City Island’s Marathon Man

By MIKE RAUH

Island physician and marathon runner Dr. Norbert Sander was instrumental in bringing the National Track and Field Hall of Fame to the Armory in New York from its previous home in Indianapolis. He presented the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 27, 2004 (above photo, center), with several Hall of Fame athletes, including John Carlos (left with scissors), Olympic bronze medallist from the 1968 games in Mexico City and former world record holder in the 200-meter sprint. Later Dr. Sander moved onto the indoor track at the Armory (top right photo), located on 168th Street and Fort Washington Avenue in Manhattan, where he joined another island marathoner, Mike Rauh (left) and Billy Mills, 1964 Olympic gold medallist in the 10,000 meter run.

Most baseball fans, and many New Yorkers, can tell you that the National Baseball Hall of Fame is located in Cooperstown, New York, but hardly anyone knows where the National Track and Field Hall of Fame can be found. Give up? Until recently, it was in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, but not long ago USA Track and Field accepted bids from five cities vying to become the new home of the Hall of Fame. This is the story about the man who promoted the winning bid to bring it to New York City.

Those who know Dr. Norbert Sander realize that his credentials as a fine person aren’t limited to his medical skills. When you meet him, you are impressed by his athletic appearance and easy smile. Although it has been more than seven years since he ran a marathon, he still seems to have unbounded energy, and he is in great shape. He should be, for all the activities that are part of his life.

Many City Islanders know Dr. Sander from his medical practice. After graduating from Albert Einstein College of Medicine more than 30 years ago, he opened a practice here. His introduction to City Island was through his father, who was an airplane pilot when the seaplane port here.

Norbert grew up in Yonkers and began a lifetime-long affinity for running as a student at Sacred Heart grammar school. He continued to compete in high school and college, where he raced both track events and cross-country for Fordham Prep and Fordham University, often at the 168th Street Armory in Washington Heights. After college, he switched to long-distance races. In the early 70’s he was one of the top marathon runners in the country, winning the New Orleans Marathon, the Yonkers Marathon and the prestigious New York City Marathon.

The Armory was home to track and field events from 1914 until the late 1970s, but in recent years it served as a shelter for homeless men. In 1992 a judicial ruling required New York City to move the men to more suitable quarters, and Norbert took the opportunity to try to make the Armory again a center for track and field. That same year, he organized the Armory Foundation, which obtained funds to install a new track and reopen the facility to track meets. Over the years, the foundation, of which Norbert is now president, has raised more that $20 million for the Armory’s track and field center, as well as its multi-purpose community center for the neighborhood.

The meets held there are so successful that Norbert and the foundation have been able to install a world-class track with banked turns and a speedly Mondo racing surface. New field event structures and equipment have also been installed for pole vault, high jump, long jump and shot put. Now the center attracts more than 50,000 student athletes to participate in over a hundred meets every year. Recently, a long-term relationship was established with New Balance, an athletic shoe company, and the center was named the New Balance Track and Field Center.

When the National Track and Field Hall of Fame decided to relocate in a hallway of the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis was insufficient, Norbert and the foundation made a bid to bring it to the Armory in New York. Their proposal was accepted, and work was begun to prepare 15,000 square feet of exhibit space. The project took months to complete, but by Jan. 24, 2004, it was ready to show the world.

Many Track and Field Hall of Fame athletes attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including Bob Beamon (long jump), Al Deter (discus), Frank Shorter (marathon), Jim Heezy (miler), Don Bragg (pole vault), Mel Rosen (coach, from the Bronx), John Carlos (sprinter), Chandra Crutcher (200- and 400-meter runner), Grete Waitz (marathon) and Alberto Salazar (marathon). The New Balance Track and Field Games were staged on the same day and the Hall of Fame inductees came upstaris to see the competition. I spoke to Olympic marathoner Frank Shorter, who was impressed with the facility and enjoyed watching some of the races. Billy Mills (Olympic 10,000-meter gold medalist) posed with Norbert and me for a picture.

In the 1960s, when I ran high school races at the Armory, it was a dimly lit, dingy building with a track that consisted of a splintered wooden floor with lanes painted on it to mark the lanes. Today, thanks to the Armory Foundation, it has been transformed into a magnificent arena. Several City Island families, including the Nantis and the Kreigs, are already familiar with the revived building because they have children who compete there. Mick Byrne, a Fondram street resident and track coach at Iona College, was also very familiar with the Armory.

When I interviewed Norbert Sander for this article, I asked him how he manages to balance all his activities. He told me he follows a schedule to get everything done, “and at night I sometimes awake to think any problems through.” He’s the father of four children, two of whom are grown and living on their own. In the morning, he still has time for breakfast with his two youngest daughters, ages 4 and 10.

When asked if his work has taken a negative toll on him, Norbert told me, “It doesn’t feel like I’m going to work. Years ago, when I was a student and carried golf bags to make some cash, that was work.” He really enjoys what he does now, both at his practice on City Island and in his role at the Armory. In both places he is surrounded by a highly dedicated support staff, which he credits for his success. I was curious to know if he schedule allows any time to run, amazingly, he finds the time to get out for about 23 miles per week.

As a physician, athlete and an author (“Fortever and a Day: Stories of Love” published by Yorkville Press in June 2002), Norbert Sander serves as an excellent role model, especially for his hugely successful work at the Armory. When I asked what inspires him to continue, he said, “When I’m standing on the infield of the track during a meet, I can feel the energy and enthusiasm of the competing athletes and their cheering fans.

Continued on page 5
A RECEPTION FOR ALICE PAYNE, author of “City Island: tales of the Clam Diggers”, which is being republished after 35 years, will be held at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. The author will be available to sign copies of the book, which will be on sale at the museum. A new exhibit of images of City Island past and present will be on view.

N.Y.P.D. CRIMINAL REGISTERED POLICE DEPARTMENT

1/4 – Police arrested a male, 25, and charged him with assault on City Island Avenue at 11:30 p.m. The defendant allegedly struck the complainant with a closed fist, causing swelling and pain. During the search, police found a phone and removed two loose and issued two checks from the victim’s office in 2003 without permission. The suspect allegedly passed the checks to a witness, and the case is under investigation as a forgery.

1/51 – Police arrested a male, 25, and charged him with assault on City Island Avenue at 11:30 p.m. The defendant allegedly struck the complainant with a closed fist, causing swelling and pain. During the search, police found a phone and removed two loose and issued two checks from the victim’s office in 2003 without permission. The suspect allegedly passed the checks to a witness, and the case is under investigation as a forgery.

1/52 – A resident reported a 1999 GMC van stolen from Fordham Street at 5 p.m. Police are searching for the vehicle.

1/29 – A male, 26, was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) on City Island Avenue. At a police checkpoint, the defendant had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and blood-shot eyes.

JANUARY 2004

1 – GRAND LARCENY (auto)
2 – CRIMINAL MISHIEF
3 – LARCENEY
4 – UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
5 – LOST PROPERTY

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during December 2003 and January 2004. Unfounded complaints are not included in this list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

DECEMBER 2003

1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
2 – GRAND LARCENY
3 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
4 – LOST PROPERTY
5 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)

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

12/29 – A male, 45, was arrested and charged with Grand Larceny (auto) on City Island Avenue.
12/28 – A male, 31, was arrested and charged with Criminal Mischief on City Island Avenue.
12/28 – A male, 26, was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) on City Island Avenue.
12/27 – A male, 45, was arrested and charged with Criminal Mischief on City Island Avenue.
12/27 – A female, 28, was arrested and charged with Harassment on City Island Avenue.

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After 31 years, the interior landscaping business John Mini Indoor Landscapes will move from City Island to Long Island. New York. Owner John Mini is shown above right with the new shop he opened in 1973 on City Island Avenue between Hawkins and Carroll Streets.

A pothole at the City Island Bridge on Feb. 8, 2004, caused a multitude of blown tires until some good Samaritans filled it with a sign (and a poor duck that had washed up on the beach, probably a victim of the cold weather).

After suffering through last winter’s disastrous road conditions, caused by the installation of water mains along City Island Road, residents were sure it couldn’t get worse. But for two days in February, 2004, it got worse.

The trouble started on Saturday, Feb. 7, when a major foot-deep hole pot suddenly appeared on the City Island Bridge, causing a series of blown-out tires and frayed tempers. Resident Geri Seiter observed some of these incidents and began a series of telephone calls to 911 and 311 that had no effect for several hours.

The Police Department’s 911 response system routed calls to 311, which turned callers over to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Marion Rosenthal of the Chamber of Commerce reported that DOT officers were unable to help because there was no address for the bridge in the computer. Upon returning home late Saturday night, Frank Fitis, president of the City Island Civic Association, was alerted to the situation by Bob Carmody of the Chamber and managed to contact the DOT borough commissioner. The pot hole was fixed the following morning.

Geri Seiter noted that all of the blow-outs seemed to have happened off-island, not residents. “I guess we all know enough not to drive on the edges,” she told The Current.

A bigger problem occurred the following Saturday, Feb. 14, when Valentine’s Day drew thousands of diners to City Island, where restaurants were prepared to serve special holiday meals. Both the Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Association reminded the Police Department to anticipate the annual traffic crush by putting on special officers to handle the flow of traffic.

Sipsos Chagares of Artie’s Restaurant became concerned early on Saturday evening because many of his customers who had reserved tables had not shown up or had called in to say they were caught in traffic. He walked up and down City Island Avenue several times and noted that the police officers were not on the street directing traffic, but sitting in their vehicles. One officer told him that her job was “to secure safety on the Island,” not to direct traffic.

Because the 45mph speed limit was not being enforced, officers from other precincts were sent to cover the traffic detail. However, these officers are not familiar with City Island and its unique traffic problems, and there was no preparation or supervision to help them figure out how to handle the traffic.

As a consequence, at several points during the evening, cars at the bridge came to a virtual standstill, although many observers reported that traffic was very light in the center of the Island, once cars had made it through the Cross Street intersection.
We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

**Clearing the Way**

To the Editor,

In regard to the “small group of teens” and their racist antics on Halloween and during the lighting of the Menorah, let’s not take this with a grain of salt! These teens need to be stopped now and part of this should fall on the parents. Tolerance for all people of all nationalities, creeds and religions starts in the home. I will not take a laissez faire attitude towards these miscreants. I guarantee, I see something in regard to any bias crime or hate crime, I’m taking names and numbers and going to the Police. This behavior must stop immediately.

Annette Comier-Lopez

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**POTS Full of Thanks**

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

Part of the Solution

2763 Webster Avenue
Bronx, NY 10458

Hello St. Mary Star of the Sea:

Sister Mary, myself, and all of our guests would like to express our deepest gratitude to you and the City Island community. You guys are so very special, wonderful and loving.

POTS

**In Praise of New York’s Bravest**

To the Editor,

This Saturday (Feb. 21, 2004), the City Island Fire Department did a “drill” here on Tier Street. As I stood on my porch watching, one of the firemen told me that after this drill, they go back to the firehouse and write down what they found—such as what size ladders they need to reach the roofs of the houses here.

I was impressed that this was truly a drill for them. They were wearing all their gear, including oxygen tanks; they brought ladders to the waterfront area, made sure that the fire hydrant worked and the hoses could go all the way from the street to the bay. I’m glad to know the Fire Department is keeping itself in shape.

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POTS
IDEA Proposes Community-Wide Project

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island-based organization IDEA (Innovative Directions, an Educa-
tional Alliance) is launching a new project that is intended to benefit the entire City Island community. The seed money for the project was contributed by elected officials, and IDEA is looking for community con-
sumers before it moves ahead.

Since 1997, IDEA has been committed to teaching children about the marine environment at the City Island School, Public School 175. Beginning in 1999, under IDEA's guidance, P.S. 175 incor-
porated a Marine Wildlife Ecology cur-
riculum into the school day. IDEA has also sponsored and organized a Maritime Open House at the school and a maritime festival. Fleet Weekend, every year since 1998. This annual festival has grown to be a City Island favorite, reminding all residents and visitors alike of the importance of appreciating and building upon the island's rich maritime past.

Since it was originally founded, IDEA has raised both program and capital funds, beginning with the first capital grant in 1998 by State Senator Guy J. Velella. The sena-
tor was one of the first proponents of the IDEA program and granted $100,000 to be used in purchasing marine science equipment and supplies. These funds were utilized in March 2003 by the staff and administration at P.S. 175 to outfit a science laboratory in the P.S. 175 school building. Currently, the sum of $600,000 raised by IDEA as part of a new capital campaign is being held in a special fund. Of this sum, $400,000 was pro-
vided by Communitywoman Madeline Provenzano and Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.

This money was raised for the purpose of constructing an educational/recreational facility on the Parks Department property adjacent to P.S. 175, with an estimated campaign goal in 1999 of $1.2 million. The remaining $600,000 has yet to be raised, owing to severe departmental budget cuts and a lack of outside funding opportun-
ties.

Rose Rodstrom and Patricia Hennessy, founders and co-directors of IDEA, are committed to full-time jobs, as well as fam-
ily obligations, and are challenged by the amount of time necessary to continue their fund-raising efforts.

Because the $600,000 raised to date is earmarked for City Island, IDEA has proposed that the community ask the Parks Department to allocate this money toward a larger City Island effort—a new educa-

tional/recreational facility, not only for stu-
dents at P.S. 175, but for all Island residents in all age groups. As Mrs. Hennessy tells The Current, "We do not want this money to be absorbed into the Parks Department budget. Our motto is 'use it or lose it.'

Since May 2003, Mrs. Rodstrom and Mrs. Hennessy have met on a monthly basis with representatives of other City Island organizations to discuss the use of this considerable amount of money. Mem-
bers of the City Island Historical Society, American Legion, Leonard H. Hawkins Post 195 Chamber of Commerce, Civic Asso-
ciation, the City Island Community Center and Millennium Moms, St. Mary's Parish Council, COLONY, the City Island Theater Group and other Island groups, as well as representa-
tives from the offices of Senator Guy Velella, Councilwoman Provenzano and Borough President Carrion have con-
sistently attended these meetings.

The group agrees that a committee should be formed to explore the possibili-
ties of building a multiuse facility to benefit not only children but the entire City Island community as well. A committee will be selected at a meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2004, at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Ford-
ham Street. All who are interested in learning more about the project or would be willing to serve on this committee are invited to attend.

Thirty-five years ago, in 1969, Alice Payne and her husband, James, published a small book entitled "City Island: Tales of the Clam Diggers." Little did they imagine that it would become an underwater classic. The book soon went out of print, so those lucky enough to own copies kept them tucked away for safe keeping.

At long last, Mrs. Payne's daughters, Dorothy and Virginia, have arranged to reprint this wonderful little book, which will be reprinted in its hardcover and paperback this spring, with a launch party at the City Island Nautical Museum on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Alice Payne, who "was born across the street from the Bronx Zoo," as she told The Current, grew up in Queens but moved to City Island in 1946, so when her husband got out of the Army, the Paynes had been looking for an apart-
ment in the 11800 Neck Area, but there were none to be had, so an acquaintance suggested that they buy a little house on Reville Street over the terrace, which had been vacant for a long time. Mrs. Payne bought the house, in which she takes care of herself, even at the distinguished age of 89.

Mrs. Payne worked for many years at various jobs, including Union Carbide (during World War II) and the Jewish Theological Seminary, but she retired to raise her children. When they started school, however, she began a two-week job at the City Island branch of the Public Library, a job that lasted 11 years!

She found that many people, Islanders and visitors alike, would come into the library looking for information about City Island. There was very little research or articles that could be found. The City Island Historical Society was in its infancy during the 1960s but there was very little documentation avail-
able to Mrs. Payne. Payne and her husband began to gather material, doing research at other libraries and interviewing Islanders.

"What really got me going," she said, "was hearing that Mrs. Horton, the one who lived where Sammy's Fish Box is now, had gotten so sick of hearing all her husband's stories, that she threw out all of his papers. What a loss!"

Eventually the Paynes amassed enough information for a book, and so she wrote one, which her daughter Dorothy illus-
trated with charming drawings of City Island places. These will be in the new edition, but Mrs. Payne declined to take on the enormous task of bringing the book up to date from 1999.

"The scene on City Island has changed a great deal since those days," she said, and not all for the better. Now that we have a fire lane instead of the four lanes we used to have, there isn't as much traf-
cic as there used to be. And I'm happy to see that more people are interested in the Island's history than they were in the old days..."
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.

On Friday, March 12, 2004, the Kathlyn Moses Gallery, located at 327 City Island Avenue, will host an opening for its Second Anniversary Show from 7 p.m. -10 p.m. New work by Kathy and Tim Moses will be featured through the month of March.

The Starving Artist Gallery, now a coffeehouse exhibiting handmade jewelry and fine arts and crafts, will host the first musical performance at its new location (249 City Island Avenue) on Saturday, March 27, from 7 to 10 p.m. That evening City Islander Laccie Revin will perform as part of her folk/rock trio Weeks in Progress and the group will sign copies of their new CD recording. Gallery owner-jeweler Elliott Glick promises much more music and cultural fun and fare in the future!

The Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, presents a photographic exhibition by the students of the Focal Point Visual Workshop from March 1 through March 31, with an opening reception on Friday, March 5, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 718-885-1403 or visit www.focalpointgallery.com.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Sale Price</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>106 Ditmars Street</td>
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<td>7/7/03</td>
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<td>118 King Avenue</td>
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<td>168 Reville Street</td>
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<td>682 Minneford Ave.</td>
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On Sunday, Feb. 7, 2004, the Starving Artist Café & Gallery celebrated the opening of its new location at 249 City Island Avenue (above photo). The following week, the gallery hosted its first acoustic guitar jam (inset). 

On Sunday, Feb. 15, the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, at its new location of 249 City Island Avenue, held its first acoustic guitar jam. As the gallery continues its transformation into a coffeehouse serving coffee, tea, treats and offering handmade jewelry, fine arts and crafts, its proprietor Elliott Glick promises many more such gatherings. "I'd like this become a place where people meet and enjoy art and music over a cup of coffee or tea or cappuccino," said Mr. Glick, a guitarist himself for some 40 years. He speaks with great joy about his current roster of 20 guitar students—many of them Island teens—and points to their interest in music as a healthy and hopeful sign. Mr. Glick's youngest student, his five-year-old daughter Hannah, took time during the jam to show another of her dad’s pupils, Justin Rodstrom, a little of what she knows. Also enjoying the afternoon was Vincent Ficarra, the tenant of 249 City Island Avenue when it was a paint shop, who strummed guitar with Messrs. Glick and Rodstrom.

On Wednesday, March 10, at 3:30 p.m. there will be a St. Patrick’s Day craft program at the library; registration is required. Every Thursday in March at 3:30 p.m. there will be a picture book program. The Millennium Moms and Babies will meet at 1 p.m. on March 11 at the library for story time.

Evelyn Gerges
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ISLANDERS MAKE MUSIC
On Sunday, Feb. 7, the Starving Artist Café & Gallery celebrated the opening of its new location at 249 City Island Avenue (above photo). The following week, the gallery hosted its first acoustic guitar jam (inset).

On Sunday, Feb. 15, the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, at its new location of 249 City Island Avenue, held its first acoustic guitar jam. As the gallery continues its transformation into a coffeehouse serving coffee, tea, treats and offering handmade jewelry, fine arts and crafts, its proprietor Elliott Glick promises many more such gatherings. "I'd like this become a place where people meet and enjoy art and music over a cup of coffee or tea or cappuccino," said Mr. Glick, a guitarist himself for some 40 years. He speaks with great joy about his current roster of 20 guitar students—many of them Island teens—and points to their interest in music as a healthy and hopeful sign. Mr. Glick’s youngest student, his five-year-old daughter Hannah, took time during the jam to show another of her dad’s pupils, Justin Rodstrom, a little of what she knows. Also enjoying the afternoon was Vincent Ficarra, the tenant of 249 City Island Avenue when it was a paint shop, who strummed guitar with Messrs. Glick and Rodstrom.

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Young City Islanders Stephen Lott, Evan Berent and James McGowan also helped fill the afternoon and the Starving Artist Café and Gallery with beautiful music that Sunday.
It was a beautiful, sunny and 50-degree day on the first Saturday in January, possibly the warmest day we have had since then. Song Bill and I were making our annual trek to the Boat Show, the 48th edition. It was so nice we even thought about going to see the newly arrived Concordia on the SS Intrepid. The idea was fleeting, however, as I thought of my sometimes temerarious relationship with various Island current events. Things going well now, why cause a problem, I mused, so just straight on to the Javits Center we went.

Nogs of good karma appeared immediately as we drove into a reasonable parking lot ($19 for eight hours) only two blocks away. We knew the show was going well when we saw crowds of people outside the center. Some were getting dirty water dogs for a buck, fifty cents more than normal but half the price charged by the stands inside. There was also a new group of folks today here, people who didn’t have on their Snerry (or knockoff) Topspiners. They were motorcycle enthusiasts, attending the motorcycle Show on the lower level. They just added to the greatdemo matic mosaic that is New York. We dropped off our jackets and picked up our press ID at the public relations office on the fourth floor, where the young girl remembered us from last year. She has dinner on our Island stall and professed to know every nook of City Island. I have in Jim’s company a few times, and there is no doubt that he has a chemistry with his friends who are Yankee fans, and I hope we will have the opportunity to meet Jimmy’s cousin, Alex (A-Rod), when he puts on the pinstripes this summer. We were run by the Dolphin family, who live on King Avenue. In their heyday during the 1950s and 1960s, they were the largest coffee-shop and sandwich store in the city. The top of the line was the 55-foot Constellation, the most beautiful production boat of its size ever produced. Most of the brothers were WW2 vets, the last one to pass away. This sister, Peggy, has been in Florida for many years.

The boat section of the show was so crowded that we couldn’t get near most of the exhibitors. A lot of the crowd seemed to be spotted over at Motorcycle Show. They had a lot of children with them and were very young for the concession business. We did make a couple of pit stops ourselves that day to check on a few things—the quality, availability, price, temperature and economy of certain products. During the day we sampled a saucy-and-peppered sandwich, which was very good, even though it was six bucks. Hotdogs were $4.50, at the right temperature and readyable in many locations. The downside was that the barkeepers were neither good-looking nor of the culture; there were no buybacks, but, most importantly, there were no options. Adaptability of our City Island trade. We looked in at Jim Ross’s Sunseeker exhibit and could not see a familiar face. There was a beautiful, deep green-hulled 58-foot boat. Even though it was only 20 feet, long-island boat captain Gerry Cohen of the Rum Runner would have scored it up. My brother Captain Gerry would have moored it in Lyme, New Hampshire, on the scenic Connecticut River. There was a 38-foot Donzi 20 for sale at 250 thou, reduced from 290. Another good-looking cat, as always, is the Alumihull from Avigliana, Italy. Some day I hope to see the whole line at another in the Mid.

Fred Chat Marine of Freeport, Long Island, is a very large dealer of many brands. They are advertised as a “factory outlet”. I don’t think I ever heard that term used in reference to marine products, Betty Jordan and Ann Sulivan always shop at the outlets at Woodbury Commons. I’ll have to ask them to look for Fred Chat. He had a good slogan. “The only time this price is the bitch on your outboard.”

The most interesting man we met during the day was Victor Mooney, a 39-year-old African-American New Yorker. Next February he is going to re-create the middle passage, the route African slaves took from the early 1600s to the mid-1800s traveling to the Americas. Mooney’s amazing expedition will take him 8,000 miles from Grenoe Island off Senegal in West Africa to NYC. The long part of the journey will be from Senegal to NYC—2,500 miles nonstop. The voyage will begin in May. He plans to be in NYC in 58 days. When is the last time anyone saw around City Island? What about Rat Island?

In recent years there has been a marked increase in environmental interest and conservation awareness. This was overwhelmingly apparent at the Boat Show. There is a slew of local organizations doing great work in Borough Park, the Hackensack River, the Passaic River and lower New York harbor in general.

Some have called the boat that is doing work in Coney Island Creek, Jamaica Bay, the Gowanus Canal, Newtown Creek, Flushing Bay and the East Harlem and Bronx Rivers, “the best looking project in the Northeast for Chesapeake Bay for this summer. They actively participate in the restoration, conservation, preservation and education of our rivers, bays, streams and marine wildlife. I spoke to one of the staff at the booth and was very impressed by their commitment. They are in need of donations and volunteers, both diving and non-diving. They may be contacted at www.urbandivers.org or 718-802-9874.

A major group concern, however, is the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Starting with the Pure Waters Program of 1965, which put $1 billion into a statewide program to eliminate polluted discharges into our waterways, the state set the example for the rest of the country. At that time nearly 1,200 public waters were polluted with raw or minimally treated sewage into the state’s waters. The Pure Waters Program led to the national Clean Water Act of 1972. Between them, during the last 35 years, more than 500,000 publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants were paid for. Strict programs regulated all industrial and municipal wastewater discharges, and the manufacture and use of the worst contami- nants, such as DDT and PCBs, were banned. The continuation of some of these programs has had a dramatic effect on the quality of our water.

New York is one of the most water-bountiful areas in the country. It has more than 7,800 lakes, more than 2,500 miles of rivers, 2,4 million acres of freshwater wetlands and 125,000 acres of tidal marshes. New York City is equally blessed to have so much of God’s precious liquid, as are we here on City Island. We spoke with Conserva- tion Officer Byron Young, who was a great carpenter who said “Wood is good; use it if you can.” He said that this was a saying here on City Island. Too...
News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed herein, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A submission 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 first of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar

March

March 3, March 18, Community Board 10 meets, 7:30 p.m., Providence Rest, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx.

March 7, 12:15 p.m., Providence Rest, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx.

March 18, 11 a.m., P.S. 175, 9 to 11 a.m., St. Mary’s School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Mennex baked zii.

March 30, City Island Civic Association meets, 8 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Chapter 3303 AARP

The members of the Minneford Chapter 3303 have been informed by the New York State director about the next steps by which prescription drugs will be made more affordable. From the initial announcement AARP made last year, the support of the Medicare drug bill, they have stressed that the legislation is a start and vowed to strengthen and improve it.

AARP recently announced aggressive plans to make the law better by closing the “doughnut hole,” allowing reimportation of drugs from Canada and giving the Federal government the power to negotiate directly with drug companies to get lower costs for drugs. These efforts are already under way in New York State, where we have begun educating our chapter members about what we can and need to do to improve the Medicare law.

While AARP is working very hard at the federal level to increase access to prescription drugs, the organization has also continued with its strong efforts to make drugs affordable at the state level. AARP is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the N.Y. State Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Program (EPIC) and to ensure that older New Yorkers benefiting from EPIC are able to retain their coverage.

EPIC.

On Thursday, April 22, the chapter will sponsor an all-day trip to the Mohogan Sun Casino. We will receive the package on the day of arrival. Departure time is 8:30 a.m. Prices and more details for this event will be discussed at our meetings, or you may call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be Monday, April 6. At our March meeting, we made silk flowers for the residents of Providence Rest Nursing Home and discussed plans for a spring garden tour.

Gardening Hint: Now is a great time to prune ground cover and flowering shrubs and fruit trees.

Phyllis Freeman

Chapter 318 AARP

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, March 9, the bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street on City Island. Call JeAnn King at 718-885-1479 or John Rothman at 718-885-1844.

Our next day trip is to Westbury on Wednesday, March 10, to see At Mirano and Carmel Quinn and to have dinner at Trosho. We are also taking reservations for our day trip to foilan’s on Monday, June 22, in Silver Springs, New Jersey, and to Cape Cod in September, a three-day, two-night trip. Please see Flo Bonicoro or Marie Tirelli at our meetings.

Florece Quinn, who has been recuperating at home from a fall, and Gloria Salacan have been making preparations for our end of the season luncheon at the Marina del Rey.

Have a Happy St. Patrick’s Day and a happy St. Joseph’s Day!

City Island Historical Society

This is a big month for the Historical Society and the Historical Museum.

We are delighted to be hosting a reception for Alice Payne to celebrate the reprinting of her long out-of-print “City Island: Tales of the Clam Diggers” on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Come to the Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, to meet Alice in person, buy a copy of the book and have her autograph it for you.

We are also starting on a renovation project in the Walsh Room, making our meeting room more efficient and accessible. The renovation will refocusing many of the pictures by Harold Walsh, thanks to a generous gift from his daughter, Winifred O’Donne. Some of these will be on exhibit, along with other images of “City Island Then and Now” to celebrate the republication of Alice Payne’s book.

We open every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., so drop by for a visit. If you have old photographs of City Island, we would love to borrow them to make scans for our collection, returning the originals to you.

Barbara Dobronrook

City Island Chamber Music

The concerts began again in February with a lovely performance on Feb. 29 to celebrate Rossini’s birthday in 1792. 53 days ago, you heard excerpts from “The Barber of Seville,” as well as instrumental selections.

We are pleased to announce that Sato Moughalian will assume artistic leadership of Sundays on the Island. She has performed with Orpheus, New York Chamber Ensemble and the Iranian Wind Quintet and has appeared as principal flute with the Long Island Philharmonic, Queens Symphony, American Ballet Theater and L’Opera Francais de New York.

On March 7, Helen Heran Kim (violin) and Laura Bontrager (cello) will perform Cenovia Cummins’s “Small Suite for Violin and Cello” (1996). Maurice Ravel’s “Sonata for Violin and Cello” (1920–22) and the “Passacaglia, Duo for Violin and Cello” by Handel will be performed.

On March 14, Todd Palmer (clarinet) will be joined by Nardo Poy (viola), Wendy Sutter (violin), Kathleen Worthy (viola) and Johann Balvorsen.

On March 20, Christopher McGowan will perform Rossini’s Introduction and Finale for huil and piano, with Sato Moughalian (huil) and Darin Rhoades (piano).

City Island Chamber Music

March 21 will be announced, call 914-664-6934 for information.

City Island Theater Group

Back by popular demand, the City Island Theater Group proudly presents a revival of “Love Letters,” starring Jean McCabe and Christopher McGowan.

“Love Letters” tells the story of correspondence exchanged over a lifetime between two childhood friends who moved apart but continued to share their little stories. As the actors read the letters aloud, we are shown their lives through funny, touching and honest moments. See it for the first—or second—time; you are sure to love it!

In an exciting timed engagement, “Love Letters” will be performed only Saturday, March 6, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 7, at 3 p.m. in Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue.

Tickets are $12 (adults) and $10 (seniors/students/Bronx Cultural Cardholders) and may be reserved by calling 718-885-3066 or e-mailing: email@citg.net. We are proud to announce our spring show: the hilarious comedy by Eddie Cope: “Agatha Christie Made Me Do It,” directed by Christopher McGowan. Performance dates are scheduled for April 23, 24, 30 and May 1 and 2.

In other exciting theater group news, the Grace Episcopal Church Hall has become our permanent home, and we are renovating the former thrift shop into our new office! For more information or to be part of the action, please call 718-885-3066 or email@citg.net.

Susan L. Rauh
the Deadlines for the edition for the Drue Breen Literary Fund Essay and Poetry Contest has extended to March 15. The theme is Footsteps in Time—Stepping Out of the Box. Choose your inspiration: Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, Gandhi, Muhammad Ali. The winners for best essay and poem will receive a $50 Barnes and Noble Gift Certificate, and the runners-up will receive $25 gift certificates. The contest is for sixth, seventh and eighth graders who live or attend school on City Island. Collection boxes will be at the P.S. 175 and the Focal Point Gallery.

Community Garden Sale: To be held at the center (indoors) on April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with plants for sale by the senior nutrition program. Call 718-885-2192 for more information.

Laury Hopkins

Boy Scouts Troop 211

Our scouts have been busy working on advancement requirements and earning merit badges throughout this past season. To bring you up to date, 10 scouts attended Ten Mile River Camp this past summer and earned 30 merit badges, two America Awards, and four World Conservation awards. In the fall, the troop did some backwoods camping on New York property in upstate New York. In November, Scouts participated in the Mad Hudson Scouting Center at Ward Pond Ridge Reservation. Although December flew by, the scouts squared up for their holiday party while preparing for the Klondike Derby and a Merit Badge Fair in January. Several scouts earned an additional nine merit badges, two America Awards, and four World Conservation awards. In February, the scouts prepared for a weekend of winter tent camping and a day of skiing/snowboarding.

An Eagle Court of Honor and Dinner to recognize Justin Rosdell will be on March 20. Justin satisfactorily completed his board of review on Jan. 27 to become the 29th Eagle Scout. Pictures and a review of Justin's accomplishments will appear next month.

Upcoming troop activities include winter tent camping, our annual flower sale on April 17–18, parent's night on April 20 and a canoe trip in May.

Summer camp registration and deposits are due by April 1. Visit with us any Friday night you are interested in joining our troop.

Parent volunteers are always needed and welcome to support our scouts.

Rose Kolb

Girl Scout News

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Girl Scouts attended their annual Sweetheart Dance held at Stuyvesant Yacht Club. The dance was a spectacular event. The girls and their escorts danced, socialized and ate the night away. DJ Ray gave a phenomenal performance as usual and kept everyone hopping and laughing all night. The food was great and seconds even greater. A wonderful time was had by all. A big, warm thank you to all the organizers and volunteers. Can’t wait next year!-

Rose Kolb


day will be held Saturday, March 13. There will be two seatings, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fare will be family style and cabbage. Liquid refreshments will consist of beer, wine and soda. The price is $15 per meal. Call 718-885-0931 or on March 11 to let us know you will be able to join us for a night of fellowship. We’ll let you know at that time where to meet.

Donna LaValle

City Island Civic Association

In spite of the bad weather, we are having meetings and discussions about all sorts of issues affecting City Island. The low turnout at the January meeting (in the middle of a blizzard) was quite a success, as we turned it into a round-table discussion of many different subjects, such as how we might increase membership, combine forces with the Chamber of Commerce and so on.

On the month, we met with our City Council member, Madeline Provencezado, to discuss quality-of-life issues on the Island, and we also had a meeting with the chairs of the Environmental Conservation to clarify their jurisdiction over waterfront properties.

At our meeting in February, Inspector Russell Schaller of the 40th Precinct addressed the assembled membership to talk about the traffic problems on Valen
ti Street. He also reported that the crime rate was very low for the Island during the month of January.

We are assembling a list of issues to discuss with the Bronx Commissioner of Public Service, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and those who wish to add the list are invited to call or fax 718-885-3823 or e-mail membership@cityislandchamber.org.

Frank Fitts

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber would like to thank everyone who made the holiday season special—the Fire Department for putting up the lights across City Island Avenue and Verzon for the Seasons Greeting lights. Plus everyone who was involved in the commission, the Department of Transportation (DOT), and so on. For the month of February, we had an interesting presentation of business matters and a delightful luncheon to the Post.

The Sons of the Legion have donated a pig’s knuckle party. This festive occasion was attended by the members and guests and those in hospitals and housebound.

You are invited to come and prove the point that “behold the man who possesses the heart that is near.” (Revelation 1:13)

Frank Fitts
The kindergarten children are learning about animals and birds and are planning a trip to the Bronx Zoo in connection with this study. They are concentrating on the letters K, J, W and V and are also learning their numbers. The science project for this month will be Irish soda bread.

The first graders will hold their own St. Patrick's Day parade in and around the school. They will study about Ireland as "the Land of Saints and Sinners" and discuss Irish immigration, as well as the role of immigration from other countries and how this has made our country great. Sister Joan will explain mythology and its vital role in the stories and poems the children will hear about mythological dragons and real dinosaurs and compose their own dragon stories.

In preparation for First Penance, Grade 2 will learn about the parts of the Mass and practice some religious songs. The children will prepare the liturgy for the First Friday Mass. They are exploring different possible destinations for Flat Stanley's postal adventure. I wonder where he will end up?

The third-graders are studying measurement—standard, metric and liquid. They are also learning about Flat Stanley, but instead of sending him off on an adventure they will imagine and make travel itineraries for themselves. For social studies they are studying the Spanish missions of California, and in science they are learning about habitats and the food chain.

Grade 4 is finishing its study of Native Americans and will display lodging projects for the school. The class will soon begin the study of the Revolutionary War and New York State's vital role in it. In science the students are studying habitats and examining the different ways animal bodies are constructed in order to adapt. On March 15, the sixth-graders will hold the annual Julius Caesar Memorial Pizza Party. They are beginning the science section on ecology and environment by studying the living and non-living factors and their role in shaping the environment. In religion Mr. Garrison will explain the necessity of the church for salvation.

Grade 7 will read "The Diary of Anne Frank" and then view the film and spend time analyzing both mediums. In social studies the students are learning about the growth of early colonial America and events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

The eighth-graders are learning about air, in particular the ozone layer and how to protect it. They are continuing their monthly reports on books of their own choice.

The faculty and students are exceedingly grateful to Miss Joseph for the series of talks she presented in grades K–8 during February. Miss Joseph spoke of the contributions and influences to American culture and life made by black Americans. Her work and insight enriched the cultural life of the school this winter season.

Kindergarten registration will take place March 1–4 from 9 to 11 a.m. only. Please bring the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate and immunization records. There will also be a $20 non-refundable registration fee.

Special dates for St. Mary's are as follows: March 1–5, ITBS tests will be given to grades 1–8; March 3, High-school registration for eighth-grade students after 2:30 p.m.; March 5, First Friday Mass at 9 a.m.; March 7 and 8, St. James Patrick will attend the Get Out and Vote (Catholic Administrators of New York) meeting in Albany; March 22, Conference Day, school closed; March 25, Bronx Catholic school fair will be held at Mount St. Michael. St. James Patrick, Mr. Caddell and Mr. Beskin have been invited to judge the competition; March 27, First Penance at 11 a.m. in the church; March 29, St. James Patrick will attend the Catho- lic school basketball match between St. N.Y. and N.Y.; April 2, First Friday Mass at 9 a.m.; April 3, Testing for new students.

Public School 175

The kindergarten students are working hard learning to tell time and make coin exchanges. They love to make up subtraction stories as well! In language arts the children are writing in their journals every day and wondering if the leprechauns will play tricks on them on March 17. Of course they will let us all know.

Grade 1 will take a trip to the Central Park Maritonne Theater this month. As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the students are wondering if the "resident leprechaun" will be making his annual appearance, causing much mischief in the classroom.

Second-graders are looking forward to spring and the warmer weather. March is mystery month, and the children will be reading mysteries in their reading groups. The class science fair project is keeping everyone very busy. Measuring is a focus in math, and students will practice their measuring skills by making traditional Irish soda bread for St. Patrick's Day.

In interyear the third-graders are developing their reading strategies by learning about main ideas in facts and details, sequencing, cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, making predictions, drawing conclusions and other important skills to help them on the citywide test in April. They are also learning about the importance of multiplication and how important it is to know their tables.

Students in Grade 4 have been busy interviewing relatives and gathering information about their heritage. As part of their science curriculum, the children will be visiting the Bronx Zoo, where they will learn about endangered species, animal adaptations and predator-prey relationships. In mid-March they will be attending a performance by Music Outreach at Lehman College.

The fifth grade is finishing up a study of the languages of the time, Aramaic and Latin, entirely in the form of subtitles, because only the languages of the time, Aramaic and Latin, are used. This was an interesting choice, and one of the details that would have made the story more accessible to those relatively unfamiliar with details of Christ's life.

The dialogue in the film is presented entirely in the form of subtitles, because only the languages of the time, Aramaic and Latin, are used. This was an interesting choice, and it kept the noise of the ranting crowds and the bellowing Romans from obscuring the scant dialogue.

A primary question of tremendous con- tention, which has been written and spoken about ad nauseam in the media, is whether or not this film is anti-Semitic. I think that anti-Semitism is largely a matter of intent, and I do not believe that anyone can enter the mind of the director. However, for those of faith, the fact that Christ's fate was a forgone conclu- sion raises the question as to why it would be necessary to lay blame in the first place.

As a viewer, I saw a film that showed the Jewish hierarchy of the times wanted Jesus of Nazareth crucified, and that the Roman seditiously tortured him for most of his film's length. Where the director goes completely off the top is in conveying the very idea that a human being so viciously tortured and mutilated could actually stand up, let alone carry the burden of the cross.

In these terrifying times, when religious fundamentalists all over the world are performing unspeakable acts, it is difficult to watch a creative work that has the potential for being so incendiary, whatever the director's intent might have been. I presume that Mr. Gibson is attempting to create a visceral expe- rience for the audience, in which they might gain a greater appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice that was made. But the brutality of the depiction obscures the message that I believe was intended by the Christ himself, that of peace and forgiveness.

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The frigid January temperatures and the snowstorm on Jan. 21, 2004, left the Island covered in snow and surrounded by ice. Longtime Islanders said it reminded them of the “good” old days, when you could ice boat on and walk across Eastchester Bay covered in snow and surrounded by ice. Longtime Islanders said it reminded them of the Civil War. Ironically, this is what makes Natchez such a special treasure today. Without money, the inhabitants of Natchez could not renovate or “remuddle” their houses, as the preservationists put it, and so the houses remained virtually untouched for years. Now, of course, there is a strong preservationist movement alive and well in Natchez, and this has led to the restoration of the city’s former glory. Anyone planning a trip South should definitely include this special place on the list of sites to visit.

In the meantime, where will Messrs. Howard and Straus lead us next? Pelham Bay Park lost its fabulous mansions to the wrecking ball of Robert Moses, but there are still some nice places here on City Island that might deserve their attention. But no, let’s encourage them to travel for us to wonderful parts of the country that we would like to visit—if not in person, then through the pages of their beautiful books.
The kiddie tax threshold increases to $10,390.

The adoption tax credit increases to $13,000 to $160,000 for married couples.

The top estate tax rate drops to 48%.

The estate tax exemption amount increases to $1.5 million (but the annual gift tax exclusion allowance remains at $11,000 for individual gifts and $22,000 for married couples).

The maximum Section 179 expense deduction increases to $102,000, and the phase-out threshold increases to $410,000.

A $40,000 (up to) maximum salary deferral increases to $15,000, and the 50 and older catch-up limit increases to $3,000.

The SIMPLE maximum salary deferral increases to $5,000, and the 50 and older catch-up limit increases to $1,500.

The standard mileage rate allowance for business driving increases to 35.5¢ per mile, the rate for medical and moving mileage increases to 14¢ per mile, and the rate for charitable driving remains at 14¢ per mile.

The Social Security taxable wage limit increases to $87,900, and retirees under age 65 can earn up to $11,640 without losing their benefits.

New Health Savings Accounts (HSA) allow taxpayers under 65 years of age with high-deductible health insurance to set aside pretax dollars that can be withdrawn tax-free for medical expense purposes.

And although the capital gain and dividend income tax rate has been reduced, tax brackets, personal exemptions, and income limitations for various tax benefits increase due to IRS inflation adjustments.

Furthermore, this year, many more taxpayers may be surprised to learn that they are subject to the ever-widening tentacles of the AMT or Alternate Minimum Tax.

In addition to preparing taxes, your financial professional should be able to review your investment of other holdings in order to help determine if you might benefit from a repositioning of assets or the realization of greater appreciation.

Also, remember to re-examine your financial goals including college funding and/or retirement planning and make certain that you are on the road to achieving all of your investment objectives.

Your financial professional’s intention should be to provide you with the best tax package possible, one that is accurate, complete and prepared in a manner that will best reflect your absolute minimum legal liability.

However, in order to accomplish this task, they need your help. So that your 2003 tax returns can be properly and timely prepared, be sure to provide all of your pertinent tax-related data, information and materials as soon as possible, and before preparation of your returns are finalized.

The information required includes all items of income and expense of a tax-related nature.

If you are unsure about the taxability or deductibility of any specific item, be sure to ask.

Some, if not all of the following materials, which may be applicable and necessary for the proper preparation of your tax returns, should be readily available for reference:

- A copy of your 2002 income tax return.
- Year 2003 Form(s) W-2 (wages, etc.)
- Year 2003 Form(s) 1099 (interest, dividends, etc.)
- Year 2003 Schedule K-1 reflecting income or loss and other information from any partnerships, LLCs, PLLCs, LLPs, “S” Corporations, estates, trusts, and so on that you may be involved with.
- Year 2003 Forms 1098 (mortgage interest paid), and real estate and/or property tax statements.
- Brokerage statements for all stocks, bonds and/or any other investments you may own.
- Closing statements pertaining to real estate and/or any other capital transactions.
- Any and all supporting data and/or documentation (schedules, analyses, etc.)
- Tax notices if any, that you may have received from the IRS and/or any other taxing authority.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of maintaining proper records, receipts and other forms of tax-related documentation. This is the only way that income reported and deductions taken can be substantiated and is especially important when it comes to demonstrating evidence for sources of income, adjustments to income (including alimony, adoption expenses, self-employed health insurance); tax-related expense deductions for such items as medical and dental expenses, taxes, charitable donations, travel, meals and entertainment, and all of the various miscellaneous itemized expense deductions that may apply to your personal situation. The list goes on and on.
PASSING TIME

There was a time when the bitter cold we’ve been having was just the thing for curling up with a good book before an open fire. It still is for some. But for others, the Internet is fast becoming the passe- time of choice. The old ways may have their charms, but the sad fact is that they are hopelessly less instantaneous in this age of instant gratification.

Be all that as it may, we were “surfing the Web” the other day, searching for City Island themes. There was the Ben Hur Hotel, which we had never heard of, the electric trolley to and from the Bartow train station, the horse-drawn carriage, Belden Point and good old P.S. 17, among others. Our favorite, though, was a view from Eastchester Bay of the waterfront from 1st Street to Fordham (circa 1913). We believe one of the Structures pictured there is our own home before the second story was added and the wide water views were squeezed out by the new construction.

For those of our readers who may be interested in this sort of thing but who do not have (or want) access to the Web, we would like to recommend a trip to the City Island Nautical Museum on Fordham Street. If you can’t find that vintage postcard you’ve been looking for, we applaud the British people for making the hedgehog population from an un- sly fate along their own busy highways, are thinking about digging small tunnels for small animals which suddenly feel the need to get to the other side. When this happens, it is not uncommon to see woodpeckers, for instance, or blue jays that go “caw caw.” As always, we can be contacted at jdsstrat@earthlink.net.
Cormac McCenery, Esq.

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

A fond farewell to the Laurels’ Dr. Ellen Dieterfeld, Georg Weyand and their son Christoph who have relocated to St. Louis, Missouri. They will be missed by their many fans here on the Island and their extended Bronx Zoo “family.”

Congratulations to our Aunt Jennifer Sortino and Uncle Louis Marrone on their Nov. 21, 2003 marriage. All our love, Angela and Dominick Accella and Peter O’Keeffe Jr.

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

Congratulations to Dan Treiber and the success of the Crafty Records.net Acoustic Invasion Tour starring Brook Prideimore and Chris Martin. They completed 18 shows in 17 days between New York and Chicago.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Pell Place’s Barbara Stiene, who will celebrate her big day on March 31.

Congratulations to former Reynolds Street resident Melissa (Koller) and her husband Edward Byrnes on the Feb. 6 birth of their son, Ryan Joseph. The happy family resides in Lausanne, Switzerland. Proud grandparents are Cheryl and Frank Koller of Reynolds Street. Thrilled great-grandparents are Frank and Margaret Koller of King Avenue and Myra Martin of Minneford Avenue.

Happy March 15 birthday wishes on March 7 to our beautiful triplets, James, Jesee and Jenee. Love, Granpa Gene and Gramma Maryann.

Happy March 15 birthday greetings to Granpa Gene with love from Maryann, Jadee, Mike and, of course, your three grandchildren, James, Jesee and Jenee. Happy birthday to Judy McCormick on the 18th of March from the “doghouse” and Maryann, Eugene, Karen, Tina, Katie, Gerald and all.

It’s been a busy six months for Minneford Avenue resident Jill Klopfner Luderman. First, Jill was married on Aug. 22, 2003, to Scott Luderman, a graduate of the SUNY Maritime Academy at Fort Schuyler in the Bronx. Since then Jill has completed her studies in Equine Science at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. She did an internship at the Pelham Bit Stables and is now a trainer and instructor there and at Making Strides Stables in Cortlandt, New York. Many Islanders also know Jill from her years of working Sundays at the City Island Diner. Her proud parents are Pell Place’s Joanie and Peter Klopfner.

Maria Swieciki

On Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004, City Island Girl Scouts held their annual Sweetheart Dance at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club.

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