago and, with the exception of 2001, has met annually ever since. In 2000, the gathering at Laura's Restaurant resulted in the formation of an Island book group that still meets regularly.

The brunch is open to all women and girls, Dutch treat. Reservations are recommended. Call Rena Hansen at 885-0579 or Toby Liederman at 885-0319, and leave your name and telephone number. Also be sure to bring networking information and business cards.

Everyone is asked to bring something about herself: a story, poem, song, memento, photograph, etc. A birthday calendar of famous women will be available at the luncheon to enable guests to look up their birthdays and see which famous women share them.

In addition to Ms. Liederman and Ms. Hansen, this year's committee includes Islanders Helen Friedman, Nancy Friedman and Yvette Martinez.



**At The Library**  
On Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m. the City Island Library will host a musical program by Comfortable Shoes as part of the Carnegie Hall/Citigroup Neighborhood Concert Series. "Comfortable Shoes" has been entertaining audiences with a blend of harmony and humor for over four years. The group has performed at many places around the country, including Carnegie Hall. Their music is a blend of original tunes and classic-pop medleys.

As a reminder, our hours of public service are: Monday 1-8; Tuesday through Thursday 10-6; Friday 1-6; and Saturday 1-5. In addition to our selection of books, videos, CD's and audiocassettes, we offer 30-minute appointments to access the Internet. If you would like to read a newspaper online, such as "USA Today," get stock quotes, or research something, stop by and sign up.

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For chess fans we have two boards and we welcome adults to come in and play chess Monday evenings, from 5:30 until closing.

Neal Steinberg

### Children's Room March Events

After-School Science Plus! Come and learn about this new hands-on science workshop at the City Island Library. Children ages 5-12 and their families are invited to participate in entertaining and challenging hands-on science activities held on two Tuesdays, March 5 and 12, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

Easter Arts and Crafts: Wednesday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m., ages 5-8. Pre-registration required.

Picture Book Program every Thursday in March at 3:30 p.m., ages 4-8.

The Millennium Babies will meet for Songs and Storytime on Thursday, March 14, at 1 p.m.

For more information or to register, call the children's librarian, Evelyn Gerges, at 885-1703.

Evelyn Gerges

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# You Are My Hero

The eight essays that follow are winning entries in the Drue Breen Essay Contest sponsored by the City Island Community Center. The contest was open to all City Island students living or attending school on the Island who were asked to write an essay on the subject "You are my hero." Prizes will be awarded to the winners at the Community Center dinner-dance to be held on March 9, 2002.

**First place winner:**

**Briana Lotrionte, Grade 4, P.S. 175**

A hero to me is a person who is kind, helpful and helps to improve other people's lives. My hero is Anjulee Sebastian, my friend. I chose her because when my mom and dad aren't home, she helps out and watches me. She is a good role model for me and always sets a good example of doing the right thing.

Anjulee is a sweet person who is very considerate of other people. She helps me out with a lot of things, such as homework or making crafts from scratch. When she baby-sits for me, she helps me with homework by reading and explaining directions. She also helps my sister and me make gifts for my parents. Anjulee watches out for my sister and me. She helps us when we need her.

A really good example of her being a hero is how she takes care of her brother who lives in a rehabilitation home. She is a busy senior in high school but finds the time to help her dad cook dinner, clean the house and go food shopping. Anjulee is not only my hero, but my role model. She's strong and has a great sense of humor. She is smart, and I want to be just like her. Anjulee has a very busy life, always finds the time for me, and most of all she is a very special person. She is my hero.

**Second-place winner:**

**Sarah Rothschild, Grade 4, P.S. 175**

A hero to me is a person who is helpful, respectful and does brave things. My hero is David Sinnett-Jones. He is a man in his 70s, and he lives in Wales. I met him two years ago. He was bringing his boat back from Brazil and he stayed with us.

He is my hero because he sailed around the world alone on a boat he built himself called the *Spray*. After that he built the *Liberdade*. David is now building a race car that he will drive.

David never gives up because he has been ill a couple of times. He had gotten in a car accident and lost the vision in one eye. He had to stop being a race car driver because he couldn't see well enough. So he became a dairy farmer. He didn't know a thing about farming. Later he got cancer. When he had cancer, he did not get beaten down. He sailed in the steps of his hero, Joshua Slocum.

He is very gentle, and he can make good bread.

I'm proud that I know him.

**First place:**

**Anthony Maimone, Grade 5, P.S. 175**

My heroes are the people who survived and died at the World Trade Center. To the police and firemen who kissed their loved ones goodbye without knowing this time was the last.

For the loved ones who see empty chairs across the table and ask the question, "Why?"

Also the ones who sit across the table and say, "Thank you."

**Second place:**

**Ariana Rodriguez, Grade 5, St. Mary Star of the Sea School**

My hero is my father because he inspires me to be a strong person. When he and my mom split up, he was all alone. But he didn't give up. He still did what he had to do. I mean sometimes he cried but at least he tried to make the best of a bad situation.

Also he helps me in math. When I couldn't understand fractions, he took me step by step. And since my dad helped me, I got an 80 on my test. So I would like to thank my daddy for that. Plus now on my math homework I feel more confident.

Also he makes me feel better about myself. When someone makes fun of me, I tell him and he says that they're probably jealous of me. He says that I should never be discouraged about what people think of me, and that I should be whoever I want to be, and not who everyone else wants me to be.

So to sum it up, he inspires me to be a strong person, he helps me in math, and he wants me to be who I want to be. That's why my father is my hero and I love him very, very much.

**First place:**

**Ariel Rolon, Grade 6, St. Mary Star of the Sea School**

My hero is my Uncle Robert. He is very nice to me. He calls me a lot, but he lives in Puerto Rico and is in a wheelchair. He was a Navy Seal. He is a specialist in the art of warfare combat.

He served his country by fighting in Vietnam. He rescued a wounded soldier under fire. He received the Bronze Star for Bravery and the Valiant Cross of Gallantry.

After the war he returned to Puerto Rico and served as a male nurse, working with wounded veterans. Unfortunately, while fighting in Vietnam he had been sprayed with Agent Orange on his legs. The Agent Orange caused many complications for him. He suffered three heart attacks, and lost both his legs. He had 17 operations in 9 years. The Agent Orange also gave him tumors and cancer.

I admire my uncle so much because, despite all this, he still survives. He brought up his children alone and does everything by himself. He has no help in the house. My uncle is my true HERO!!!!

**Second place:**

**Kelly Carmody, Grade 6, P.S. 175**

My Uncle Vinny is my hero. He was my godfather. He died in the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. He was in the buildings saving people when they collapsed. He was a fireman at Ladder 7 for 16 years. He organized the annual picnics and toy drives for underprivileged children. He was a very caring man.

My Uncle Vinny was very athletic. He enjoyed skiing and snowboarding. At his memorial service I learned that he loved surfing. He used to take me to the firehouse on City Island. I got to wear his helmet and boots! He let me pretend to drive the fire truck.

My Uncle Vinny was full of life. He had a wife, Karen, and an 18-month-old daughter, Christina. Enclosed is a poem I wrote to Christina. I am sad about his dying for myself and for his family and friends. I am also sad for all the other families that lost someone in the tragedy. Someone told me that this will make me stronger. Maybe it will but there will always be a hole in my heart for my Uncle Vinny. My Uncle Vinny was a great man. He died doing what he loved. I will always love him and miss him. He will always be my hero.

To: Christina  
Your Dad my Godfather  
Love:  
U UNBELIEVABLY  
N NICE  
C CARING  
L LOVED  
E EVERYONE  
  
V VERY  
I INTELLIGENT  
N NOT AFRAID  
N NOBLE  
Y YOUNG HERO



**First place:**

**Jillian Lotrionte, Grade 7, P.S. 175**

Some people think of a hero as a person who saves lives, and other people think of a hero as a "Super Hero" who has X-ray vision or becomes invisible, but I believe much more than that. I believe that a hero is a caring person that doesn't hurt anyone's feelings. A person who is smart and kind-hearted.

That's why my hero is my mother, Nancy Carol Schaum Lotrionte. My mom was born on Aug. 20, 1961. She went to Christopher Columbus High School and

graduated knowing she wanted to be a teacher. After college, she met a wonderful man, Nicholas James Lotrionte. They got married and started a family a few years later. My mom now works as a classroom special education and reading teacher.

My mom is my hero because she is the smartest parent I have ever known. She knows what is just right for children, either to discipline them or make them feel good about themselves. My mom is also very kind-hearted because she cares so much about other people and gets along very well with others. My mom is also very helpful to the community. During the holidays, she always buys toys for the homeless children and clothes for all the poor people. My mom is also very supportive to the City Island School. Every year she helps organize fundraisers and special events to make the school year more fun.

My mom is my hero because she is very creative and I wouldn't have most of my creative ideas without her help. I can trust my mom whenever I tell her something, and I know she wouldn't lie if I asked her a question. She tries her hardest to get her three daughters places they need to get to on time, and she still has a few hours to herself to read a book or relax. She makes dinner every night, straightens up the house, goes shopping for clothes with my sisters and me, drives me places and helps with school work.

My mother is my hero because I look up to all the things she does to help and improve our day. I am thankful for what she does for my sisters and me day after day.

**Second place:**

**Jabari Browne, Grade 7, St. Mary Star of the Sea School**

There are many heroes in this world, but my heroes are the American soldiers who have gone to Afghanistan to fight for our country's safety.

In their quest to find the man who is responsible for the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center downtown, these brave young men and women have been called to duty. They have had to leave wives and young children who may never see them again. They leave mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and girlfriends or boyfriends behind.

I am very thankful to them for their great effort and the great sacrifice they have made for our country. We also must pray as a nation that their effort in Afghanistan will help the men and women here prevent terrorists from getting the chance to repeat that awful event. These brave men and women are truly my heroes.

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Members of the City Island Boy Scout Troop 211 traveled to the Alpine Boy Scout Camp Klondike Sled Competition and won the South Pole award. Troop members are, from lower left: Ben Marcus, Matt Cullen, Anthony Girillo, Joe Ciarletta, Brian Esola, Phillip Economas, Adam Russo and Chris Butterworth. Center row: Michael Naan, Matt Bollati, John McGowan, Ray Pena, James McGowan, Richard Pena, Justin Rodstrom, Matt Butterworth, Charlie Moore, Ed Ciarletta, Matt Vaughn and Nolan Quinn. Top row: Stephanie Coyle, John Burke, Matt Rodstrom, Aidan Byrne, Keith Kreig, Scoutmaster Edward Esposito, Chris Hennessy, Peter Coyle, Charlie Moore, John Plantikow, Assistant Scoutmasters Chuck Butterworth and Mario Ciarletta.

## 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

#### MARCH

Tues., March 5 to Fri., March 8, **Kindergarten Registration**, 9 to 11 a.m., St. Mary Star of the Sea School, 580 Minneford Avenue.

Sun., March 10, **Women's Herstory Month Celebration**, 11:30 a.m., Black Whale Restaurant, 279 City Island Avenue (see article this issue).

Thurs., March 21, and Fri., March 22, **Kindergarten Registration**, 9 to 11 a.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue.

Thurs., March 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Providence Rest Nursing Home, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx.

Tues., March 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be on Monday, March 4, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street.

Everyone is invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Yacht Club, when Michael Ruggiero, senior curator in the Horticulture Department at the New York Botanical Garden, will speak on landscape gardening. Mr. Ruggiero's specialty is the use of annuals that give color and interest to summer gardens and the practical skills and techniques needed to have and maintain a beautiful garden. There will be a question and answer period after his presentation.

The Garden Club is presenting an evening guest speaker so that Islanders with daytime commitments can attend. We believe that this lecture is very timely and will be very interesting and informative. Everyone is welcome, both men and women.

We are considering the possibility of holding some of our meetings in the evening to accommodate those interested in joining the Garden Club who cannot attend daytime meetings. If you would like to join, please call Barbara Hoffman at 885-1616 or Phyllis Goodman at 885-0521.

We look forward to having you join us on April 11 for Mr. Ruggiero's talk on annuals in your garden.

Phyllis Goodman

#### IDEA

IDEA's co-directors, Patricia Hennessy and Rose Rodstrom, received the Community Service Award from the City Island Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Jan. 25, 2002. The following is a statement of their appreciation:

We are extremely honored to have our mayor, Michael Bloomberg, with us this evening, and we look forward to working with you in the years to come. IDEA is grateful for the past support of former Mayor Guiliani at all levels of his administration. Thank you to the master of ceremonies, Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman, who was one of our earliest supporters.

We are also grateful to the members of the Chamber of Commerce for this community service award. We are grateful for IDEA's sponsors and supporters here on City Island, including many of you who represent community organizations.

We accept this award on behalf of all of you who have supported IDEA through the years, our board members, the dedicated volunteers, and most especially our husbands, our children, our families and friends, who have made IDEA the organi-

zation that it is today.

In 1996 we founded IDEA with Ena Ellwanger, the principal of Public School 175, to establish an office of development and to fund a marine science/maritime history program at the school. With the assistance of the Department of Parks & Recreation, the children and faculty of the school cleared over a ton of debris from the waterfront site behind the school, the former home of Nevins' Shipyard, where many America's Cup contenders were built. In the process, the children uncovered a salt marsh and claimed a new park for City Island and an outdoor learning environment for their community.

We wish to acknowledge Mrs. Ellwanger for her vision and direction and her staff and faculty for their support. Thank you also to District 11's past superintendent Joseph Kovaly and the present superintendent, Marlene Filawich, for their support and assistance.

Thank you to Congresswoman Nita Lowey. Perhaps because she is a mother first and a past PTA president, she has always believed that each of us can make a difference. Her congressional grant through the 21st Century Program has enabled IDEA to grow and flourish.

We would like to thank our dear friend and councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, who scheduled us to testify before her colleagues, the New York City Council, to request funding for this project. Because of her, the Parks Department budget has received \$500,000 toward the building of a learning center and pier at the waterfront site behind the school.

We are pleased to have Borough President Adolfo Carrion here tonight, and we are confident that he will support IDEA and continue to be a sponsor of the Fleet Weekend parade in the tradition of past Borough President Fernando Ferrer.

We are deeply grateful to Senator Guy Velella, a dear friend to the City Island community, and to his staff for helping us obtain our first capital grant of \$100,000., which is held at the Board of Education District Office to purchase furniture and equipment for the proposed learning center.

To Community Board 10 District Manger and fellow P.S. 175 parent, Jimmy Vacca, we thank you for your support and encouragement.

We are grateful to Drs. Julie and Paul Mankiewicz, the directors of the Gaia Institute, for their expertise and guidance and to the members of the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum for their unwavering support and encouragement.

Finally, thank you to the New York's Parks Department Bronx Borough Commissioner, William Castro. We will never forget our first meeting with you when you listened patiently and cautioned us about the process we were undertaking, yet heartily and enthusiastically gave us your approval and support.

The next general meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, at P.S. 175 at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to attend.

Nominations: We will be accepting nominations through March for the Maritime heritage Award, the Grand marshal of the parade and the Keeper of the Harbor awards. Island organizations will be mailed a nomination form and are encouraged to submit their nominations by March 31 to IDEA, P.O. Box 222 or via email at [idea222@aol.com](mailto:idea222@aol.com).

We are fortunate to call City Island our home. We have witnessed first hand the

power of this small community and have been inspired by working with you. We will close by sharing our favorite quote with you, by the poet Elizabeth Coatsworth:

"If the world is to be changed,  
it will be changed by those who  
care deeply for very small places."

Patricia Hennessy and Rose Rodstrom

#### Holiday Services

##### Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue

March 27, Passover: First-night seder, dinner and retelling of the Exodoc. Dinner will be prepared by a kosher caterer. For reservations, call Bob Berent at 885-3098.

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

City Island Avenue near the Bridge

March 23, Vigil Mass at 5:15 p.m.

March 24, Palm Sunday Masses at 8, 10 a.m. and noon.

March 25, Penance Service at 7:30 p.m.

March 28, 29, 30, Tenebrae at 8 a.m. with psalms and readings (no morning Mass).

March 28, Holy Thursday, Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.

March 29, Good Friday, Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus at 3 p.m.; Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

March 30, Holy Saturday, Solemn Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

March 31, Easter Sunday Masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and noon; Easter Egg hunt follows the 10 a.m. Mass.

##### Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street

March 29, Good Friday service at 8 a.m.

March 31, Easter Sunrise service, Pelham Cemetery at 6 a.m.; Easter service at 10 a.m.

#### Temple Beth-El

**Ground Breaking for the Community Garden:** Temple Beth-El invites all our friends and neighbors to participate in the ground-breaking of our new community garden next to the temple at 480 City Island Avenue. Our goal is to create a distinctive community garden along with the opportunity to learn more about the connection between Judaism, nature and the environment.

We will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 17 (rain date, March 24), with a bagel breakfast and some Tai Chi practice. After a short environmental prayer service, we will break ground, outline the borders and assign plots of land.

**Passover Seder:** Temple Beth-El will continue its tradition and celebrate Passover with a first-night seder on Wednesday, March 27, for both members and friends of the Temple.

Following the success of the last seven years' seders, we will have a kosher caterer supply us with a complete dinner of yummy traditional foods. The cost will be minimal: about \$33 for adults, \$15 for children. Our retelling of the Exodus will be primarily in English. All are welcome, but please contact Bob Berent at 885-3098 with your inquiries and RSVPs as soon as possible.

Bob Berent

#### City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group (CITG) has started rehearsals for its spring production, "To Kill a Mockingbird," a play by Christopher Sergel based on the novel by Harper Lee. This classic, which most of us read in high school, will be directed by Eileen Marcus and be brought to life on the weekends of April 19 and 26 at the Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Tickets are \$12 and \$10 and may be reserved by calling 885-1492.

CITG is also offering a subscription for the 2002 season (which consists of three productions). This plan guarantees reserved seats for all three shows and is a bargain at either \$20 or \$25; it is also a great gift idea. Following "To Kill a Mockingbird" will be "Kiddy Kabaret" on June 15 and 16 featuring "The Stowaway," a play written and directed by City Islander Laury Hopkins, with Stephen Marcus as musical director. A "Festival of One-Act Plays" will close out the season the weekends of Oct. 18 and 25.

If you wish to purchase tickets, buy a subscription plan or place an ad in the group's playbill (which will run in the spring and fall), please call 885-1492 or e-mail [citheatergroup@cs.com](mailto:citheatergroup@cs.com). You may also visit the Web site at <http://ourworld.cs.com/Citheatergroup>.

Joe Nixon

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

**Announcements**

**The City Island Community Teen Center** will be presenting a homecoming of the Living Rocks, (also known as rock heads), along with some new faces originally worn by people you might know, now painted by local artists. These "Speaking Heads," along with some surprising puppets, are ready to be seen (and heard) at the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church, Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, at 1 p.m.. Also on display will be the Circus of Faces, decorated faces by young artists with great imaginations.

Refreshments will be served. Come and be inspired!

**Ongoing Events**

**Monthly Meetings** are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. To schedule events at the Center, call Laury Hopkins at 885-3202.

**Teen Center:** Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the

Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 885-2192. A creative theatrical event is in the works, come and find out how you can participate!

**Senior Nutrition Program:** Held at Pilot Cove Manor, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All senior citizens are welcome; the cost is only 80¢ per meal. Call 885-0727 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. for your monthly calendar with daily lunch menus and schedule of visits to shopping centers.

**Dance classes** for children and adults, Fridays at the Center! Pre-ballet, jazz and tap for kids, 4 p.m. for pre-K; 5 p.m. for K—first grade; 6 p.m. for second—fourth grades. Classes for older students will be held if there is enough interest. Ballroom for adults at 8 p.m., including mambo (salsa), merengue, swing, cha cha, rumba, foxtrot, waltz, tango and more. Everyone registered for classes is invited to participate in the studio recital to be held in June 2002. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576-5515.

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

**Photography Classes:** Call Ron Turner at 885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

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

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

**Millennium Babies:** A moms and babies playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 885-9040.

**Laury Hopkins**

**Legion News**

My February newsletter ruffled some feathers, although there was no intent on my part to do so. I'll try to be more discreet in the future.

All who attended the Super Bowl Party agreed that it was super. The game was no doubt the best, a cliffhanger to the last second. Tom McMahon, Ed Esposito and their kitchen crew provided a gourmet feast befitting the occasion. The bar was open until one hour after the game, and copious amounts of spirits were consumed by all. Noel McIntyre set up the TVs for the event.

The annual Pigs Knuckle Party will have been held by the time this edition of *The Current* reaches the newsstand. It is anticipated that about 90 will be present to partake of the knuckles, pork chops and knockwurst. We hope that those prone to the ravages of cholesterol will have taken an extra Zocor pill or equivalent.

Don't forget the annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Sunday, March 10. The price, \$15, includes a full-course corned beef dinner, beer, wine, soda and an Irish coffee. Because this event is popular, there will be two seatings, at 2 and 4 p.m. This festive occasion is sponsored by the Sons of the Legion, ergo Russ Schaller Jr. and his kitchen crew will handle the kitchen chores.

The Post will take part in the annual Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day parade. Participants will step off at 12 noon, Sunday, March 10. If you intend to be there, wear green and no orange, please.

Our annual Spring Dance will be held at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, but no date has been set.

We mourn the loss of Comrade John Eberhart (Richard Eberhart's brother), who passed on in February. A number of Post members were present at the wake to pay final homage to John.

Added to our sick-call list this month is Richard (Dicky) Knapp, who is now in Albert Einstein Hospital. Still in local hospitals are Gene Schultz at Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital; Tom Holihan at Albert Einstein Hospital, and Richard Lindley at Sound Shore Medical Center. Donald Varian, Joe Bartels and Francis Scollon are recuperating at home. Capt. Fred Lane is at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Yonkers and looks forward to seeing his Island friends. If you can spare time to visit or send a card, I'm sure it would be appreciated.

I have heard, via the local grapevine, that the Sons of the Legion had contributed a substantial amount to one or more of the Twin Towers' funds. It might interest Islanders to know that all monies raised at their various functions are donated to charity. They are a very active group dedicated to the community, and they never blow their own horn.

Post meetings for the month of March are as follows: March 4: regular meeting and

induction of new members; March 11, executive board; March 18: regular meeting.

For local high rollers, there will be a bus trip to Mohegan Sun on Sunday, April 7. Comrade Ed Shipp hopes to fill two buses. Juice, coffee and bagels will be served at the Post at 8:30 a.m. The price of \$30 includes \$10 in coins and a \$10 meal voucher, an offer you can't refuse.

Before we fall out for another month, I came across this interesting tidbit. The highest-ranking American killed in the Big deuce (a.k.a. World War II) was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair. Unfortunately, he was not killed by the Germans or Japanese but by the U. S. Army Air Corps.

**Russell Schaller**

**Chapter 3303 AARP**

The members of Minneford Chapter 3303 were informed by our legislative chairperson, Silvio Bonardi, not to expect much from Congress this year in providing Medicare drug benefits or reforming Social Security. Things like that have been superseded by the Sept. 11 catastrophe and the war. The focus on and costs of terrorism have dampened the prospect for resolving many important issues during this year.

Although no action on Medicare drug benefits is expected in 2002, the issue should stay on the front burner, because it is something that needs to be done, even if it means going into the red with the budget. AARP has reminded the members to let our elected officials know that action on adding affordable prescription drug benefits to Medicare is needed now.

Tell the President and your members of Congress that we have lived with these high drug costs long enough and that they should work now on adding a drug benefit to Medicare and set aside enough money in the federal budget to make this benefit affordable. We would like to see meaningful action soon on this key issue. We are all asked to call our elected officials, toll free, at 800-211-0910 to express our concerns.

On Monday, March 11, the Chapter will sponsor a St. Joseph and St. Patrick Festival at the famous Milleridge Inn in Jericho, Long Island. Departure time is 10:30 a.m. Prices and more details will be discussed at our meeting or you can call Tina De Cristofaro at 885-0865.

**Lucy Puglia**

**Chapter 318 AARP**

Please mark your calendar. Our next trip to Atlantic City, for this month only, will be the third Tuesday, March 19. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street, City Island. For reservations, call Jean Ringel at 885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 885-1844. The reason for this change is that we have a day trip on Tuesday, March 12, to the Westbury Music Fair.

Many thanks to Ginny Diech, our program chairperson, for making our meetings more informative and enjoyable. Ginny has been inviting many speakers from the various city departments. At our last meeting we had a representative from the Bronx District Attorney's office tell us how to protect ourselves from fraud.

We also would like to thank Dick Souter, editor of our newsletter, "The Islander", for doing such a great job and Catherine Souter, his wife, for helping him and also for the beautiful lap robes she has made for the patients at Calvary Hospital.

Our five-day trip to Indian Head Resort, New Hampshire, is going fast. For information, please attend our meetings. Happy Easter.

**Marie Tirelli**



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Three of the City Island Community Center's "Living Heads" that will be on view at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

Greetings and Happy Easter to each of you. We invite you to join us at our Passover seder dinner to be held on Holy Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. Reservations must be made by Palm Sunday, March 24; call Donna at 718-885-0931. There is no charge for this special dinner, but a free-will offering will be taken. Good Friday services will be held at 8 p.m. on March 29. An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Pelham Cemetery at 6 a.m. on March 31. The traditional Easter Service will be at 10 a.m.

Please put our Spring Fair on your calendar for May 18 and plan to attend the luncheon on that day. There will be the usual wide variety of homemade goodies and crafts on sale. Hope to see you then.

**Donna La Valle**

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### Electronic Surveillance

In today's world, people are increasingly concerned about protection of their civil rights, especially in the area of privacy. Hollywood has many treatments of how this right can be violated. In 1974 Francis Ford Coppola wrote, produced and directed the Oscar-nominated film **The Conversation**. It stars Gene Hackman as Harry Caul, a professional surveillance expert, who after years in the business starts having terrible pangs of conscience. He has always remained aloof and uninvolved, but suddenly he begins to worry about the consequences of his wire-tapping, which he fears will result in murder.

**Three Days of the Condor** (1975) is a thriller in which Robert Redford stars as Joe Turner, who reads books for the CIA looking for plausible plans for espionage. While literally out to lunch, his entire unit is blown away by the very seedy Joubert (Max von Sydow), and Joe is on the run. Along the way, he picks up Kathy Hale (Faye Dunaway) and forces her to help him, as he no longer knows whom he can trust. This Sydney Pollack-directed taut thriller features a fine cast that also includes Cliff Robertson and John Houseman.

A review of movies on this subject would not be complete without **1984**, which was filmed in that very year. Those who read George Orwell's classic novel, written in 1948, will find this rendition faithful to the book, with a very grim look and feel. Winston Smith's (Jon Hurt) job is to re-write history for "Big Brother," who watches over all the citizens of Oceania, an autocratic society where freedom of thought and even sex are prohibited. Richard Burton is on hand as O'Brien, a high-ranking member of the government, who discovers Winston's love affair with Julia (Suzanna Hamilton), a worker at the Ministry of Truth. This is a very bleak view of the future, indeed. Although it was filmed in color, it feels like a black and white movie.

On a much lighter note is **Married to the Mob** (1988), the story of Angela DeMarco (Michelle Pfeiffer), whose husband, Frank (Alec Baldwin), is a mob hit man. Fed up with her life and its stereotypical tackiness, Angela tries to get away, only to become the subject of a government surveillance, run by FBI Agents Mike Downey (Matthew Modine)

and his sidekick, Ed (Oliver Platt). It's a rather zany romantic crime comedy, with some nice laughs along the way.

Robert Redford appears again in the very entertaining techno-thriller **Sneakers** (1992), in which he plays Martin Bishop, whose cadre of misfits are a formidable and hilarious techno-team. Its members are Sidney Poiter as Donald Crease, a former CIA agent; Dan Aykroyd as "Mother," who knows the real story behind every conspiracy theory ever conceived; David Strathairn as Whistler, a blind computer expert; and River Phoenix as Carl, his helper. This fine cast also includes Mary McDonnell as Liz, Martin's estranged wife, and Ben Kingsley as the protagonist, Cosmo. The plot device that moves all the action along is the existence of an apparatus that can break every computer code ever devised, and naturally everyone wants it.

An original and erotic change of pace is the thriller **Sliver** (1993). The title refers to the thin skyscrapers that dot the New York City skyline. Sharon Stone stars as Carly Norris, a book editor who moves into such a building and learns that the previous tenant died under suspicious circumstances. William Baldwin plays Zeke, her romantic interest, who has a secret lair where he can electronically spy on everyone in the building.

We look into the future with the smart, provocative sci-fi flick **Gattaca** (1997), which also considers the theme of genetic engineering. This film depicts a world where perfect children are created to be in a class above those conceived naturally. Vincent (Ethan Hawke) was born the old-fashioned way, and he sets out to prove that he can be the equal of the genetically-created humans by performing such tasks as being a crew member on a trip to one of Saturn's moons. Because of the extremes to which government surveillance will go, this is an extremely complex task that can be accomplished only with the help of Jerome (Jude Law), a perfect human who has been crippled in an accident. When Vincent falls in love with the perfect Irene (Uma Thurman), will his deception be detected?

A very thought-provoking thriller, set in the present, is **Enemy of the State** (1998). Will Smith is credible as Robert Dean, a Washington lawyer who is swept into a whirlwind that nearly destroys his life when an acquaintance surreptitiously passes onto him some evidence incriminating to a congressman. His only help in trying to stay alive and get his life back is Brill (Gene Hackman), a former American spy. The real star of this movie is the technology: spy satellites, surveillance cameras and listening devices of every kind. One can almost believe that the government already has the capacity to invade our privacy to this level.

And until next time, happy viewing. .

The children are continuing to learn simple story writing and are concentrating on vowel sounds.

The second-graders are preparing for First Holy Communion. In science class they are studying the weather and will be using pictures to depict different kinds of climate. The children continue to watch the Script Show and are practicing their penmanship.

Grade 3 is learning about the season of Lent for religion class and finishing up the section on prayer. In science, the students will learn about simple machines, and in social studies they will concentrate on San Francisco and the Spanish missions.

The fourth grade is making dioramas and performing skits with a non-smoking theme. The role of New York State in the American Revolution will be discussed in social studies; in science the emphasis will be on plants, photosynthesis and

plant respiration.

The fifth-graders are working on a social studies project about Asia. Also on their busy schedule is writing a book report, practicing letter writing, graphing in math class and performing plays in the classroom.

Grade 7 is studying the U. S. Constitution. In English class the students are focusing on adverbs and working on their monthly book report.

The eighth-graders are looking at the reasons and events leading up to World War I and how they still affect us today, both politically and geographically.

Special dates for St. Mary's are as follows: March 1: First Friday Mass at 9 a.m.; March 3-4: Sr. James Patrick will attend the CSAANY (Catholic School Administrators Association of New York) meeting in Albany; March 4-5: English language arts exam for Grade 8; March 4-8: Grades 2-7 will take part in ITBS testing; March 5-8: Registration; March 6: high school registration at the high schools after 2 p.m.; March 22: Easter recess begins at the end of the day; March 23: Sacrament of Reconciliation; March 25: Testing for new students; April 2-5: Sr. James Patrick will attend the NCEA (National Catholic Educators Association) Conference in Atlantic City; April 8: Classes resume.

### Public School 175

The kindergartners learned how Honest Abe got his name and that George Washington could not tell a lie. Did you know that the leatherback sea turtle could weigh more than 1,000 lbs.? The children are learning this and more in their study of reptiles.

The first grade is anticipating the school break. The children recently celebrated the 100th day of school with a fun-filled day full of math challenges and lots of activities that dealt with the number 100.

Grade 2 is studying arthropods. So far they have learned about "the living fossil," the horseshoe crab and its cousin the barnacle. How many people know that the barnacle stands on its head for its whole life?

The students in the third grade are beginning a unit in science on how living and non-living things cause changes on earth. They are also learning to classify matter as solids, liquids and gases.

The fourth grade will begin its annual study of family history with a visit from Ms. Joanne Brogan, former president of the Westchester Genealogy Society. Congratulations to all the students for doing such a fine job in the science fair. In 4D, the first place winner was Danielle Kaufman. Sarah Rothschild and Samantha Masiello tied for second place, and Brigit McGowan placed third. In 4L, first place went to Daisy Bilenkin. Thomas Cambria won second place, and Liam Flynn won third.

Grade 5 will begin learning about Mexico, our neighbor to the south. The class will explore the geography, history and culture of the Mexican people. In science, the students are studying weather and will be constructing weather instruments. Class 5R has been using technology to its greatest advantage. This month's project is the identification card. Students are using Microsoft Word and a scanner to create personalized cards. In reading, the current trade book is "Stone Fox," and in math the subjects are ratios and percents.

The sixth-graders have been participating in a weekly science program called "The Voyage of the Mimi." Each week the students are exposed to different marine science topics. A few weeks ago, the students had the opportunity to dissect a squid; they learned about its internal organs and the way it lives. The culmi-

nating activity was to cook the squid, and parent volunteers helped turn the squid into a dish of fried calamari, which was both educational and scrumptious!

Mrs. White's class is sorry to report that the bookstore Just For Us will cease to exist, owing to new company policy. The organization that the school was dealing with will no longer accommodate small school purchases. On a more positive note, the students are eagerly awaiting spring to see if their gardening skills have paid off. They are waiting for the appearance of their planted bulbs (daffodils, tulips and hyacinths). They are also doing classroom composting in order to fertilize the ground for their butterfly garden, which will be planted in warmer weather.

In language arts, the seventh grade is currently reading "Johnny Tremain" and studying the Revolutionary War. The students are trying to make connections between the two. In fact, they will even be converting the value of pounds of silver (Revolutionary War silver) to present-day market prices in their performance math class.

Class 8D will visit the planetarium at Truman High School and will participate in hands-on activities. On Jan. 26, 15 eighth-graders participated in the Future City Competition at the Polytechnic University in Brooklyn. P.S. 175 is proud to announce that the city "N.M.E." received a special recognition award as the Most Environmentally Friendly city. Congratulations to students Nick Vaughan, Michael Maniotis and Eddie Ciarletta and to their teacher Ms. Karen Heil, as well as to their engineering mentor, Gautham Narasimhan of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. The team received a plaque that will be on display at P.S. 175, as well as individual medals for each team member.

This year P.S. 175 science fair took place in the beginning of January. Each middle school student completed a science project that was displayed in the cafeteria area. The winners were as follows. Grade 6, First place: Clara Casey, Nick Masstrachio, Kenny Clancy, Joseph DeWitt, Christine Arnone and Ismael Perez. Second place: Kelly Carmody, Elmis Omari and Ashley Delgiudice. Third place: Christian Padagas, Ronnel Padagas, Paige Washington, Sarima Ali and Angelica Irizarry. Grade 7, First place: John Plantikow, Michael Pagliaro and Margo DeSantis. Second place: Sarah Anderson, Gary Gunzl, Marco Morrone and Amanda Previdi. Third place: Christina Tola, Evan Berent, Bianca Delgiudice and Giancarlo DiLaura. Grade 8: First place: Alex Petrou, Thomas Jones and Zachary Taffet. Second place: Matthew Murphy and Chrislyn Paukowitz. Third place: Raymond Pena and Griffin Burnett.

A reminder that kindergarten registration will be held on Thursday, March 21, and Friday, March 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. Families whose last names begin with the letters A -M will be on March 21, and those with letters N -Z will be registered on March 22. Bring proof of residency, such as a utility bill in your name (a lease is not acceptable), a record of immunization, and either a birth certificate, passport or baptismal record. The child must be present at time of registration.



### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The kindergarten children will celebrate the arrival of spring with a study of butterflies and an exciting trip to the Butterfly Zone at the Bronx Zoo. For St. Patrick's Day they will make shamrocks and read about the saint's life. Addition and learning to tell time are on the agenda, as well as emphasizing the letters L, O, K and J.

The first grade will kick off St. Patrick's Day with its own class parade.

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**WORD SEARCH PUZZLE #26**

Find the words in the puzzle vertically, horizontally or on the diagonal. See if you can find the hidden message.

*baskets, Easter, green, Ireland, leprechaun, Passover, shamrock, spring, vacation, windy*



**STANTON**

*Continued from page 1*



Bill Stanton's book.

stantly encourages his friends who still live here to become involved in local concerns.

It is as if he wants all of us to protect and preserve this island, while he does the same for the rest of the country, a reasonable request and one well worth considering.

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“the gem” of them all.

He remembers, with some amazement, that he and his friends grew up walking around City Island in bare feet the whole summer long (an admittedly ill-advised activity now, thanks to the way some people don't clean up after their dogs!). He contends that there is no better place in the world to be a kid, and he admits that he is just waiting for the right opportunity to move back.

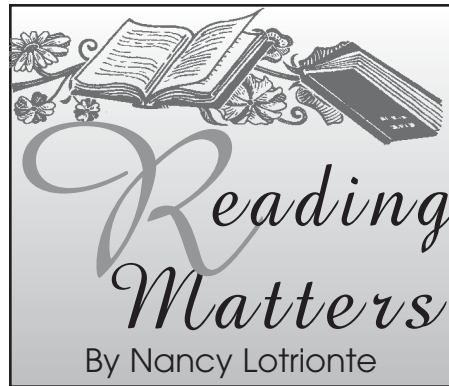
Bill Stanton believes that his years on City Island gave him a base and a frame of reference that has supported and grounded him throughout his career and his admittedly glamorous and high-rolling life. He worries that over-development and absent landlords will change City Island, and he con-

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**Critical Thinking**

We often hear the term “critical thinking” in connection with the skills our children are expected to acquire in school. This particular skill applies not only to reading literature but also to areas of study such as social studies, science and math. But just what is critical thinking, and how can you help your child think critically?

In math, for example, students are being asked to explain how they come up with their answers. Gone are the days of just writing down a numeric answer to a math problem. In social studies students are expected to be able to read documents, charts and maps, in order to make comparisons, summarize information and draw conclusions based on the evidence of what they see, read and interpret. Science students are expected to be able to explain and categorize scientific tasks and then to summarize procedures and draw conclusions based on the evidence.

Good thinkers are willing to think. They welcome problematic situations and look for alternate possibilities by seeking evidence on both sides of a problem. Good thinkers can tolerate ambiguity, but poor thinkers cannot do so and insist on answers that are either right or wrong. They tend to be satisfied with first attempts and give up too soon, overconfident about the correctness of their first answers. Basically, poor thinkers don't believe that thinking will help.

Learning to think well is a problem of self-control, just like saving money. Many of us are guilty of giving up too soon and or being too satisfied with first possibilities. Training our children to become critical thinkers is a process, one that takes time and practice. The next time you ask

your child a question, keep in mind the amount of time you give them to respond. Don't train your children to deliver immediate responses, because you are not giving them time to think.

If we constantly do things for our children, such as zippering a jacket, tying shoes, making a bed, we are not letting them discover, do and think for themselves. As our children get older, we can help improve our their critical-thinking skills by having them listen to or read news reports, analyze graphs and charts found in newspapers, compare prices and make decisions on purchases.

The following is a list of picture books that encourage good thinking.

**Math**

*The Mud Flat Olympics* by James Stevenson

*Town Mouse, Country Mouse* by Jan Brett

**Social Studies**

*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* shows how simple misunderstandings can escalate into tragic events.

*Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting is about homelessness and disenfranchising.

*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney reminds the reader how each person should leave the world more beautiful.

**Science**

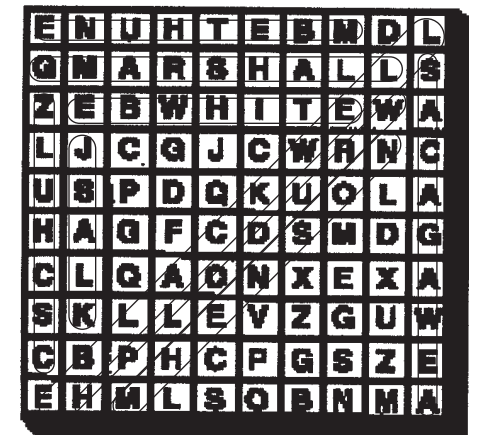
*Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor and Peter Parnell tells about rocks and minerals and their attributes.

*The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* by Trinka Hakes Noble and Steven Kellogg. A search for the truth and how each action causes a reaction.

*Owl At Home* by Arnold Lobel

**WORD SEARCH PUZZLE #25**

Answer to last June's puzzle



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# Obituaries

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

## Elise Halvorsen

Elise (Jensen) Halvorsen, 98, a former City Island resident, died Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Rivershores Nursing Center. Mrs. Halvorsen was born on Oct. 10, 1903, near Grimstad, Norway, to Karl and Hanne (Hansdatter) Risbruna. She and her brother arrived in the United States in 1923. She worked as a housemaid in New York before marrying Niles Halvorsen on Nov. 13, 1926.

Mrs. Halvorsen and her husband lived for many years on City Island. She was a charter member of the Bronx Lutheran Free Church and was active in the Sunday school, Ladies Aid and the church string band. She later became a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church in New Rochelle. After the death of her husband on June 23, 1983, she moved to Newark and became a member of the Newark Lutheran Church.

She is survived by one daughter, Eleanor Chelson, of Newark; two sons, Leonard Halvorsen of Long Island, New York, and Walter (Mira) Halvorsen of Boca Raton, Florida; 10 grandchildren, Diana (Steve) Cornacchia of Hawaii, Roger (Carol) Halvorsen of New York, Glen (Susan) Halvorsen of Connecticut, Craig (Gwen) Halvorsen of New York, Carol Halvorsen of Florida, Ruth Ann (Ray) Collings of Georgia, David (Lori) Chelson of Newark, Mark (Jeanne) Chelson of Iowa, Miriam (Rick) Tollefson of Lisbon, Paul (Lura) Chelson of West Chicago; 23 great grandchildren; two sisters, Anna Grosle and Marie Stalleland, both of Norway.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, five brothers and five sisters. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Newark Lutheran Church. Burial was at the Lisbon Cemetery.

## James M. Jordan

Former Islander James M. Jordan died of a massive heart attack on Jan. 16, 2002, at his home in Torrance, California. He was 73.

Mr. Jordan was born in New York City in 1928 and moved permanently to City Island with his family in the early 1940s. He attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea and Cardinal Hayes High School and was in one of the first graduating classes of Iona College. Jim liked to recall the days when

City Island had "real telephone operators," one of which was Mae MacIntyre, his future mother-in-law, who took messages and usually knew where you could reach someone. This was a personalized service that most Islanders enjoyed at the time.

Jim and Joan, his wife of 51 years, moved away from City Island in 1956, when he went to work for General Telephone, where he spent the next 34 years in myriad positions until his retirement. Over the years, they returned regularly to visit family and friends.

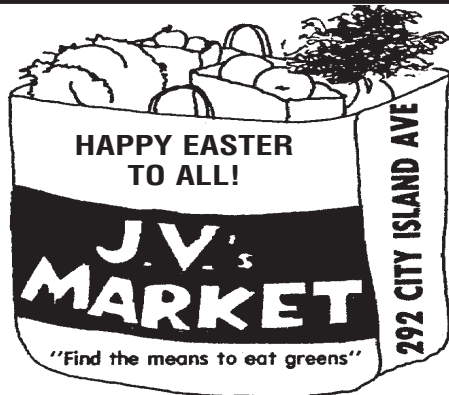
Predeceased by his father, Christopher Jordan; his brothers William, Christopher and Patrick, and his uncle Thomas, Jim Jordan is survived by his mother, Elizabeth; his sister Betty of City Island; his wife, Joan; his daughter, Carolyn Lascheck, and her husband, Jay, of Costa Mesa, California, and his son, Gary, and his wife, Kimberly, of Capo Beach, California; and three grandchildren, Ashley, Jeanette and Colin.

A memorial mass was held at St. James Catholic Church in Redondo Beach, California, on Jan. 23. Interment will be at Pelham Cemetery.

## Theresa Hughes

Theresa Hughes, a former resident of City Island, died Feb. 11, 2002, at the age of 68 years. She was born in Manhattan, married Arthur Hughes in St. Luke's Church in the Bronx and moved to City Island 30 years ago. Arthur Hughes was a member of the American Legion and died in 1991.

Mrs. Hughes is survived by her three children, Kevin, Kathleen and Vincent. She will be remembered for her compassion for others and her jovial nature. She leaves happy memories with the people who knew her. She loved City Island. For the last 12 years she lived in Mayville to be near her sister, Christine.



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**CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK**

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

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

*Tide chart by Tom Smith*

**MARCH 2002**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0025	8.5	0701	-1.3	1248	8.3	1923	-1.2	Fri 01
02 Sat	0113	8.4	0756	-1.2	1341	7.9	2012	-0.9	Sat 02
03 Sun	0205	8.2	0854	-0.9	1439	7.5	2105	-0.4	Sun 03
04 Mon	0302	7.9	0959	-0.5	1547	7.0	2208	0.1	Mon 04
05 Tue	0412	7.5	1108	-0.1	1704	-6.6	2320	0.6	Tue 05
06 Wed	0531	7.2	1217	0.2	1816	6.4			Wed 06
07 Thu	0032	0.8	0643	7.2	1321	0.3	1921	6.5	Thu 07
08 Fri	0137	0.8	0747	7.2	1420	0.2	2019	6.7	Fri 08
09 Sat	0236	0.7	0843	7.4	1513	0.2	2111	7.0	Sat 09
10 Sun	0328	0.6	0933	7.6	1600	0.1	2158	7.3	Sun 10
11 Mon	0414	0.4	1019	7.7	1643	0.1	2240	7.4	Mon 11
12 Tue	0456	0.3	1100	7.7	1720	0.1	2318	7.5	Tue 12
13 Wed	0533	0.2	1136	7.6	1752	0.2	2351	7.5	Wed 13
14 Thu	0603	0.2	1205	7.4	1814	0.3			Thu 14
15 Fri	0011	7.5	0621	0.2	1220	7.3	1819	0.4	Fri 15
16 Sat	0019	7.5	0635	0.2	1234	7.2	1838	0.4	Sat 16
17 Sun	0041	7.6	0702	0.2	1303	7.1	1910	0.4	Sun 17
18 Mon	0114	7.6	0738	0.2	1339	7.0	1948	0.5	Mon 18
19 Tue	0152	7.6	0820	0.4	1421	6.9	2032	0.7	Tue 19
20 Wed	0237	7.6	0907	0.6	1510	6.7	2120	0.9	Wed 20
21 Thu	0327	7.5	1001	0.8	1605	6.5	2215	1.1	Thu 21
22 Fri	0424	7.4	1103	0.9	1708	6.5	2317	1.2	Fri 22
23 Sat	0528	7.3	1218	0.9	1819	6.6			Sat 23
24 Sun	0031	1.1	0639	7.4	1350	0.5	1937	7.0	Sun 24
25 Mon	0158	0.7	0754	7.7	1458	0.0	2045	7.5	Mon 25
26 Tue	0314	0.1	0903	8.0	1553	-0.5	2140	8.1	Tue 26
27 Wed	0414	-0.6	1002	8.3	1642	-0.9	2230	8.5	Wed 27
28 Thu	0507	-1.1	1055	8.4	1729	-1.1	2317	8.7	Thu 28
29 Fri	0558	-1.4	1145	8.4	1815	-1.1			Fri 29
30 Sat	0004	8.8	0649	-1.4	1235	8.2	1900	-1.0	Sat 30
31 Sun	0051	8.7	0741	-1.2	1327	7.8	1948	-0.6	Sun 31

**APRIL 2001**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0142	8.4	0837	-0.8	1424	7.4	2040	-0.1	Mon 01
02 Tue	0237	7.9	0938	-0.3	1529	7.0	2142	0.5	Tue 02
03 Wed	0346	7.5	1043	0.2	1641	6.7	2255	1.0	Wed 03
04 Thu	0505	7.2	1149	0.5	1751	6.6			Thu 04
05 Fri	0007	1.2	0617	7.1	1252	0.7	1854	6.7	Fri 05
06 Sat	0112	1.2	0720	7.1	1350	0.7	1951	7.0	Sat 06



It's getting very springlike out there. In February, we spotted buds on lilac bushes and viburnum (the squirrels must have spotted them in the trees as well, literally going out on limb after limb to make meals of them). We saw crocuses in our flower beds and new red growth on our rose bushes. In Gary and Vicki's yard on Fordham Street, snowdrops were in bloom early this year. Snowdrops, formally known as *Galanthus nivalis*, are half-inch white-petaled flowers that appear atop thin, gray-green leaves three to eight inches tall. These pretty little white flowers are supposed to bloom in late winter to early spring, but not this year. Not in Gary and Vicki's yard, anyway.

It's not only some of our plants that have been fooled by the mild winter this year. We spotted plenty of Canada geese flying north already in their familiar V-shaped formations. Geese fly in this way to save energy. The head goose flaps its wings and creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow, making it easier for them to lift their wings. When the head goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and allows another goose to take the lead. Smart birds! Oh, and about their honking, some scientists say it is a form of encouragement for the geese in front to keep up their speed. Smart (if impatient) birds!

Mute swans have once again staked their claim in the lagoon near the Orchard Beach traffic circle. These magnificent white beauties build their nests in marshy areas, laying four to six gray or blue-green eggs in large mounded nests of feather and brush. If you can't get close enough to the lagoon, Jane from Tier

Street tells us that swans regularly build their nests along the shoreline of Tier Street lot.

You might want to think about visiting the Tier Street lot, one of City Island's last undeveloped properties, or at least getting a closer look, since it is private property--if not for the wildlife you might find there, then for a history lesson. That is to say, a natural-history lesson about our Island and how it must have looked to its first visitors.

By the way, for you astronomy fans out there, the Latin word for swan is *cygnus*, hence the constellation Cygnus, the swan. This cross-shaped constellation, also known as the Northern Cross, is best viewed on summer nights, when its swan-like appearance comes twinkling into focus directly above those who have a good imagination. Be on the lookout!

As spring actually does draw nearer, keep your eyes open for any new signs of plant and animal life that interest you in some way. The first school of fish, perhaps? The bunnies? Let us know about it at [jdsstrat@earthlink.net](mailto:jdsstrat@earthlink.net).

Finally, this month's column cannot be concluded without paying homage to City Island's finest asset: the water. When you feel that the world is moving too fast around you, or that the stress of daily life is getting too great, remember that you live on an island. Take a walk to the beach and simply watch the water for a while. When the sunlight sparkles white on the water like diamonds dancing on top of the waves, it is pure relaxation, more soothing than any day spa (more natural and less expensive too!). Enjoy your treatment. It's on us.

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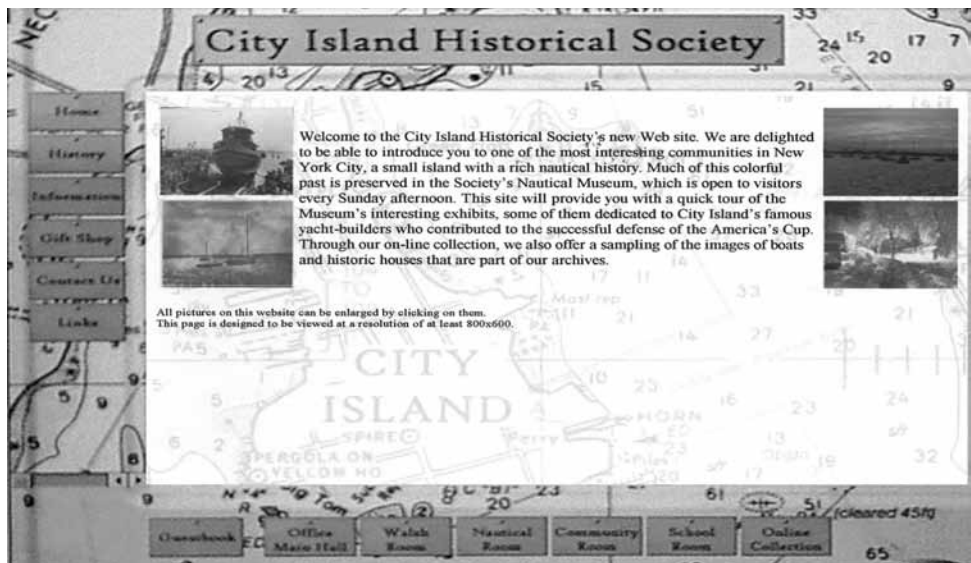
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Recently launched at the City Island Nautical Museum is the newly constructed website, which can be accessed at [www.cityislandmuseum.org](http://www.cityislandmuseum.org). In addition to a description of the museum and its collections there are many historical photographs of City Island.

## Warriors Football Registration

Jerry Demers, Chief of Warrior Football, announced the 2002 registration for boys and girls interested in tackle or flag football and cheerleading. All registration will take place in the Lehman High School gym (use side entrance) located at 3000 East Tremont Avenue.

Returning tackle and flag players will register on Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. All cheerleaders should also register at this time. New players should register on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. New players must be accompanied by a parent and have a copy of their birth certificate.


For tackle football, the age and weight groups are: 7 to 8 years old, 85 pounds or less; 9 to 10 years old, 105 pounds or less; 11 to 12 years old, 125 pounds or less; and 13-14 years old, 145 pounds or less. In flag

football, there are two groups: ages 6 to 7, no weight limit, and ages 8 to 9, no weight limit.

Ages are determined as of July 31, 2002. All divisions are co-ed.

Practices begin in August on weekday evenings for the fall football season. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays at Pelham Bay Park and Lehman High School. The cost schedule for the 2002 season is \$80 for tackle football and cheerleading, and \$60 for flag football. Prices increase by \$20 for registration after April 1.

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and those who fail to register in the spring are not guaranteed a roster spot in August even if they are returning players. For more information about football, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574, and for cheerleading, call Geri Demers at 718-792-5747.

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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.

A belated welcome to Nanette Molloy, who has returned to City Island to raise her two beautiful children, Michael and Alyssa. And congratulations to Alyssa on scoring the first points of her basketball career this season for the St. Mary Star of the Sea Gidgets.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Hy and Connie Cantor, who will celebrate their anniversary on March 17.

Congratulations to Robert Mennona and Charlotte Bradley-Swirsky on their marriage, which will take place on March 16 in St. Mary's Church in Kingston, New York. Their entire family wishes them every happiness.

Yes, that was past *Current* editor Sally McPherson in the photograph of the annual holiday party that appeared in last month's issue. We certainly enjoyed her visit! Come back again, soon, Sally!

Maria Swieciki

Happy birthday on March 31 to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene.

It's a boy! Congratulations to Danielle (Mazzella) and William D'Ambrosio on the Jan. 11 birth of William Silverio. They now reside in Eastchester, New York. Grandparents Diane and Sam are glowing!

Happy 80th birthday greetings on March 29 to Buckley Street's Charlie Lacina with love from Bette, Charles, Natalie, Jimmy and grandchildren.

Belated fifth happy birthday wishes to Hawkins Street's Stacy Lacina with love from Mom and Dad, Nana and Pop-Pop and Bobbi.

Happy 14th birthday Sam. Congratulations on your acceptance to Stuyvesant. We love you, Mom, Dad, Joe and Gwyn.

Belated birthday(s) greetings to Daddy on Feb. 20 with lots of love from Sean and Megan and to Uncle Mickey in California on Feb. 6 also with love from Sean and Megan.

Happy seventh birthday wishes to Sean Moran on March 28 with lots of love from Mom and Dad and Megan.

Happy ninth birthday, in California, to Cousin Kelsey on March 26 and Aunt Jen on March 21. Love, Sean and Megan.

Belated happy 7th birthday to big Aunt Kathy on Feb. 1. Love, Sean and Megan, Paulie, Kevin, Crystal and Fallon.



Photo by RENA HANSEN

A film production company shot some scenes along City Island Avenue on Saturday, Feb. 16, for a WCBS-TV commercial about the various small towns that make up New York City. Andy Sbare is shown here being interviewed by the film's director in front of the Black Whale.

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# 50 YEARS BEHIND THE TIMES

On March 30, 1902, an article appeared in *The New York Herald* under the title "50 Years Behind the Times Right in New York City." The following excerpts are clear evidence that some things never change, except perhaps the source of the clams and the sight of the *Columbia* beached on the eastern shore.

New York City's absorption of its suburbs has been fatal to the race of hardshell brine-encrusted clam diggers that has for 300 years or more peopled this little dot of sand in Long Island Sound known as City Island, which has recently been swallowed up by the great metropolis. One by one the hunters for the bivalve are being laid away in the little cemetery overlooking the quiet waters of the Sound. Those who have not yet succumbed to the hand of time are gradually drifting away, seeking other fields, or are accepting the gold of associated capitalists who have within a month past selected the island as a fruitful field for speculation, or see in it golden returns for investment.

These "clambers" have been really a race in themselves. For more than a century the intrusion of the urban resident or the man of commerce was resented. The native City Islander was content with his little world, measuring a half mile in width by a mile in length, and he hoped, as his ancestors had hoped before him, that the invasion, now at flood tide, would never come. Within sight, and almost within sound of the nightly glare and daily tumult of a great city, the "clammer" had lived from generation to generation, happy and undisturbed.

His only use for the city was the fact that it was a market for his wares and a supply depot for his rum and his apparel. He lived in dories or smacks most of the time, and his family dwelt in the lit-

tle cottages in the queer, solemn streets of the island. Until New York moved up beyond the Harlem River, he believed that there would be eternal solitude in the little village where his forebears had settled and where he hoped to die. . . .

Many of those who visit the island during the summer —and there are many, for City Island is a favorite haunt of the angler as well as a resort for those who enjoy a truly rural place for passing a day of quiet enjoyment —walk to the sandy shore and watch the clam digger at work.

Then they visit one of the oldtime hotels and partake of a clambake or shore dinner, with the clams just fresh from their sandy bed and cooked as only the native City Islander can cook them. . . .

Just beyond and in plain sight of the [City Island cemetery] is the graveyard of the proudest craft that ever floated. Famous yachts, winners of great contests, defenders of the America's Cup and playthings of the wealthiest men in the mightiest of nations have ended their careers there. Today the famous sloop yacht *Columbia* is hauled out upon the shore, windswept, weather-beaten and lonely, on the very spot where but a few years ago her predecessor in the affections of the American yachting world, the game old *Defender*, last rested her bones and was torn into junk after as great a struggle for the blue ribbon of the sea as ever had been fought.

Whether *Columbia* is to end her days as have those that preceded her in the marine graveyard is still a great question. At any rate, there she is today, upon the very beach that saw the last of earlier champions of the sea. Keeping her company at present is Mr. August Belmont's famous 79-footer *Mineola*. Captain "Charlie" Barr, skipper of the *Columbia*, lives in a cottage within a stone's throw of the shipyard and frequently strolls down to the beach to admire the lines of the fleet racer that twice carried the hopes of the American people and vanquished the most formidable craft that ever crossed the seas to test the supremacy of American yachts and yachtsmen.

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