

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Dig They Really Must

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The condition of the corroded and encrusted pipes being excavated by the construction team along City Island Avenue is clear evidence that the water-main and sewer replacement project is long overdue.

There are many reasons to be grateful for the relatively mild winter weather this year, but one of them is that the long overdue sewer and water-main replacement project has been able to stay on schedule. The work began last summer on Schofield Street and has continued at various points along City Island Avenue, as water main pipes are removed and replaced and as storm and sanitary sewers are installed.

Carp Construction is the contractor for this project of the New York City Depart-

ment of Design and Construction (DDC) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the firm anticipates that the job will be completed in 2008, as originally envisioned. The mild weather would have put the project ahead of schedule except that there have been a number of unforeseen problems along the way.

Not only have workers uncovered sections of the old trolley tracks that were thought to have been removed in 1931, but they have also found abandoned gas lines wrapped in



One of the reasons the sewer job is so complicated is that the construction crew are never entirely sure what they will find below the street surface. The white pipes in the foreground are gas lines; the pipes behind the worker are electric lines.

coal tar, a flammable and toxic substance. Con Edison has worked with the contractor to direct the removal of this material according to standard operating procedures and in compliance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It was the discovery of coal tar that caused emergency work just before Christmas in front of Grace Episcopal Church and near P.S. 175.

Andy Macagnone, community construction liaison for DDC, told *The Current* that it is difficult to anticipate exactly where future work will take place, because the contractor cannot determine the location of pipes, including electric and gas lines, until the street has been excavated. However, he makes every effort to keep the community up to date on current work by posting announcements on a Web site ([www.outreachny.com](http://www.outreachny.com)) and by distributing flyers to residents who may be affected by the work.

Most City Islanders have been very understanding about the project, especially those who have seen the condition of the pipes that are being replaced, but many have complained, because parking has been difficult and because dust has sometimes been raised by the excavation. The workers have been diligent about watering the dust, but that seems to have resulted in complaints about mud puddles. The fact that puddles accumulate is, of course, one of the very reasons that storm sewers are being installed.

"The worst problem," says Mr. Macagnone, "is that people start rumors and everyone gets upset." In December it was rumored that the water supply for all City Island would be cut off and that the water supply would become brown with sediment. "This was not true. The contractor is working on small sections at all times. The water supply for City Island would NEVER be turned off. As for brown water, in the course of replacing old water mains, sometimes sediment is stirred up, which the contractor clears by opening fire hydrants in the work area to clear the system of sedimentation."

Another common complaint is about the condition of the road, but that cannot be resolved now, as it would be impractical to resurface the entire road until the project is completed.

Although many residents have been in-

convenienced by the project, especially by the one-lane closures, traffic problems have been minimal and the traffic-control people have been very efficient. A few storeowners complained during the holidays that the lack of parking disrupted their business, but some of the restaurants, specifically the Sea Shore, were very hospitable to the workers, offering them coffee and snacks.

Barring fierce winter storms, the work will continue at least into July. Water mains cannot be installed at temperatures below 26 degrees F. but work may continue on the sewer-installation. No work will be done in front of P.S. 175 until after the close of school in June, an exception to the summer moratorium agreed upon by the school, the City Island Civic Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Any residents with questions or complaints are urged to call Andy Macagnone at 718-885-0308 or to drop by the field office at 261 City Island Avenue between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## Dr. Condeelis Awarded Grant

Dr. John Condeelis, longtime City Island resident and co-chair and professor of anatomy and structural biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, recently received a grant of \$2 million from the National Cancer Institute to enable his team of researchers to develop the world's smallest cancer detection device. He was also elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an honor bestowed on AAAS members by their peers.

Dr. Condeelis and his colleagues at Einstein, working in collaboration with researchers at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University of Albany, will study tumor "microenvironments," where tumors interact with surrounding tissues, cells and chemicals that often encourage cancer cells to metastasize to other parts of the body.

The research team will use nanotechnology, which involves studying and working with material on the molecular level, to design a microchip version of an artificial blood vessel that Dr. Condeelis has used successfully in animals. The goal is to implant these tiny microchips in human tumors, where they could report, through scanners, on the nature of infiltrating cells. This information would enable doctors to determine the level of therapy required to fight the cancer cells.

Einstein is one of nine centers in the country to receive a Tumor Microenvironment Network grant and will be expected to collaborate closely with the other centers during a five-year research period.

Dr. Condeelis was elected as an AAAS Fellow in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the field of cell motility and the cytoskeleton and for furthering our under-

standing of amoeboid motion and the role of cell chemotaxis in cancer.

He earned his bachelor's degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his Ph.D. from State University of New York, Albany, and he joined the Einstein faculty in 1977, after completing his postdoctoral fellowship in cell biology at Harvard University.

Dr. Condeelis moved to City Island about 25 years ago, primarily because the Island reminded him of the small fishing village of Falmouth, Massachusetts, where he lived while working at the Marine Biology Laboratory on Cape Cod. He takes advantage of the short commuting distance to work by riding his bicycle in good weather; he is also involved in boats and has been a member of the Morris Yacht Club for 20 years.



Dr. John Condeelis

## In Memoriam



Photo by DAVID RAMIREZ

Julia Bernadini (Yurwitz), the first editor of *The Island Current*, passed away on Jan. 3, 2007 (see obituary on page 12).

# BRIEFLY...

**CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP** proudly presents "Doubt," the Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play by John Patrick Shanley, the first production of the play by a theater group after its original presentation on Broadway. "Doubt" will premiere on Friday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. and will also be performed on Feb. 17, 22, 23, and 24 at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m. The performances will be at Grace Episcopal Hall located at 116 City Island Avenue. To reserve tickets call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [citylive@yahoo.com](mailto:citylive@yahoo.com).

**THE METROCARD MOBILE VAN** will visit Throggs Neck on Friday, Feb. 9 and March 9, from 1 to 3 p.m., in front of 3369 East Tremont Avenue. Sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, the Mobile Van enables senior citizens (65 and older) to apply for a reduced-fare Metrocard and receive temporary card on the spot (bring proof of age and a valid photo i.d.). People with disabilities may also apply for a reduced-fare card (bring a Medicare card and photo i.d.). Daily riders may add money to their reduced-fare cards, and everyone may get all their Metrocard questions answered. For more information, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

**EXHIBIT ON JOHN GLOVER AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** will be held at Saint Paul's Church, 897 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, and will open on Saturday, Feb. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. This display will also feature reenactments of the battle fought in Pelham Bay Park by General Glover, who led troops to an important battle; there will also be talks and demonstrations on African-American history at the time of the revolution. For information, call 914-667-4116.

**NEED HELP WITH INCOME TAX PREP?** Senior citizens 62 and older may get free assistance filling out their 2006 federal and state income tax returns in the office of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. Seniors are encouraged to take their tax documents to the Assemblyman's office at 3369 East Tremont Avenue any time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The tax preparer will collect the documentation, and you will be called when the forms are completed. For more information, call 718-892-2235.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The Bronx Masons will hold a Blood Drive on Tuesday, Feb. 13, between 4 and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Almost anyone from the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation. For more information, call Scott Meyer at 718-885-0374.

**A ST. PATRICK'S GALA DINNER DANCE** will be held at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School on March 3, 2007, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music will be provided by the live, five-piece band Good Clean Fun. The cost is \$35 per person and will include a corned beef dinner, draft beer, soda and setups. BYOB. For reservations, call Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442, Margaret Knapp at 718-885-1048, Judy DiMaio at 718-885-0546 or Liz Montalbano at 646-529-8585.

**ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CASINO NIGHT** will take place on Saturday, Feb. 10, in the school gym. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a complimentary cocktail hour of fine food and open bar. A cash bar and light fare will be available throughout the evening. Included will be the traditional games of blackjack, roulette, craps, poker tables and money wheels. If you are not interested in gambling, there will be numerous silent auction and raffle items and hourly door prizes. At midnight there will be a drawing for the grand prize of a desktop computer, followed by bagels, coffee and a newspaper. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Admission includes the cocktail hour and access to all games, raffles and prizes. Winners must be present to win door prizes and the grand prize. For more information or to purchase tickets, log onto [www.stmarystaroftheseacityisland.com](http://www.stmarystaroftheseacityisland.com) or call Kelly and Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313.

## CORRECTIONS

The photograph of Brian O'Sullivan that ran on page 7 of the December issue of *The Island Current* was not properly credited. The photographer's name is Bob Reers. There were two other errors in the caption; Marje Kos's name is spelled this way and the marathon took place on Nov. 5, not Nov. 4, 2006. In "School News" Hillary Clinton's campaign was for U.S. Senate, not State Senate.

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Photo by KEN GRILLO

Some members of the Touring Kayak Club on Beach Street feted outgoing Commodore Heinz Laue at an unofficial dinner that drew 23 grateful admirers on Dec. 15, 2006, at the Harlem Yacht Club. Seated (l. to r.) are Julia Burton, Bob Burton, Heinz Laue, Donna Laue and Bill Urban. Standing (l. to r.) are Ken Grillo, Christina Grillo, Jim Booth, Carl Urban, Wendy Booth, Sandy Raupp, Tim Lynch, Edith Urban, Neil Kushner, Liz Jacobson, George Pachco, Dot Payne, Joe Theriault, Virginia LeTourneau and Cinda Becker. Mr. Laue, a lifelong member of the club, stepped down in November after 13 years as commodore.

## Saving Le Refuge

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

After being served with a violation by the Department of Buildings (DOB) for operating a restaurant and bed-and-breakfast establishment in a residential zone, Pierre Saint-Denis, proprietor of Le Refuge Inn, vows that he will do whatever is necessary to stay in business.

The DOB, responding to anonymous complaints, issued the violation on Nov. 1, 2006, because the landmark Samuel Pell House at 586 City Island Avenue is registered as a two-family house on a lot that is not zoned for commercial use. Mr. Saint-Denis attended a DOB hearing on Dec. 15, and was fined \$800 and given until February 2007 to amend the building's certificate of occupancy in order to stay in business. He told *The Current* that he is working with a lawyer and an architect to obtain the appropriate permits and that he intends to stay open.

Regarded as one of the most attractive businesses on City Island, Le Refuge Inn, which offers French cuisine in its restaurant and six rooms as a bed and breakfast, has been highly rated by the Zagat Survey and by Michelin Red Guide to restaurants and hotels in New York City. It is also highly rated by Island residents and others who believe that the inn enhances the image of the Bronx and attracts visitors to City Island.

The City Island Chamber of Commerce

and the Civic Association have supported Mr. Saint-Denis in his effort to keep the inn open, and many elected officials, including U.S. Congressman Joseph Crowley, have been supportive as well.

The Victorian building in which the inn is located was built about 1876 by Samuel Pell, a prominent oysterman, and was designated a New York City Landmark in 2002. The building was subsequently restored and opened as Le Refuge Inn. Mr. Saint-Denis points out that using the building as an inn is a fine way to make this important building accessible to the public.

## BARTOW-PELL LECTURES

The following events will take place this winter at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, David Osborn, director of St. Paul's Church National Historic Site in Mount Vernon will give a lecture entitled "History in Focus," exploring the Colonial and Revolutionary history of St. Paul's Church.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Brian McCartin, president of the Thomas Paine National Historical Association, will lecture on Thomas Paine and the newly renovated Thomas Paine Museum in New Rochelle.

These lectures will begin at 11 a.m. and lunch will follow at noon. Please call 718-885-1461 to make a reservation or e-mail bartowpell@aol.com. The fee for each lecture is \$15; there is an extra charge for lunch.

On Sunday, March 4, at 4 p.m., Mick Moloney, musician and folklorist who received the National Heritage Award in 1999, will focus on Irish immigration through song and the link to American tap dance. Suggested donation: \$8. Please call ahead to make a reservation.

## WARM HOLIDAY MEMORIES!



Photos by RICK DeWITT, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and ERIC RAUHAUSER

The above average temperatures in December 2006 made this year's holiday scenes more toasty than frosty. From the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah on Dec. 15 (top photo) to the children's pageants at St. Mary, Star of the Sea and Grace Episcopal churches (middle photos), Islanders expressed their holiday spirit with music and good cheer. The City Island ladder company of the FDNY also helped out by hanging the "Seasons Greetings" sign at the beginning of the Island and riding along the Avenue on Christmas Eve wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

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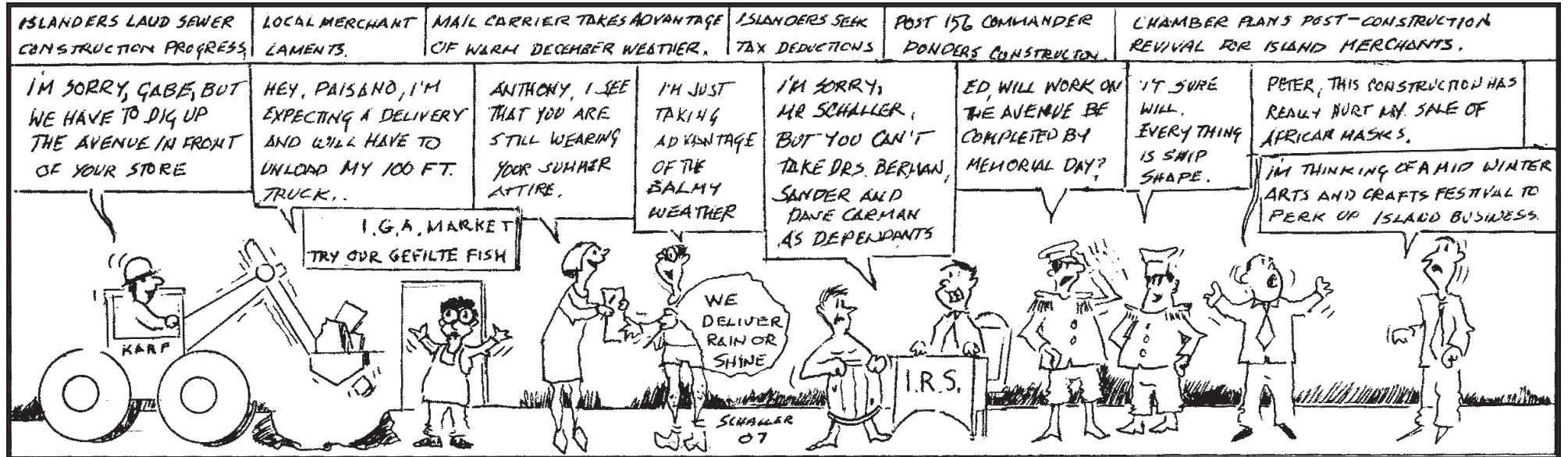
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**Let There Be Light**

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

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)  
Bronx Division  
1400 Williamsbridge Road  
Bronx, NY 10461

To Whom It May Concern:

I am contacting your agency about a problem with a streetlight in the Bronx. The streetlight adjacent to 345 City Island Avenue, between Bay and Tier Streets, was knocked off the pole by a truck in October 2004. After I made numerous reports of this problem, someone from DOT finally acknowledged that the light was in fact knocked off the pole (pole number 10685).

When I last called in about the missing light, on March 25, 2005, I was given the work order number of 2004177 but the light has still not been replaced. It has been more than two years since the light was knocked down by the truck, and that location is really dark at night. When will the city come and put up a new light on the pole? We need the new light now more than ever because of the local sewer construction.

I hope action can be taken as soon as possible.

**Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.**

**Residential Parking Permits?**

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

To Iris Weinshall, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street  
New York NY 10013

Dear Ms. Weinshall:

I have resided on the west side of City Island Avenue in the Bronx since June 1978. My residence is located at 94 Marine Street, where parking is permitted only on the south side of the street. I have a driveway that I share with my neighbor at 96 Marine Street. I am only able to park one car in the driveway. There are four drivers in my family, and each driver uses their car daily.

Parking is almost impossible on the south end of City Island. Where do the members of my family park when they are unable to locate a legal parking spot? Is it possible to institute residential parking permits for residents living south of Pilot Street on City Island?

Kindly investigate this very important matter and inform me of your findings.

In conclusion, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has excavated City Island Avenue from Earley Street to Belden Point to install new sewage pipes. It is a complete disgrace the way DEP fills the excavation site at the completion of each day's work. There are nothing but pot holes and raised manhole covers for the complete distance of the project. Are the residents of City Island second-class citizens. Please explain this complete disaster before many more cars are damaged.

Also, I would like to know the name and address of the insurance company that is insuring this project. I would like to know where to mail my automobile repair bills in the event my vehicle is damaged. Thank you very much for the consideration you will give this extremely important matter.

**Thomas McShane**

This letter, written Jan. 4, 2007, was answered by Ms. Weinshall on Jan. 10, referring Mr. McShane's query about manhole covers to the DEP and the parking query to Assistant Commissioner Victor Rosen of the DOT Parking Bureau, promising a final response on the latter by mid-February 2007.

**Double Standard?**

To the Editor:

One possible theme of Mrs. Kall's letter "Support for Le Refuge" in the December 2006 issue of *The Current* is appalling. The letter implies that as long as a business looks good or is considered beneficial, violations and complaints should be ignored.

This is a double standard promoted by City Island leadership who have been in power or who have had influence for way too long. City Island and its organizations need and deserve new leaders to allow fresh, objective ideas to flourish so all Islanders may enjoy this community, not just the followers, connected, polished or loudest.

**Name Withheld Upon Request**

**City Island Avenue Equals Memory Lane**

To the Editor:

Allow me to add to the memories of City Island expressed in the letter from Geri Seiter ("Where Was Ike?") in the December 2006 *Current*, while my memory still allows. I remember back to the fall of 1944, when I moved with my family from Bangor, Maine, to City Island, because my father, Howard E. Pooler Sr., was stationed on Hart Island as a pathologist for the U.S. Navy.

I recall that as one came over the City Island bridge and looked to the left-hand side of the Avenue, there was a luncheonette called the Nickel Palace, where I worked for a few seasons. Beside that was Joe Burck's Motor Repair and Sales, and next to the driveway was a snack shack that sold hot dogs, among other delicacies. Across the driveway was Stella Kyle's real estate office.

Moving up City Island Avenue across from the old St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, was Manny's Sea Shore Restaurant (great food). And at Cross Street

where the Legion is was a rooming house. Across the street was Gack's grocery store and Ryan's Restaurant.

Thwaites Restaurant was on the southeast corner of Cross Street and City Island Avenue, and not too far from Thwaites were a liquor store and the library. Further along was Louie Lenetz's Candy Store, where I worked after school (P.S. 17); they had great comic books and a soda fountain. Beside that was an empty lot where Vivola's grocery store was later built, and across the street was a Mobil gas station, though I forget who owned it. Maybe someone can fill in from there until Ditmars Street, where on the corner diagonally across from the Manor Bar, where Artie's is now, was a soda fountain store owned by the Pecoraro family.

Across from the soda fountain was a dentist's office (I forget his name), and then came the Raymond Theater, where I worked as an usher and ticket taker. I also changed the marquee sign and delivered programs. Across the street was another barber shop, and then came the lumber yard.

At the corner of Tier Street, where the Crab Shanty is now, was the Post Office, and back across the Avenue was a hardware store run by Adrian Smith. Next to that was a grocery store called the Wonder Store, which was attached to a shoemaker called Robustelli's. Then there was a diner, which was shaped like a trolley car, and next to that was Harry the Tailor (Reliable Cleaners), which was attached to the 5 and 10 cent store on the corner of Fordham Street. Halfway up that block on Fordham was Bertha's vegetable store.

Where the City Island Diner now stands was a store that sold school supplies. Across City Island Avenue on one corner was a Rexall Drug Store and on the other was an Associated Food Store. Across from that was Green's Department Store and Peerless Super Market (also known as Max's). Next to that was Gilbert's Pharmacy, where I worked as a soda jerk and hand-packed ice cream into white containers with wire handles. I made an outrageous egg cream—no eggs, no cream.

On the corner of Hawkins was the United

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Cigar Store, and across the street was Louie's "Clip Joint" barber shop. Across from Louie's was a bakery, a butcher and another shoe repair. Next was another diner that also looked like a trolley car and then Buddy Pontecorvo's hardware store. Across from Buddy's was a Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank, which later moved and became Chemical Bank. On the corner of Schofield Street was an A&P food store.

Toward the end of the Island were Peggy's Irish Gardens and Sammy's Fish Box, and at the very end, where the pilings still are, was a boat ride for 25 cents for a half hour.

Wonderful memories of a long, long time ago.

**Howard E. Pooler Jr.**

**Legions of Thanks**

To the Editor:

The American Legion Auxiliary would like to send you all best wishes for the New Year. Thank you to all our friends, families and businesses that made our Calendar Fundraiser a success. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, we met our sales goal! This could not have been achieved without the help of our friends and businesses that assisted us with selling and promoting the sale and of everyone who bought the calendars.

We wish everyone good luck and we hope you win.

**Ann-Marie Goonan**  
Corresponding Secretary  
American Legion Auxiliary

**In Memoriam: Robert Kall**

To the Editor:

We would all like to express our deepest gratitude to you, our friends and neighbors, for your moving expressions of loss and condolence on the death of our beloved Uncle Bob:

*The praise of those who sleep in earth,  
The pleasant memory of their worth,  
The Hope to meet when life is past  
Shall heal the tortured mind at last*

-William Cullen Bryant

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# 10 Reasons to Love City Island on Valentine's Day—or Any Day!

By MONICA GLICK

Just as there are all kinds of love—the warmth and serenity of a child's hug, the passion and exhilaration of a first kiss and new love, the dependability of a years-long relationship with a spouse, within families or among friends—there are also all kinds of reasons to love City Island. For this year's Valentine's Day, here are the top 10 reasons to love our Island home:

**1. Sensational Sunsets.** Ask "Lefty the Lobster," who guards the **Lobster House** (691 Bridge Street; 718-885-1459) and has seen a million of them, and he'll testify that the most beautiful sun-settings are found off City Island shores. The view from **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1373) is always breathtaking. Or perhaps you'll choose to warm up next door at the fireplace lounge in the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0300), while enjoying the "cold seafood chiller" (half a lobster, shrimps and crabmeat) and dreaming of a "summer wind."

Another option is to watch the setting sun illuminate our own Stepping Stones lighthouse and then taste the fine fare at the nearby fish eateries: **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0920), **Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1952) and **The Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3200). And for those who want to brave the cold, there's the outdoors—and the seafood—featured at the south end at **Tony's Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1424), or mid-Island at **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3600).



**2. Time Travel.** City Island's own rich history is on display at the **City Island Historical Society & Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street; 718-885-0008), which is open Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. And centuries of timeless treasures can be tapped at any one of the Island's antique stores: **Qual-**

**ity Antique Furniture** (270 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2215), **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1598), **Midtown Antiques** (310 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2820), or **Early Ruth** (319 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0228).

And if you want to do some travel, let Dianne and John from **O'Sullivan's Travel** ([travelo@aol.com](mailto:travelo@aol.com)) put together the pieces of your next trip. Maybe you'll want to create an atmosphere of your own. Mary Colby of **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2024) can make your surroundings look like marble or create a mural of your imagination's making.



**3. A World Vision.** In food choices, City Island offers residents and visitors the world. Start out by sampling the tropical island selections from **Caribbean Island Restaurant & Bar** (435 City Island Avenue; 701-3736). Then cross the ocean to dabble in the Mediterranean menu of **The Tree House** (273 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0806) or the Italian delights at the **Lido Restaurant** (101 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2177), **Fran's Trattoria** (105 City Island Avenue, 718-885-2406) or **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1220). There's always a pizza or pasta dish, prepared by the loving duo of Tony and Filomena Paoliello at **Filomena Pizza & Pasta** (286 City Island Ave; 718-885-9032). Moving further east, delight in the dishes served up theater-style at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0700); from the tantalizing appetizers to the tasty main courses, all dishes are prepared right before your eyes. It's a fun feast any day of the week!



**4. Makeover Potential.** Perhaps a new hairdo is on your agenda. Look no further than **The Art of Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3831) or the timeless

**Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2330). City Island now has twice the possibilities to give your nails—fingers or toes—a new look: **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2950) or **Nails on the Bay** (329 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1970). And if you'd like a new body to go with the now fine-looking hair and nails, get fit at **A.J. Weight Loss Center** (538 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3445).

Maybe it's your home that needs a new look. There are plenty of tools to choose from at **Buddy's Hardware & Yacht Supply** (260 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1447) or **J.J. Burck Inc.** (526 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1559) to help get that job done.

**5. Sweet Treats—and Sounds.** Feast on Irina's chocolate creations at **Sugar & Spice** (536 City Island Avenue; 718-885-9229). Sample the chocolate mudslides, a combination brownie, cookie and flourless chocolate cake, and don't miss the chocolate espresso chubbies, which are gooey and chocolaty with a nice espresso kick and a moist soothing crumb. For a quick sugar fix, stop by **Dunkin' Donuts** (634 City Island Avenue).

And if you crave sweet sounds, there's always music "on the menu" at our own **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3779). The weekend before Valentine's Day this year—"Love Weekend" at this café/gallery—will spotlight teenage singer-songwriter Anthony Da Costa (Friday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.), a trio of harmonious beauties, The Shells (Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.), and the love songs of the Great American Songbook performed by Peter North (Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m.). Or perhaps a handmade jewelry piece by owner / proprietor Elliott Glick or a fine art / craft item from the gallery's artists will strike a chord.

**6. Lots to Cheer.** A champagne punch is featured at east on **The Snug** (302 City Island Avenue; 718-885-9559) this Valentine's Day, and as an after-dinner treat that night or any, stop by for special concoctions sure to please. The theme nights—free wings (Monday), half-price burgers (Tuesday), Mexican fiesta (Thursday)—are fun and make this spot as much an experience as an eatery.

You can always start your food fantasy at **Artie's Steak and Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue; 718-885-9718) with strawberry cheesecake, as a martini, that is. That will only ready your palate for the mouthwatering meal you'll be served with style at this City Island restaurant. The fresh lobster, steamed or broiled, never fails to please, nor does the lemon basil dressing drizzled on fresh mixed greens to start.

There are plenty of bubbly and other beverages to be found any day at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0200), not to mention the fruits in their original form at **Island Produce** (292 City Island Avenue).

**7. Breakfast—and Beds.** Beautiful accommodations and fine food are the hallmark of our own **Le Refuge Inn** (586 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2478). Pierre Saint-Denis welcomes all to feast by candlelight or rest in luxury any day of the year!

If it's a simpler style you seek, try breakfast at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0362)—the fresh fruit-topped waffle is a favorite!—or the **Island Cafe** (205 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0716). Lunch and dinner are also possibilities at these two spots.

A quick and delicious cup of java and a fine egg sandwich are always on hand each morning at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1263).

**8. Nautical Knowledge.** For boat owners and fishermen (and -women) alike, City Island has it all. Before you sail off, stop by **West Marine Express** (532 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1469) to fill all your vessel's needs. And if you're casting off, then a visit to **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2153) or **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2042) is a must. Don't forget that City Island's **Riptide III** (701 Minnieford Avenue; 718-885-0236) has fishing cruises departing daily. And if you feel like taking the plunge, learn how to do it right at **Capt. Mike's Diving** (530 City Island Avenue).

Your sails can be stitched by **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) and your trousers and such threaded rightly by **Golden Needle** (403 City Island Avenue).

For eateries that sound like the sea, stop by **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1810) and sample the famous Feast for Two. (Did you know that the site of this Island restaurant was once a silent movie theater and later a post office? There was even a road named Pond Place that went through the current parking lot!)

And if you think big when you think water, then **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3657) is your docking destination. Try a chocolate fondue for two after a romantic dinner any night, but especially on Valentine's Day. There are "dinner-and-a-movie" Tuesdays—with "West Side Story" slated for the Tuesday before Valentine's Day—and magical Sunday brunches. The pasta dishes are bountiful and filled with fresh, eclectic mixes of meats, vegetables and cheeses. At the Whale, there's always an at-home feeling with just the right amount of elegance.

**9. Fun and Games.** Pick your pool table: **SixMileCross at the City Island Saloon** (288 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1664), **The Breakers** (247 City Island Avenue; 718-885-0500) or **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9898). There's lots of additional fun to love at SixMileCross, from musical entertainment by young artists to the impressive bar area designed to model the inside of a ship.

If you're shopping for games or toys, wander inside the wonderland that is **Exotiqua International Arts** (280 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3090). There are also plenty of love-themed gifts on hand, including an adorable statue of a frog with a heart-shaped box of candy. There are also aromatherapy products and jewelry, including the designs of owner Paul Klein.

There are also plenty of fine gifts on hand, especially the stained-glass creations of John Corona, at **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1330). Or if dolls are your thing, let Monsey and Yvette take you through their world of choices at **My Dolls & Things** (271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3777).



You can always find something to select, in games or movies, at **JT's Island Event** (294 City Island Avenue, 718-885-9507). Watch your selection, all snugly at home, while feasting on a delicious treat delivered by **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue; 718-885-9656) or the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-88 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3775). Maybe you'll prepare your own indoor picnic-to-watch-a-movie-by with help from **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2121), the **IGA City Island Market** (385 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3400), **City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1022) or **Moe's Grocery & Deli** (234 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3179).

And if it's your passion, enjoy a cigar as an after-dinner or after-movie treat, choosing from the fine selection at **Hispaniola Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue; 718-885-2806).

**10. An Endless Supply of Memories.** Mark the memorable occasions in your life with a card or gift from **City Island Cards** (282 City Island Avenue; 718-885-9088). This Valentine's Day there are plenty of candy-filled hearts, chocolate roses and other trinkets to delight your sweetheart. There are also supplies for every season right down the block at the **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue; 718-885-3053).

Photographer-artist Ron Turner of **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1403) is ready to record your memorable moments in photographs. In fact, there will be a wedding exhibition at that gallery on Saturday, Feb. 17, from noon until 9 p.m., showcasing Turner's work, along with that of two of his assistants, Leo and Lisa Bento. While sipping the complimentary refreshments, see how many Islanders making their own memories you can spot!

In the end, all Islanders know why we love City Island. It's because—to paraphrase Dorothy of Oz—"There's no place like our Island home!"

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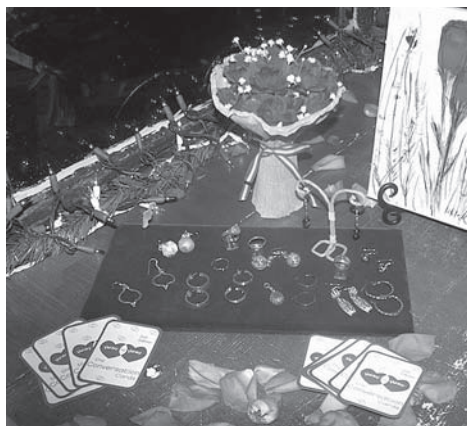
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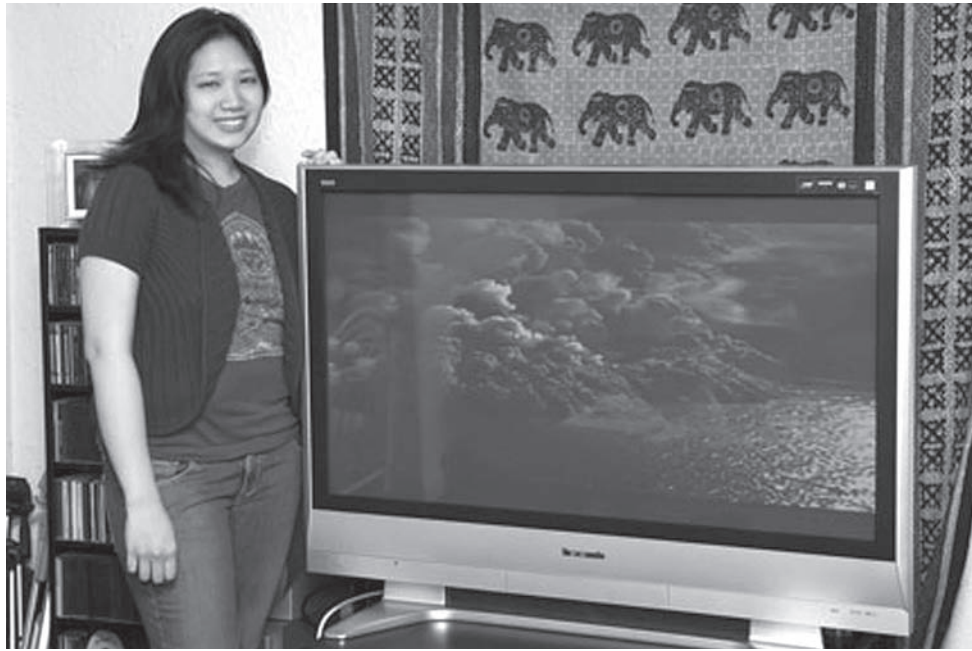
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to *The Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.



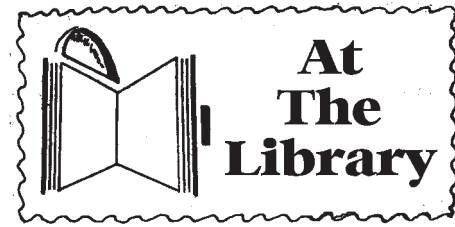
**Exotiqa International Arts**, 280 City Island Avenue, has again expanded its toy selection to about 150 square feet of goodies for kids. The shop is also offering its own line of custom-blended lotions and oils in nine amazing fragrances. Visit the Web site at [themagicofgifts.com](http://themagicofgifts.com) or drop by. The store's holiday contest enabled customers to enter to win by using their frequent buyer cards. The first prize, a \$100 gift certificate, was won by Laniece Newkirk of City Island; second prize, a \$50 gift certificate, was won by Cynthia D'Angelo; third prize, a \$25 gift certificate, was won by Laury Hopkins of City Island.



In February, the **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) celebrates the third anniversary of its new location and incarnation, and there is lots to love "on the menu." On Friday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. join the fun as we celebrate Groundhog Day with a continuous showing of the movie and play trivia about the flick. That Saturday, Feb. 3, City Islander Dr. Chris Wertenbaker and his Port O' Monkeys group take the stage at 8:30 p.m., performing Spanish and Middle Eastern pieces. On Sunday, Feb. 4, it's the "jazz man," Lou Volpe, performing on guitar, starting at 4 p.m. The events of "Love Weekend" at Starving Artist—the weekend before Valentine's Day—are detailed in the special feature on love and City Island in this issue of *The Current*. The Starving Artist will mark Mardi Gras, opening for Fat Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. The celebration, dedicated to New Orleans, will feature a special menu and the music of this great American city. The month ends with "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night on Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m.; the evening showcases songwriters, as well as poets, comics and actors. On Saturday, Feb. 24, singer-songwriter Kenny Cunningham is in the spotlight, performing originals and covers, as well as Irish tunes. And the last Sunday features a jazz performance by the City Island Jazz Quartet, starting at 4 p.m. For more on our schedule, visit [www.starvingartistonline.com](http://www.starvingartistonline.com).



*Photo courtesy of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*  
**Lisa Jantachotivongs**, a resident of Throggs Neck who works as an assistant photographer at the Focal Point Gallery, was very excited to have won the high-definition television raffled off by the City Island Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 1, 2006.



**From the Children's Room**  
**Flash, Bam, Alakazam Musical:** Monday, Feb. 12, at 3:30 p.m. Children will be introduced to the music of the 1920s, '30s and '40s and will learn how to dance the conga.  
**Arts and Crafts:** Valentine's Day arts and crafts. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.  
**Picture Book Program:** Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Ages 4 to 8.  
For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

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# SCOUTS ALL ABOUT



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

It has been a busy time for City Island scouts. Cub Scout pack 211, accompanied by some Brownies, held its annual sing-along at Pilot Cove on Dec. 8, 2006, and brought cheer to everyone who attended. The scouts then began preparing for the annual Pinewood Derby in January 2007. According to troop leaders, the boys made outstanding cars and showed true sportsmanship in the competition.



Webelos II trophy winners: first place Nicholas Bellocchio, second place Cian Byrnes, third place Daniel Green.



Bears trophy winners: third place Jack Green, second place Michael Bellocchio, first place Jake DeGrosseilleirs.



Webelos I trophy winners: first place John Branley, second place Conner Saulnier.



Tiger trophy winners (l. to r.): third place Joseph Kramer, second place John Tomsen, first place Matthew Lovera.

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**NEITHER SNOW,  
 NOR RAIN...  
 NOR WARMTH!**



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

The unseasonably warm temperatures in January 2007 led City Island mailman Anthony Francione to wear shorts during his appointed rounds. He told *The Current* that it is the first time in 19 years he has worn shorts in January while delivering the mail. The shorts were replaced with long pants and ear muffs by the end of the month, when winter finally made an appearance.

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## Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

### Current Calendar

#### FEBRUARY

Sat., Feb. 10, **St. Mary, Star of the Sea Casino Night**, 6:30 p.m. in the school gym, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street.

Tues., Feb. 13, **Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Thurs., Feb. 15, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Hebrew Hospital Home, 801 Co-op City Blvd., Bronx.

Tues., Feb. 20, **Pancake Supper**, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

Sat., Feb. 24, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

Tues., Feb. 27, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### City Island Theater Group

We would like to wish everyone a happy New Year! We will be opening our 2007 season with a landmark production in February. The group is proud to present the acclaimed 2005 Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Doubt" by Bronx native John Patrick Shanley. "Doubt" recently closed on Broadway after a successful two-year run and is currently on a national tour. The City Island Theater group is the first theater group to present this acclaimed show after its Broadway venue. CITG was personally granted the performance rights by John Patrick Shanley himself.

Set against the backdrop of a Catholic school in 1964, "Doubt" is the story of a strong-minded woman faced with a difficult decision. Should she voice concerns about one of her male colleagues, even if she is not entirely certain of the truth? The New York Times reviewer wrote, "'Doubt' is remarkable. One woman's monumental certainty shines as harshly as a naked light bulb amid the shadows in John Patrick Shanley's tight, absorbing and expertly acted new drama. Even as 'Doubt' holds your attention as an intelligently measured debate play, it sends off emotional stealth charges that go deeper." The Associated Press wrote, "A terrific, marvelous new play. Astonishing theatricality. A tough, timely story, rich in character, language and ideas."

"Doubt" will be directed by Michael Flanagan, who directed CITG's productions of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Bus Stop." "Doubt" will premiere on Friday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. and will also be performed on Feb. 17, 22, 23, and 24 at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 18 and 25 at 3 p.m. The performances will be at Grace Episcopal Hall located at 116 City Island Avenue. To reserve tickets call 718-885-3066 or e-mail [citylive@yahoo.com](mailto:citylive@yahoo.com).

Susan Rauh

#### Temple Beth-El

The temple is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages. We are located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets. We conduct Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all.

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Join us on Friday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. for a Kabbalat Shabbat service, with song and dance, led by our Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper. Rabbi Shohama Wiener will lead the March 2 service.

Rabbi Shohama's SHOHAM Class on spiritual healing, Kabbalah and meditation begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 12, and March 12.

Aliza Erber, our Rabbinic Intern, leads Saturday Torah Study on Feb. 24 at 10:30 a.m. Our lively discussions are insightful. We welcome you all to enjoy this time to share.

Sunday school for children (ages 4-12) is on the second Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. Call 718-885-3502 for more information.

Purim will be celebrated on Sunday, March 4, with our party and play at 2 p.m. Adults and children in costume are especially part of our fun. We have the script—watch the story of Esther unfold or be part of the hilarity "on stage."

Tai chi-yoga classes will continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in February. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Our crash course in Hebrew from NJOP, taught by Mort Ellis, continues on Wednesdays in February at 7:30 p.m. Course and materials are free. Why not learn some Hebrew before Passover?

We need organizers next month to plan and set up our second-night Seder in April.

Enjoy the benefits of membership: take the free trolley to Temple (on the first Friday of each month) and visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Trinity United Methodist Church

The Christmas season is now over, and we begin our journey through Christ's life, celebrating His life each Sunday during our worship service at 10 a.m. Our children learn about what being a Christian means during our Sunday school, which also begins at 10 a.m. We invite all to join us each week.

Budget Shop will be open on Tuesday, Feb. 6 and 20, and on Saturday, Feb. 17. We want to thank everyone for their patronage, and again we ask anyone who would like to volunteer to call Myra Martin at 718-885-2045 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241.

On a rather sorry note, Trinity's baby Jesus was stolen from our crèche during the Christmas season. If anyone is responsible or knows the person who is, we ask for the figure's return. We ask that he be placed either on the church steps or on Reverend Sue's porch. We will ask no questions. The baby Jesus is an integral part of the crèche, and as he serves no use to anyone outside our church, he is very important to us. Again, we ask only that he be returned.

#### 2007 Lenten Group Bible Study

For six Sunday sessions during the Lenten season, from Feb. 18 to March 25, a Group Bible Study will meet at Trinity Church in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will offer a study of the New Testament's Letter to the Hebrews, beginning with chapters 1 to 7 (chapters 8 to 12 will be studied in the fall of 2007). Everyone in the community interested in bible study is welcome.

The Letter to the Hebrews is an appeal to 1st-century Christians that they not neglect the great salvation brought to them and that they persevere in faith in spite of persecution and hardships. The text provides an understanding of the dichotomy between the two covenants, old and new; and the difference between the leadership of Moses, as servant in God's house, and Jesus, as the son over God's house.

George Cavaliere, Trinity's lay leader, will moderate and instruct through readings of the study text, with discussions focusing on the text's subjects and meaning, as well



Photo by BOB BERENT

Guest performer Nitzan Mager (at right) and Rivi Dror entertain the audience at Temple Beth-El of City Island during Hanukkah celebration December 2006.

as a verse-by-verse study. Every session begins with a video and light refreshments. The video "Walking the Bible" with Bruce Feiler, which recently aired on PBS, will be shown in segments. No prior registration is required. Come expand your mind, heart and faith. For more information, call Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218.

Anne Sill

#### City Island Republicans

We hope that everyone had a wonderful New Year. Winter is upon us, although the temperature feels more like summer. The City Island Republicans have plenty of news to report on, since our December article was accidentally cut from the paper by the printer.

Despite the fact that the Election Day results were not in our favor, the City Island Republicans are happy to report that all eight Republican poll-worker slots at our local poll site which is P.S. 175, were filled, thus ensuring a smooth and fair election.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, I was fortunate enough to attend a party reorganization meeting at Bronx Republican Headquarters. This was a productive meeting. Several items were on the agenda, including the fact that the party must open up to everyone in the Bronx. I am happy to say that the room was full of people from all walks of life, which resembled the population of our great borough.

This was a welcome change from the past when the Bronx Republican Party had consisted of a small select group of mostly elderly people who met at county headquarters, where the doors were shut tighter than the doors of the Kremlin during the Soviet era! Throughout the meeting, top party officials stressed that the doors to headquarters are always open.

Furthermore, another major idea was that the party should use the office as a place to help people. This suggestion is a good way to help build the party in the Bronx by showing that we can get results compared to many of

our borough's do-nothing politicians.

I am also happy to report that at the meeting, party leaders announced that poll-worker vacancies in the Bronx were less than half of what they were just two years ago. The goal is to have all of our poll-worker slots filled every time there is an election.

Since the meeting, one of the goals of our club is to fill all of City Island's county committee slots with residents representing each election district. Currently, there are three county committee people representing City Island who do not reside on the Island, and some Island residents are representing the wrong election districts. We hope to slide them into their correct districts.

The county committee consists of people representing specific areas who go to the annual or biannual county party meeting and elect a slate of officers for the county party. Every voting machine represents one election district, and each election district has one male and one female county committee person. Since City Island has four voting machines, we have eight county committee people, who are selected by collecting party petitions. If more than one male and one female obtain enough signatures, a party primary is held to choose which ones will be named to the county committee.

On Wednesday, Dec. 13, we held our first Christmas party at the American Legion hall, and a good time was had by all. We were honored to have our district leader, Anthony Ribustello, attend the party. I would especially like to thank each person who brought something to the meeting and who also helped set up and clean up. All of the food was great.

The City Island Republicans are preparing the first official newsletter, which will be sent out in March. So stay tuned. Our next meeting will take place when the weather starts to get better, on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. The location will be announced in the near future.

Fred Ramftl

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Thanks from Dianne & John O'Sullivan





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

885-3202 to register.

**Art in 3D-Off The Wall:** Learn how adding a third dimension to a piece of artwork can make it more interesting and fun. Make artwork that changes with your point of view. Uses reflected color and a variety of shapes and spaces. Grades 4-7, Tuesdays 3:45 to 5:15 p.m., Feb. 27 through March 27. \$80 for 5 classes. Limited to 8 students. Call Laury at 718-885-3202 to register.

**Martial Arts:** Marrero's Martial Arts

**Legion News**

By Wednesday, Jan. 17, it finally began to feel like winter. We've been lucky this far, enjoying springlike temperatures. February's big social event is the Super Bowl party, which will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, starting one hour before game time and lasting until one hour after the end of the game. Libations of your choice will be available at an open bar and a buffet featuring a gourmet dinner will be prepared by Post chefs of repute. Bar chairman Thomas McMahon promises an enjoyable day. The price for his sumptuous event is only \$45.

Because of the brevity of the month of February, 28 days, there will be only two meetings. A regular meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 5, and an executive board meeting will be Feb. 12.

Two of our favorite veterans died in January, John Bonicoro and Richy O'Keefe. Both served in World War II. John was a member of the 15th Army Air Corps; he bailed out of his plane at about 30,000 feet and hit the ground running. Richy was a member of the Coast Guard. A holder of myriad positions as an officer at the Post, he was elected State Commander.

Several Post officers and enlisted men received complaints that our flags were not flown at half mast following the untimely demise of former President Ford. Even the best of us can err; we apologize and thank those of you who took the time to call us to report this faux pas.

On the lighter side, Comrade Tom McShane, a decorated Vietnam veteran, recently overdosed on Devil Dogs, which caused his blood sugar to rise and required a sojourn to the Veterans' Hospital. The stay was not uneventful, since Tom fell out of bed, injuring his pride. He has been observed seeking advice from local abogados.

We have received a number of calls relative to the siding on the Post building. We have a handle of the situation and a contractor has been selected. Work will be starting soon.

The pungent odor of the unisex rest room on the main floor, oft critiqued by users, will soon to a thing of the past as segregated facilities will be constructed. The Post roof will also be replaced, as gaping holes have recently been discovered.

My daughter Irene and I visit Long Island National Cemetery every Christmas and as many other times during the year as we can, since my mother and father and a number of relatives and friends repose there. About

a 45-minute drive from City Island, the cemetery is located on the Nassau-Suffolk border at 2040 Wellwood Road. Unlike the rolling hills of Arlington National Cemetery, Pinelawn is flatter than a pancake. Situated on 365 acres, it contains the remains of 326,000 veterans and their dependents. I have posted a brochure on the bulletin board and have several at home should you be interested. You can call me on x. 2087.

Remember our members who are home-bound. Stop by or send a card. It would be appreciated.

Until next month, at ease,

**Russell Schaller**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m. We also offer evening prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m. and morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call the parish office at 718-885-1080 or visit our Web site: [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

Grace is sponsoring a new volunteer group, "Hugs and Stitches," dedicated to bringing a hug to the youngest children, up to toddler age, in New York City's Homeless Services. Please join us to make cuddly quilts or blankets for those who need our caring and a source of warmth. No experience necessary; just bring yourself and your enthusiasm for children in need of hugs. "Hugs and Stitches" meets on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m. in the Grace Parish Hall. Come whenever works for you; for further information, please call the parish office.

Here is an overview of what is happening at Grace Church during February:

Sunday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School. All school-age children are invited to participate.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.: Book Discussion Group. Newcomers are always welcome; call the Parish Office for information about the book currently being discussed.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School.

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Come join us as we celebrate "Fat Tuesday" and enjoy an old-fashioned pancake supper before the beginning of Lent. Cost is \$5 for each adult (children are free), payable at the door.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.: Ash Wednesday services of Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and the Imposition of Ashes.

**Mother Patty Alexander**

**2007 Membership Form**  
**CITY ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**  
[www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com)  
 190 Fordham Street, P. O. Box 135, City Island, NY 10464 (718) 885-1145 [cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com)

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**\$25.00 Family Membership**            **\$25.00 Business Membership**

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ Membership.  
 In addition I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be placed in the Gas and Electric Fund.

All donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

**Open Monthly Meetings of the Board** are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2007 Membership Drive:** Our 2007 membership drive is under way. With a membership, you will receive a membership card and various mailings throughout the year, including discount coupons for many of our events and activities! 2006 members will be receiving renewal forms by mail. Otherwise, please fill out the form located elsewhere on this page and send it to CICC, P.O. Box 135, CI, NY 10464.

**Laury Hopkins is Back!** with new ART classes for ages 2-4 and grades 4-7. See schedule below or call 718-885-3202.

**Community Tag Sale:** Come sell your stuff at our indoor "garage" sale. Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$10 per table. Call 718-885-1145 to reserve your space.

**New Web site:** Our new Web site is up and running. Please check it out at [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com).

**New E-Mail Address:** Our e-mail address has changed. We can now be contacted at [cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandcommunitycenter@gmail.com).

**Drue Breen Spelling Bee:** Check your mailboxes for more information about this exciting event coming soon!

**Holiday Party 2006:** Our first ever Holiday Party was a huge success. Special thanks to all the restaurants that certainly didn't let us go hungry!

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

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

**Storytime Art for Children:** Ages 2-4, Tuesdays 12:45 to 2 p.m., Jan. 30 through March 27 (no class Feb. 20). Read stories, learn songs, rhyme with puppets, story-based art projects. \$60 for 8 classes. Limited to 12 children. Call Laury at 718-

Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Ages 4 through 7. Three days weekly: Mondays and Fridays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. Ages 8 and up, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

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

**First-Grade Brownies and Girl Scouts:** Mondays after school. If you are interested or if you have questions, call Brenda at 718-885-9040.

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

**Youth Center:** Saturday evenings 7:30 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 or Deana Weyhrauch at 917-418-1377 for more information. We are looking for volunteers to staff the nights. If you are interested in helping out, PLEASE CALL!

**ADULT'S PROGRAM**

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

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

**Salsa With Miriam:** Saturday evenings. Call 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

**FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS**

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

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

**Chess Club:** Monday evenings, due to start again soon. Call 718-885-1145 and leave a message if you are interested.

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**Public School 175**

December was a month filled with educational and exciting activities. The Lincoln Center Institute put on a performance of "The Snow Queen," based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. This performance was the culmination of a semester-long study of theater through puppetry, in which all students in kindergarten through third grade participated. January will be a rigorous study of klezmer music. The students will be studying the historical and cultural roots of this musical genre.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in Grades K-8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

As part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum, students went to Gracie Mansion. This tied into their study of historic buildings and landmarks in New York City and afforded them the opportunity to visit the official residence of the New York City mayor.

Fifth-graders toured the CNN studios in Manhattan where they learned step-by-step how information is received and reported. Some of the students were even able to experience, hands-on, what it is like to be a weather person in front of the "green screen"!

Our seventh-graders attended a performance by the Boston-based Chamber Theater Group of classic short stories at Purchase College. Included in the per-

formance were "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe, "The Jumping Frogs of Calaveras County" by Mark Twain, "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving.

Finally, on Dec. 22, the school got into the holiday spirit with the annual Holiday Sing. Children in Grades K-8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended our year on a high note!

January promises to be just as exciting. After a brief hiatus, our Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation after-school program has resumed for grades 5 through 8. Students are participating in a variety of activities, including Lego Robotics, hip-hop dance, soccer, graphic design and homework help. In the weeks to come, students will also have an opportunity to create books that will be submitted to the Ezra Jack Keats National Book-Making Competition.

So far this month, our sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students went to the City Center to see a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "The Mikado." The students watched an extravagant Japanese tale about love and life with a twist of good humor. It was a culturally enriching experience and was very entertaining.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that enable the children to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits.

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**The Films of Edward Zwick**

The association of the name of Edward Zwick with a project has always indicated for me the potential for quality, creativity, sensitivity and social conscience. Aside from directing the films mentioned below, he produced the films **Shakespeare in Love** (1998), **Traffic** (2001) and **I am Sam** (2001), as well as the excellent television series **Family** (1976), **Thirtysomething** (1987-88), **My So-Called Life** (1994) and **Once and Again** (1999).

Zwick's first directorial effort at the cinema was the sweet and realist love story **About Last Night** (1986), starring Rob Lowe as Danny and Demi Moore as Debbie. These two young, attractive Chicagoans meet at a softball game and enter into a relationship rich in all the problems for those who are awkward with the big C (commitment). James Belushi and Elizabeth Perkins play their best friends, Bernie and Joan, who are jealous of the amount of time Danny and Debbie want to spend together. Joan seems like a rather cold fish, but we see a special side of her in her role as a kindergarten teacher.

Zwick went on to direct the critically acclaimed American Civil War film **Glory** (1990). This film tells the story of one of the first black regiments, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, led by Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick), the son of white abolitionists. The exceptional cast includes Denzel Washington in his Oscar-winning role as Trip, an escaped slave, and Andre Braugher as Searles, a black Boston-bred intellectual. The regiment's philosopher and conscience is Rawlins (Morgan Freeman). The one flaw in this moving film is that too much of it is seen through the eyes of the white commander rather than the black troops.

**Legends of the Fall** (1995) stars Anthony Hopkins as Colonel Ludlow, a Montana rancher who abhors the U.S. Cavalry's treatment of the Indians. He has three grown sons, Alfred (Aidan Quinn), Tristan (Brad Pitt) and Samuel (Henry

Thomas). All three brothers are in love with Susannah, an Eastern woman (Julia Ormond). Set during the time of World War I, the melodramatic romance is frequently upstaged by the exquisite cinematography.

Continuing with his affinity for military stories, Zwick went on to direct **Courage Under Fire** (1996) and again cast Denzel Washington in a starring role, this time as Army Lieutenant Colonel Nathaniel Serling. He is investigating the background of Captain Karen Walden (Meg Ryan), a Gulf War Medevac Pilot, in order to determine if she deserves to be the first woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor. Walden's men provide conflicting testimony. Medic Ilario (Matt Damon) characterizes her as a brave self-sacrificing leader, but Gunner Monfriez (Lou Diamond Phillips) says she was a coward. Following Serling's quest for the truth is Washington Post reporter Tony Gartner (Scott Glenn), who suspects a cover-up.

Filmed before 9/11 was **The Siege** (1998), a cautionary thriller that again teams Zwick with Denzel Washington, this time as FBI agent Anthony Hubbard, who is trying to deal with terrorist attacks on New York City along with CIA agent Elise Kraft (Annette Bening). In a tale about the moral consequences of combating terrorism, General William Devereaux (Bruce Willis) portrays a loose-cannon military man who leads troops over the Brooklyn Bridge and imprisons people of foreign descent. In an attempt to be somewhat even-handed in this over-the-top but thought-provoking movie, Tony Shalhoub plays Frank Haddad, Hubbard's Beirut-born associate.

**The Last Samurai** (2003) continues Zwick's study of the complexity of patriotism. The drunken former Civil War Army officer and Indian fighter Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) is hired by his former commander, Colonel Bagley (Tony Goldwyn), to travel to Tokyo to train imperial Japanese soldiers. Algren is forced to send his troops into battle before they are fully ready and faces an extraordinarily fierce opponent, Samurai Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe). The film explores the cultural differences between the two men, with all the complexities of East meeting West.

Zwick's current effort is **Blood Diamond** (2006), which is set in 1999 Sierra Leone, a country ravaged by civil war. This is a very gory "message" movie that has some exceptional performances. Although Leonardo DiCaprio got a Golden Globe nomination for his role as Rhodesian-born diamond smuggler Danny Archer, it is Djimon Hounsou as fisherman Solomon Vandy who is at the heart of the film. When Vandy's village is graphically destroyed by civil war rebels, he is captured and forced to work in the diamond mines. When he finds and hides a huge diamond, an alliance of necessity is formed between the two men. Vandy's search for his family is a horrifying mission. This film's depiction of the consequences of Western society's lust for diamonds make it very difficult indeed for anyone to consider wearing a diamond in good conscience.

And until next time, happy viewing.

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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.



### Regina Costello Knapp

Regina Costello Knapp, 52, who grew up on City Island, the daughter of Tom and Anne Costello, died on Dec. 28, 2006, at her home in King Ferry, New York, after a long illness.

Regina was born on Oct. 8, 1954, and grew up on City Island. She graduated from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and St. Helena High School and earned an AAS degree from Katharine Gibbs in Manhattan.

Regina worked for more than 20 years with Claritas/NPDC, a market research firm in Ithaca, New York, where she held the position of senior vice president of human resources; she went on to work for VNU, Claritas's parent company as vice president of project management. In 2004 she became executive director of the Ithaca Montessori School, where she loved working with children.

Regina is survived by her husband of 30 years, Stephan Knapp, and her son, Colden Costello Knapp; her father, Thomas Costello, of City Island; her two brothers, Michael and Thomas Costello, and her two sisters, Marianne Quattrociochi and Marie Inserra; as well as one uncle, three aunts and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Regina will be interred in Worcester, Massachusetts, near her mother, Anne Costello, who passed away in November 2004.

### Joseph Savino, Jr.

Former City Councilman-at-large and Republican activist Joseph Savino Jr. died on Dec. 6, 2006, at the age of 74. The father of Jay Savino, head of the Bronx Republican Party and recent candidate for State Senate, Mr. Savino was a lifelong resident of Morris Park, but he had a very special affection for City Island and was well-liked by many Islanders.

Mr. Savino was born in the Bronx on July 22, 1932, and served as a Marine in the Korean War and later for the New York City Police Department. He graduated from John Jay College and CUNY Law School and opened an insurance agency on Gun Hill Road, but when he met the young lawyer John Calandra, who would become a State Senator from the Bronx, he began a political career of his own.

He won one of two Bronx seats as Councilman-at-Large in 1977 and served two terms, until 1983, when a federal court declared the position unconstitutional.

He is survived by his wife, Wendy, and his three children, Gale, Jay and Raphael, as well as six grandchildren.

Jay Savino told *The Current* that his father regularly brought the family to City Island. "In the summer we ate only at the Lobster Box and in the winter we ate only at the Sea Shore. He loved taking us as kids to the Hippies' Place and he loved representing the people on City Island. He held a borough-wide office but he often commented that although there were more voters in one building in Co-op City than on City Island, he spent more time on City Island than anywhere else, just because he loved it so much."

### Julia Maria Bernardini (Yurwitz)

Julia Bernardini, longtime City Island resident and activist, died at her home on Rochelle Street on Jan. 3, 2007, shortly after her 67th birthday. She was born on Dec. 20, 1939, in the Bronx and graduated from Fordham University in 1985 with a B.A. in English. In 1965, with her former husband, Jim Yurwitz, she moved to City Island, where she raised her three children.

As Julia Yurwitz, she was very involved in the City Island community over the 40 years she spent as a resident of the Island. She served as president of the City Island Parents Association for years. One of her memorable achievements was pressuring the city to install the traffic light in front of P.S. 175. She rallied parents and even stopped traffic to raise public awareness of the issue, marching a large group of students back and forth one afternoon across the street in front of the school.

Julia organized an activist group called Pride Unlimited, which among other things helped to clean up and improve Hawkins Street Park. Her brother, Paul Bernardini, cast a dolphin statue, and Julia and her colleagues installed it in the park. They did not have a city permit to install the sculpture, but they did it anyway, lowering it into place with a two-story crane in broad daylight. After the park was cleaned up, Julia ran puppet shows, art festivals and plant sales there.

Another of her memorable achievements was her role as the first editor of *The Island Current*, which recently celebrated its 35th anniversary, the longest-running newspaper in City Island history.

Julia also did fund-raising and obtained grants to help start ARC, an artists' group, to make improvements at P.S. 175 and to support many other Island projects. She especially loved the City Island Halloween festivities. She baked hundreds of cupcakes, organized a paint-in and ran the Halloween parade for years. You could always find her dressed up and patrolling the parade, protecting the younger kids from egg-toting teenagers.

In recent years, she spent time working in her garden, a beautiful place where friends gathered for drinks and conversations.

Julia is survived by her daughter Jessica Yurwitz of Essex, Massachusetts; her son-in-law, Kimo Takayesu; two grandchildren Atticus and Wyeth Takayesu; her son, Jamie Yurwitz, of Monroe, New York, and his partner, Lori Lerma. Julia's daughter Julia died in 1998.

The family is endowing a bench in Julia's memory at the New York Botanical Garden; a dedication ceremony is planned for the summer. Friends may contribute to The Bernardini Fund c/o Planned Giving, New York Botanical Garden, 200th Street and Kazimiroff Boulevard, Bronx NY 10458-5126.

### Robert Kall

Robert F. Kall, 82, a resident of City Island for nearly 60 years, died on Jan. 17, 2007, after a long illness.

Bob was born in the Bronx on June 6, 1924, and graduated from Power Memorial Academy in 1942. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II as an arms expedition sergeant, stationed on the West Coast and at the army base in Brooklyn, N.Y. He then attended Iona College, where he graduated in 1949, and went on to earn a master's degree at Columbia University in 1951.

While he was a student at Iona, Bob spent time on City Island at the Harlem Yacht Club, where he became friends with the Rauhauser and Sheridan families. It was through them that he met Jacqueline Kyle, whom he married in 1948 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Bob then moved to City Island, where he and Jackie raised three children, Deborah and Jeffrey (both deceased) and Christopher Kall.

Bob was owner and manager for many years of Bainbridge Wines & Liquors, but

he was also a licensed real estate broker and estate appraiser at Port of Kall Realty on City Island. Known and loved by many as "Uncle Bob," he was much admired for his ability to maintain a quiet dignity alongside his irrepressible wife and her hats.

Bob Kall served as a Eucharistic minister and CCD teacher at St. Mary's, and he was also active in the City Island Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Association.

After a funeral Mass at St. Mary's, Bob Kall was interred in Pelham Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and son, Christopher, of City Island; his son-in-law, John Salacan; and two grandchildren, Nicholas and Matthew Salacan, also of City Island.

### Minna Luise Flor

Minna Flor, a longtime resident of City Island, died on Oct. 18, 2006, at the age of 89. She was born on April 6, 1917, as Minna Schau on the Friesian island of Amrum in the North Sea. Orphaned in childhood, she came alone to the United States at the age of 19 and worked in her uncle's delicatessen. She met up with an acquaintance, Ricklef Flor, whom she had known in Amrum, and they were married.

Minna and Dick, as he was called, owned and operated for over 40 years a successful store on East Tremont Avenue and the Grand

Concourse. They had two children, Richard and Janet, and in 1947, with a growing family and a lifelong love of the sea, moved to Kirby Street on City Island, where she lived until her death.

She is survived by her son, Richard, of Cheverly, Maryland, and her daughter, Janet Dell, of Morris Plains, New Jersey. She was interred at Pelham Cemetery overlooking Long Island Sound.

### Rita Murphy Kyle

Rita Murphy Kyle, a longtime resident of City Island, died on Dec. 28, 2006, at the age of 75. She grew up on Earley Street and went to P. S. 17. In 1951 she married Grattan B. Kyle of City Island, who worked in the family real estate business with his sister, Jacqueline Kyle Kall.

Rita and Grattan and their four children lived for several years in Florida, but Rita returned to City Island in the 1980s after her husband's death and eventually moved to Tier Street.

She is survived by her children: Lauren Chernin of New Rochelle, Daniele Meier of Stamford, Connecticut; Leslie Ferrar of City Island and Grattan Kyle III of Stratford, Connecticut; and by five grandchildren.

Rita Kyle's life was celebrated at a mass at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Dec. 30.

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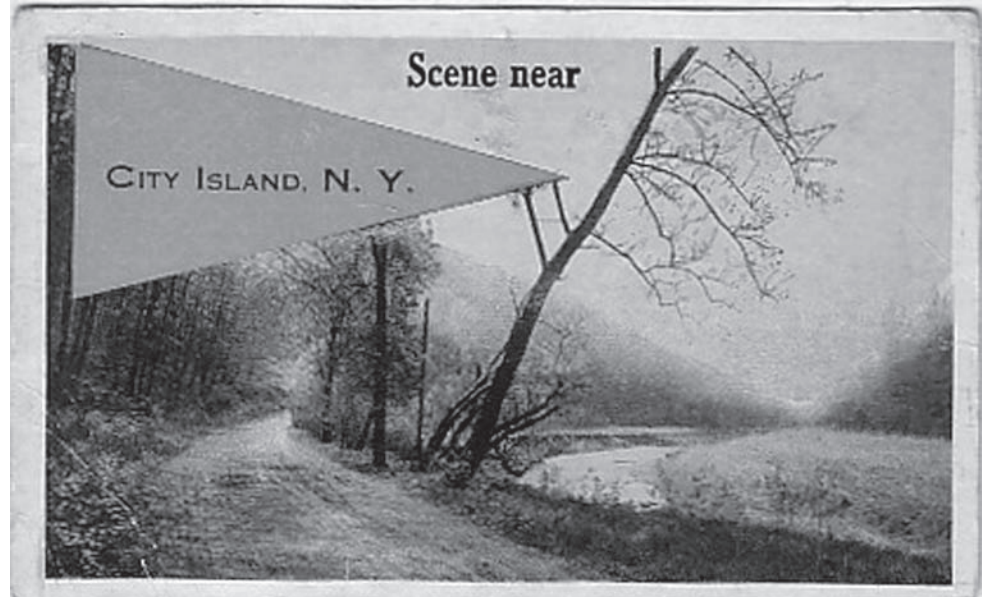
**Location, Location, Location**

We give up! Uncle! Ike's liquor store was not located where the real estate office is today. It was next door, where The Snug is now. Thanks to those of you who pointed it out to us. Perhaps another reader can point out where we might be able to find the following location.

This is an image from an old postcard (circa 1900) that we found online. "Near City Island?" We won't even venture a guess on this one. We'll leave that to our more observant readers.

see the fallout from all this spring-blooming-in-winter come spring and summer. Stay tuned.

What with the weather and all the talk about global warming, we spent a little more time than usual online the other day seeking reassurance. We may have found it, too: The top five least snowy winters in the state of West Virginia were in 1) 1918-19; 2) 1889-90; 3) 1920-21; 4) 1931-32; and 5) 1932-33. It may not prove anything, but it does seem to give at least some credence to the point of view that says



We've had some very springlike weather this winter. The forsythia in our backyard has buds on it. Ginat says the same for the magnolia tree in her yard. Dan reports crocuses in full bloom. It will be interesting to

climatic warming trends are cyclical and that people may have less to do with the phenomenon, after all.

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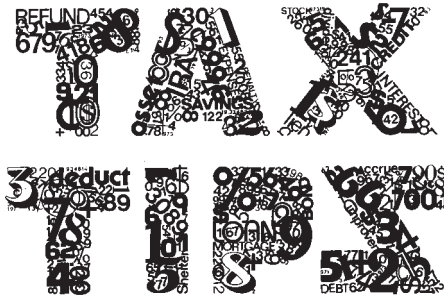
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**How to Compile Annual Tax Data**

Get going, get organized! Please don't put off your income tax data gathering responsibilities. If you give yourself too little time, you are likely to overlook something. Be sure to gather and retain all of your income information reports from employers, investments, financial institutions and other organizations, as well as forms sent by mortgage companies and colleges. Remember to review your checkbook and credit card statements for potential tax saving deductions. Once you have gathered all of your records, sort them out by category. Put all items related to income in one pile, those for potential tax deduction in another and items that might pertain to tax credits in a third. If your accountant provides you with a tax organizer, use it as a memory jogger and for guidance with the overall information gathering process. Bear in mind that the following information is not intended to be all-inclusive, so if you should find that you are unsure about something, call your accountant for assistance.

**Filing status** directly determines which tax table or schedule rate your taxable income will be subjected to. These are Single, Married Joint, Married Separate, Head-of-Household and Qualified Widow(er) with Dependent Child(ren). Filing status may not always be obvious, so if you are unsure of the category that is most appropriate for your personal situation, please ask.

**Exemptions** are available to you for your spouse, each of your dependent children and each of your other dependents, such as parents, but only if you provide for more than half of their support. Only one exemption per individual is allowed, which means that no exemption is available for any of your dependents who claim their own on separate tax filings. Social Security numbers are required for all dependents. Those of you with higher income levels should note that there are exemption limitations and phase-outs in effect.

**Income.** All income information should be gathered from your personal records. Examples of types and sources of reportable income include but are not necessarily limited to: salaries, wages, tips, interest, dividends, state and local income tax refunds, alimony, business income or loss, capital gains and losses, investment income, pensions, annuities, rents, royalties, partnerships, estates, trusts, unemployment compensation, possibly some of your Social Security as well as other income, commissions, fees, honorariums, and so on. Regulations require the reporting of all Tax Exempt Income for informational purposes, alternate minimum tax calculations

and other tax limitation purposes.

Retain and forward to your accountant all W-2s, 1099s, K-1s, brokerage account and mutual fund information sheets that you receive during January and February; these will delineate any taxable income that may be applicable to your personal situation and circumstance. Bear in mind that the IRS is able to trace failures to report income submitted to you via these types of forms.

**Adjustments to income.** Maintain accurate details on items in this category, because they result in a direct reduction of total gross income. Examples include IRA, SEP and Keogh deposits; self-employed health insurance, long-term care premiums, self-employed FICA tax, moving expenses, higher education interest, penalties on early withdrawals, alimony payments, certain teaching expenses and so on.

**Deductions.** We suggest that you gather your expenses and deductions into categories by sorting your receipts, bills, canceled checks and bank records. Don't forget to take into consideration checks written in December that may not have cleared your bank until January, February or even March. Try to summarize this detail as best you can in a tax organizer. Accountants prefer not to have you bring or send in boxes or bags full of slips and stubs. If you sort through all this yourself, you will save significant time and money for the preparation of your returns.

The basic categories of itemized expense deductions include but are not necessarily limited to:

**Medical expenses.** You may only deduct expenses incurred and paid that exceed 7.5 percent of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). These include payments for medical insurance, long-term care insurance, prescription drugs, doctors, dentists, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, adult care or medical facilities, eyeglasses, medical apparatus, and medical transportation costs/mileage, less, of course, any reimbursements received.

**Taxes.** Deductible taxes include state and local withholding taxes, estimated taxes paid (as well as prior year additional amounts paid), real estate, personal property and so on. Sales taxes paid may be a tax-deductible expense but only if they exceed your state and local income taxes and then only in lieu of those taxes and not in addition to them.

**Interest.** Home mortgage interest is subject to a limitation on the first \$1,000,000 of acquisition price. Tax-deductible home equity interest is limited to a \$100,000 line of credit. Personal consumer interest is not tax deductible. Investment interest is subject to a limitation on investment income. Mandatory tracking of business and investment loan proceeds in order to substantiate interest expense deduction is required.

Home mortgages and equity lines of credit are deductible, as described above, but only to the extent that loans do not exceed your original cost-plus improvements. However, there may be some exceptions when borrowed monies are used for certain medical or educational purposes. Use of these funds for anything other than the permitted purposes may require

an alternate minimum tax adjustment. We strongly suggest that you compile data on these costs in order to substantiate any deductions claimed.

**Contributions.** Note that all charitable donations must now be substantiated by way of dated receipts or bank records for contributions made in cash, by check, or in property other than cash.

**Casualty or theft losses.** Deductible amounts are limited to 10 percent of Adjusted Gross Income, and an adjustment for any insurance coverage collected is required.

**Job-related expenses.** Miscellaneous deductions that are subject to a 2 percent AGI limitation include but are not necessarily limited to union dues, tax preparation fees, investment-related fees and expenses, safe deposit boxes, work-related educational expenses, non-reimbursed job and/or business-related expenses. Miscellaneous deductions not subject to a 2 percent AGI limitation include such items as gambling losses, some trading-related expenses, certain federal estate taxes, moving expenses and work-related disability expenses.

For those of you in higher income brackets, who are subject to higher tax rates, please note that there are certain limitations on and phase-outs of itemized

deductions and you may also find that you are subject to Alternate Minimum Tax calculations as well. gifts of \$12,000 or less are not a deductible income tax event and gifts of \$12,000 or more may result in estate and/or gift tax implications. So ask your accountant for advice beforehand.

**Tax credits.** Keep track of any outlays you may have incurred for such items as child care (you must report to the IRS, the name, address, and ID number of each child-care provider), foreign taxes, investment tax, research and development, job and WIN Credit carryovers, energy-efficient improvements, hybrid-vehicle purchases, long-distance telephone service, excise tax adjustments and so on.

**Tax payments.** Be sure to keep and provide a record of all estimated taxes paid for the current year and any additional tax payments made for prior years that you may have made during the calendar year being filed. This includes any and all federal, state, city or local income taxes paid, as may be applicable.

The above information is not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a basic guide in assembling all of the data and information required for the preparation of your personal income tax returns.

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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.

Happy sweet 16 on Jan. 18 to Alanna McIntyre, with love from your family and the Butterworths.

Happy sixth birthday on Feb.23 to Hailey Nelson, with love from your family.

Happy birthday on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from the Swieciki family.

Happy 41st birthday on Feb. 17 to Bobbi Frank of Tier Street, with love from Mary Ann, Shane and Madison.

Belated birthday greetings on Dec. 24 to little Benicio Hernandez, with love from your family.

Family and friends of Earley Street's Austin Dooley, son of Paula and Austin and brother of Siobhan, gathered in Poznan, Poland, last July for his marriage to Magdalena Przymuszala in the beautiful cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. Guests celebrated with a reception at the Palace Wasowo before the happy couple left for their honeymoon to visit the island of Cyprus and the pyramids of Egypt. They are making their home in the Netherlands. Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness!

Happy birthday to adorable Mya' Rose Antelmi, who celebrates her first birthday on Feb. 13. With love from your Aunties and Uncles, Mommy and Daddy and the rest of Terrace Street. Mya' was our storm-of-the-century baby last year...in the February 2006 blizzard.

Former Carroll Street resident Sunjay Sebastian would love to hear from former classmates and City Island friends. He is now living at Carmel House, 3444 Route 301, Carmel, New York, 10512. Drop him a card or a note; it'll make his day!

It's a boy! Congratulations to Rochelle Street's Joanna Cagan and Graeme Patterson, who became the proud parents of Finlay Cagan Patterson on Christmas Eve.

Happy 15th birthday to Alex Cebek, who celebrated his big day with friends and family on Jan. 2. With love from your family.

It's the big "50" for Bob Carmody, who celebrated his milestone on Jan. 9. With love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday wishes on Jan. 27 to the Pickwick's Joseph DiNome, with love from your family.

Jan. 19 is the day Sharon Connell celebrates her birthday, with best wishes from her family and the gang at the City Island Yacht Club.

Happy birthday greetings on Jan. 22

to Centre Street's Walter Huffell, with love from Paula.

Holiday thanks to the City Island Fire Department, who rode up and down City Island Avenue on Christmas Eve wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. They passed by Grace Episcopal Church just as parishioners were leaving candlelight services around 8:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Jennifer and Louis Marrone on the birth of their son, Louis Joseph Marrone, born Oct. 16. Very proud grandparents are City Island's Cookie and Joe Sortino and Elena and Luigi Marrone of Queens, New York. Thrilled cousins are Angela and Dominick Acocella and Peter O'Keeffe, Jr.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Erik Moen and Alexandra Panora, who were married on Oct. 20 at Chateau Hathorne in Warwick, New York. The happy couple honeymooned in Italy for two weeks before returning home. Erik is the son of Centre Street's Dawn Moen.

Congratulations to Stacie Moen and Stefano Ciccone, who became engaged on Nov. 25 and are planning a fall wedding. Stacie is the daughter of Dawn Moen of Centre Street.

Wedding bells! Francine Whitney and Fernando Banhara, both of Winters Street, are pleased to announce their engagement. A 2007 wedding is planned.

Belated congratulations and best wishes to Frank and Ryan Ann Koller on their Oct. 8 wedding in Massachusetts. They had a great weekend celebrating with family and friends. Proud parents of the groom are Cheryl and Frank Koller of Reynolds Street.

Still sailing along! Happy 80th birthday to Horton Street's Arthur "Ducky" Rauhauser, who celebrates his big day on Feb. 23. Love to Poppy from your grandsons Roger and Mark.

Double dose of happiness for the Ramftl family! Happy belated Dec. 19 birthday to Fred Ramftl Sr. of Carroll Street. Also, happy belated Dec. 19 anniversary to Fred and Joan Ramftl. With love from your two sons.

Congratulations go to Kristin (Ulmer) and Scott Alit on the birth of their son on Dec. 15, 2006. Johan Kenneth Alit weighed in at 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19 inches long. He was born at White Plains Hospital.

Maria Swieciki

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Earley Street resident Austin Dooley was married to Magdalena Przymuszala in Poznan, Poland.



Photo by MARY VALESSIO

The staff and guests of *The Island Current* gathered for their annual meeting on Jan. 7, 2007, at the City Island Yacht Club. Karen Nani, editor, acknowledged the efforts of the tireless group of volunteers who have kept *The Current* running for 35 years.

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