STORM OF THE SUMMER!

Police Step Up Efforts to Control Motorcyclists and Summer Traffic

By KAREN NANI

A joint effort by the City Island Civic Association, local elected officials and the New York City Police Department resulted in a significant increase in police presence on City Island this past summer. Officers from the 45th Precinct set up cones and kept the fire lane clear from the bridge to the end of City Island Avenue (shown above) almost every weekend and issued summonses to drivers and motorcyclists for speeding.

For the first time in many years, a consistent weekday and weekend effort has been mounted by police from the 45th Precinct to control the increasing traffic and noise on City Island Avenue during the 2009 summer months. By most accounts, the effort appears to be making headway to keep the fire lanes clear and traffic moving in a safer manner.

A joint effort by the City Island Civic Association, local elected officials, and the New York City Police Department resulted in a significant increase in police presence on City Island this past summer. The effort began at the September 2008 monthly meeting, when the new board of the Civic Association established several new committees. One was specifically dedicated to addressing traffic issues.

The committee members, led by chairperson Paul Nani, began attending the monthly Community Council meetings at the 45th Precinct to voice concerns over the ever-increasing volume of traffic and violations, including driving in the fire lane, speeding and loud motorcycles.

Concerns about blatant disregard of traffic laws by motorcyclists grew when some Islanders discovered a rap music video on YouTube in which motorcyclists actually filmed themselves riding in the fire lane on City Island Avenue. Islander Tom Smith noticed the alarming increase in traffic to speed toward the bridge. Then cars started doing it. I’m talking about automobiles essentially playing chicken with oncoming cars. At times you had three lanes of traffic going to the City Island Bridge. Someone is going to die in a head-on collision on that road soon, if that situation is not brought under control,” he reported to the traffic committee.

Finally, by the third week in July, Capt. Capote Roundhousers of the 45th Precinct and his community affairs officers were ready to discuss different options, and the solution came with the assistance of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., State Senator Jeff Klein, Councilman Jimmy Vacca, Community Board 10 District Manager Ken Keatts and the Bronx Borough Commander’s office of the NYPD.

The solution was manpower reallocation. Responsibilities for patrolling Orchard Beach and Pelham Bay Park were reassigned. As a result, the 45th Precinct was able to dedicate more resources to City Island on summer weekends, as they usually do for heavy traffic days such as Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day.

Police set up cones in the entire length of the fire lane on weekends and also increased their presence during weekdays. They increased the number of DEI (driving under the influence) checkpoints on weekends, stopping all vehicles leaving the island late at night. In addition, traffic agents patrolled all the streets and avenues, ticketing illegally parked vehicles (including commercial vehicles, which are not allowed to park overnight on any street on the Island) and issuing summonses for expired registrations and inspections.

Islanders cheered on Friday, August 14, when six officers working from two police vans on the bridge, pulled over about a dozen motorcyclists who were riding onto City Island in the fire lane. “The cops were checking their papers and their riders, and they appeared to be issuing summonses. We smiled and clapped for those cops. Bravo to the 45th,” Jane Protzman told The Current.

Other residents have expressed appreciation to the officers who are on patrol. One officer assigned to the Island said that “passersby were stopping as they walked along the avenue to thank him for being there.”

Many summonses have been issued since the increased police presence. One officer said he had written at least six tickets in two days for various driving offenses. He pointed out that some of the people who received the tickets for speeding and fire lane violations were City Islanders, an inevitable outcome of the increased patrols. Police officers often find that some Island residents believe they should be excused for double parking, speeding and other offenses because they live here.

Islanders who are the recipients of these tickets may not be pleased with the increased police presence. Some told The Current that the effort has to be more

Continued on page 14

ISLAND HEROES

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK

Although the wind was pretty strong around 4 p.m. on Friday, July 31, a number of residents of Buckley and Marine Streets were down on their beaches enjoying the summer afternoon when they heard the cries of a man who had fallen out of his fishing boat. At least two of the women on the beach called 911 when they realized the man was in trouble, and a couple of neighbors sprang into action, since they realized that it would take time for help to get to the spot.

John Tomsen, with the help of his wife, Tracy, and his neighbor Richard Dillon, lowered John’s dinghy into the water, and he immediately started rowing out to the man, who was clinging desperately to his sinking boat. Bill Hraska started to swim out, but the wind was strong and the man was a few hundred yards away.

The drowning man was quite hefty, so John did not attempt to pull him into the boat but instead told him to hold onto the side so that he could be hauled back to shore. According to Tracy Tomsen, John kept the man calm by talking to him constantly and he remained conscious the whole way back.

While this rescue was taking place, the...
BRIEFLY...

SELF-PORTRAIT: The Focal Point Gallery’s 35th Anniversary Show, “Self Portrait,” will open at the gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, on Sept. 11, with a big party at 7 p.m. Be sure to come and look at all the self-portraits or images by artists that reflect their stories. For more information, call 718-885-1403 Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

GRACE CHURCH’S BOLTON WINDOW will be the subject of a lecture to be given by David Fraser, Senior Conservator at the Brooklyn Stained Glass Conservation Center, on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 12 noon. The lecture will be followed by a Champagne brunch.

Everyone is welcome! RSVP to the Parish Office at 718-885-1080.

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP, sponsored by the American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy, has helped to improve the quality of the coastline and oceans by using recorded data, collected by volunteers, to impact legislation (such as the recent water bottle bill). Volunteers are needed to remove and record the amount and types of marine debris found on the coastline by the City Island Bridge on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will meet at 9 on the City Island side of the bridge. For more information, call 718-885-1891 or 914-882-9578.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2009 TRIATHLON will take place at Orchard Beach on Sunday, Sept. 20. There will be a swimming, running and bicycle phases, and there will undoubtedly be traffic blocks on the Hutchinson River Parkway and on the roads leading to and from Orchard Beach. For more information about times and registration, call 914-837-2996. All proceeds will benefit the FDNY Tri team and the Achilles Freedom Team.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during July and August 2009. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list nor are complaints for crime occurring on the mainland.

July and August

1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
2 – ASSAULT
1 – BURGLARY
2 – DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
1 – GRAND LARCENY (AUTO)
2 – GRAND LARCENY
1 – LEAVING THE SCENE/PROPERTY DAMAGE
1 – CRIMINAL TRESPASSING
1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police report the following incidents for the period from July 1 to August 13, 2009:

7/1 – At Tier Street and King Avenue, police report the assault of a non-Islander by an unknown group of three males who fled the scene on foot.
7/1 – Police from the 45th Precinct are investigating the theft and use of a credit card by a resident of Minnehaha Avenue.
7/1 – Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., a commercial establishment on Hunter Avenue was broken into and property removed without the permission of the owners.
7/11 – On Schofield Street at 7:30 a.m., a complainant described a case of criminal trespassing. A perpetrator on a ladder at the rear of a building climbed onto a window sill of a building without permission.
7/17 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 24, and charged him with DWI in front of 450 City Island Avenue at 2:30 a.m.
7/17 – At 9:50 p.m. at Bridge Street and City Island Avenue, an off-Island male, 46, was arrested and charged with DWI.
7/22 – Police are investigating a grand larceny auto on William Avenue and Schofield Street. The owner of the vehicle parked a car and returned at 7 a.m. to find it missing.
8/7 – A perpetrator allegedly removed items from the backyard of a residence on Rochelle Street without permission of the owner at 8:30 p.m.
8/10 – On City Island Avenue at 11 p.m., a restaurant patron’s purse was stolen including credit cards.

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The City Island Chamber of Commerce Invites You to Attend Our 99th Annual Awards Dinner Dance

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Laury Hopkins
Tom Cerretta Accomplished Business Service Award

Michael Stanley
Catherine Scott Achievement Award

Mike O’Connor 45th Precinct
Exemplary Community Service Award

Yolanda Cirulli
Service to the Community Award

Ralph Manfredonia Ladder 53 & John Tomson
Violet Award
Island Resident Honored

Diane Fesko, resident of City Island, along with three other associates from Montefiore Medical Center, recently received the 27th annual President’s Award. Montefiore’s most prestigious distinction, which honors associates who continuously exemplify Montefiore excellence. The honorees are nominated by colleagues, patients or visitors who wish to recognize their exemplary performance.

Ms. Fesko, who is director of Operations for Professional Services, has been an associate for 20 years, advancing from a clerical position to director. Her colleagues cited her for thinking “outside the box” and developing creative solutions to the intricacies of revenue cycle processes. Her coworkers say she treats everyone she works with in the billing process as a customer, including interactions that make people know how valued they are. Although she works in a finance department, she always reminds her team that everything they do is all about the patients.

Island Heroes

Continued from page 1

and learned to swim here. He made his way down to the beach, stripped off his outer gear and swam out about 50 yards. He then turned back to the man who had rented his boat from Jack’s Bait and pulled the victim ashore. The victim was transported to Jacobi Hospital and pronounced in stable condition.

The man had rented his boat from Jack’s Bait & Tackle to enjoy his newfound enthusiasm for fishing; Jack’s Bait & Tackle had world-class sportfishing in his area, and they all deserve to be praised for their exemplary work.

Now that would certainly have been news, but by a mile away from the Buckley Street! The good news is that the man was very grateful indeed to the men who had saved his life.

An unfortunate side to the story occurred on Aug. 1, when the New York Post published a story that had a lot of the details wrong and failed to acknowledge the role played by John Tomsen and the other neighbors. The Bronx Times set the record straight in its Aug. 13 issue, and several Islanders who witnessed the rescue spoke or sent letters to The Current. None of the papers, however, made a claim as dramatic as the Daily News, which reported that Ralph Mantredonia had stripped to his underwear and leapt into the East River.

One of City Island’s great treasures can be found over the altar at Grace Episcopal Church, where it has been gleaming since it was installed, about 1862, by John Bolton (1818–98), whose family had founded the church in 1849. This treasure, formally known as “The Trial of Christ,” is considered by experts to be an exceptional piece of American stained-glass history.

As David Fraser of the Brooklyn Stained Glass Conservation Center states: “The Boltons are recognized as being the first designers and fabricators of stained glass in America, and each of the windows produced by the family are important pieces of the early Gothic Revival movement.”

Some City Island residents are aware of the fact that the Bolton family founded Christ Church on Shore Road in Pelham and that Grace Church was established by Adele Bolton, who was rowed to City Island on Sundays to hold services for Island residents. But many are unaware of the fact that the Boltons began making stained-glass windows well before Louis Comfort Tiffany, America’s most famous designer of stained glass, was even born.

Grace’s window is based on a design that was fabricated in 1844–48 by William J. Bolton (1816–84) for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn Heights. The composition, colors and lead lines in both windows are very similar, but the figures are different, one of them possibly a self-portrait of John.

William Bolton, assisted by John, had a studio in Pelham where they produced windows for a number of churches that are now landmarks: the Church of the Holy Apostles at Ninth Avenue and 28th Street, St. Ann and Holy Trinity in Brooklyn and Christ Church in Pelham, which boasts their first major work, a large stained-glass window depicting the Adoration of the Magi. The Boltons produced more than 7,000 square feet of stained glass for Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn, an astounding collection that was painstakingly restored with the support of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. William Bolton’s organ loft window from Holy Trinity is on permanent exhibition in the American Wing of the Metropoli- tan Museum of Art.

The Bolton brothers were born and raised in England, the sons of Robert Bolton, who founded Christ Church in Pelham in 1844. All five Bolton brothers became Episcopal priests, but William and John were best known for their work in stained glass. As part of Grace Church’s celebration of its 160th anniversary on City Island, David Fraser will be giving a talk at the church about the Bolton window, to be followed by a Champagne brunch. He will discuss in detail the Bolton stained-glass history and legacy, as well as the restoration of the window, a major project on which Grace plans to embark in the future.
residents will extend a hand and tell John how proud they are to have him as a neighbor. I know that I am proud to have him as a football, a baseball coach and a friend, and I would be glad to call him a hero.

Daniele Calbo

A Grateful Island Family

To the Editor:

Just a note of thanks to all who participated in the fund raiser and the 50/50 raffle that was held in our honor. It is truly amazing to witness the outpouring of support, friendship and camaraderie that comes from this Island when times are tough. I would like to thank everyone individually, but that would be hard to do with 1,000 tickets sold. Bob and Mary Jane are on the top of the list because they organized everything. Great job and even greater friends. Mary Jane’s helpers (Maureen, Teresa, Angela, Roe, Lucy, Regina and Marguerite) did everything they could to get them all sold. The Legion (Jimmie, Tommy, Bob and Joe) has been wonderful as well. The use of the hall and the drinks and food were good and plenty. Pepe and John brought everyone to their feet and were very entertaining.

Lastly, a big thank you to Lauren and Sam Chernin. They got the winning ticket and graciously threw their winnings back in the pot. How selfless and kind of them! Many of you here on the Island and over the bridge. Good job to both of you and another, and we are grateful and humbled by the goodness shown to us.

Monica, Steve and Steven Schnitz
P.S. to our anonymous friend: thank you again, for your generosity. You are still a mystery!

Setting the Record Straight

To the Editor:

Just finished reading the article that ran in the New York Post last week. It covered an incident in which the police chased a man into the water and did not swim to save him. I have been a detective for 25 years and I would like to set the record straight.

The truth is that without John’s quick thinking and rescue, this man in our community, and he deserves some recognition.

I know that I am proud to have him as a neighbor. I know that I am proud to have him as a football, a baseball coach and a friend, and I would be glad to call him a hero.

To the Editor:

I see that you are printing a story about the rescue of a man out of the water and did not swim to save him. I was attempting to swim out to save the man, but was ultimately stopped by the National Transportation Safety Board. The man was ultimately rescued by the Fire Department of New York and the Coast Guard.

John Devlin, Eagle Scout Candidate

An Even More Grateful Resident

To the Editor:

Although Mr. Rendino is to be commended for noting, in his letter published in the summer issue of The Current, that City Island deserves to keep its Ladder Company 53, I respectfully disagree with his giving credit to Mayor Bloomberg for the decision to restore this and other fire companies throughout the city. The Mayor and the Fire Commissioner, Nicholas Scoppetta, fought against us from the moment Council Member James Vacca began to protest the decision to cut Ladder Company service when it was announced last year. We held protests, wrote letters, attended hearings and press conferences, and the Mayor and Fire Commissioner refused to listen to them until the last moment.

As a personal note, I am still awaiting a call from Mayor Bloomberg to the emails I sent him on June 1st and June 11th. To date, I have had no reply from him or anyone on his staff.

Helen Anderson

Searching for Graduates

To the Editor:

Planning is in progress for a reunion in June 2010 for the 1956 classes of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and P.S. 17. The following is a list of those we need contact information for:


P.S. 17: Allen Benoit, David Bloumgard, Robert Boder, Iris Ray, Martin Frank, Mark Hauptner, George A. Maz, Cary Nadel, Jon Smith and Julian Murphy.

If you have any information about those listed above or want more details about the reunion, contact Diana Nye Murphy at Marcotte Street, North Fond du Lac, WI 54937 at 920-926-9769 or donna1956@gmail.com.

Diana Nye Murphy

Please Consider Ferry Service

A copy of the following letter, which appeared in the New York Post earlier this year, was received by the Current:

To the Honorable Olivier Kippel and James Vaccam, Members of the City Council, and staff from the New York City Department of Transportation and the New York City Economic Development Corporation:

Ferry Community Board 10 (CB 10) would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing the Bronx Community with an opportunity to comment on planned ferry service for our borough.

We represent the northeast Bronx communities of Pelham Bay, Throgs Neck, City Island, Country Club, Co-op City, Zerega and Westchester Square. Many of our communities enjoy immediate access to Eastchester Bay, Long Island Sound and the East River, and both the proposed sites in the Bronx—Ferry Point Park and Orchard Beach—are located within CB 10.

The Comprehensive Coastal Ferry Study has identified two sites within the Board’s service area, Orchard Beach and Ferry Point Park. The choice of these two sites was made because both sites offer parking and are close to the Hutchinson River Parkway and the New England Thru-Way. While these choices are logical, in that they provide commuters with easy access to parking, CB 10 requests that you consider alternative sites, which serve large populations and offer existing infrastructure to accommodate the ferry service.

Co-op City. There are 5,000 residents living in the State’s largest housing cooperative. It is situated along the banks of the Hutchinson River, which provides ready access to Eastchester Bay and the East River. Many of Co-op City’s residents use a network of buses to connect to the IRT #2, #5 and #6 trains or use ex-

press bus service to reach Manhattan’s central business and civic districts. During rush hour in the mornings and the evenings, the buses are quite crowded, which only adds to the already crowded nature of the IRT trains going into Manhattan. Commuters not wishing to ride mass transit options will often use their private automobiles, which add to the congestion and air pollution problems of the Island. The community would benefit from ferry service, in that its existing mass transit links to Manhattan are limited. If parking could be found at Orchard Beach, the Board believes that ferry service would be attractive to City Island residents.

Throgs Neck. The SUNY Maritime College offers anchorages for two sea going vessels and could easily accommodate ferries. Additionally, the college offers a park- ing lot for the commuters to reach the ferries.

Westchester Creek. This canal-like body of water could easily accommodate ferry service. It is situated just off of East Tremont Avenue and is a short distance from the Westchester Square business district. This community’s access to transportation alternatives to Manhattan is limited to buses providing connecting service to the IRT #6 train at the end of the most overcrowded train on the system.

Ferries make so much sense from an environmental, health and economic perspective that CB 10 welcomes the prospects of the ferries serving our communities. Given that these ferries will be primarily serving commuters traveling between the Bronx and Manhattan, the Board believes they could also have an economic benefit to the communities of the Bronx. Reverse commuters, tourists and non-residents are also likely to use these ferries, which would readily simplify the efforts of the many restaurants and attractions that our borough offers, without the need for additional infrastructure.

CB 10 requests that the offices give serious consideration to our suggested sites and also asks that serious consideration be given to improving mass transit links or establishing a dedicated ferry service to each of the ferry sites so that the ferry would be available to the non-driving public. In considering ferry service at Ferry Point Park and Orchard Beach, please be aware of the sensitive nature of these parks sites and respect their beauty surroundings.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Diane E. Lock, Chair
Kenneth Kearns, District Manager
Bronx Community Board #10

The Island Current September 2009
The summer of 2009 may have been one of the rainiest on record, but many fun-filled events occurred in spite of the weather. The Blessing of the Fleet set sail on June 28 and the annual fireworks display “The Bronx salutes America” lit up the sky on July 1 (top photos). The blessing was sponsored by the City Island Power squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post #156, while the fireworks were compliments of state senator Jeff Klein. Boating activity continued throughout the summer at full speed (even passing mounted police on Orchard Beach!), but some boats took on a little too much water (see bottom photos).

**Bartow Pell Events**

Start Labor Day weekend with an evening of culture and fun, taking the First Friday (Sept. 4) Bronx Seaside Trolley from Pelham Bay to Bartow-Pell Mansion. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. tour the mansion, preview an exhibition of exquisite early 19th-century botanical illustrations from our Library Collection, enjoy classical music for flute and harp and enjoy some light refreshments. The free trolley makes a continuous loop from Pelham Bay Park #6 subway station to Bartow-Pell to City Island.


Enjoy our Historic House Festival Lecture “The Invisible Irish” on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 4 p.m. If someone asked Maria Bartow in 1860 who lived in her house, she would have answered her husband and three children. But six other people also lived there. They cooked and cleaned and yet were almost invisible to Maria and others of her class. Who were they? Doug Hearle discusses the Bartow household staff—all from a country suffering from famine and more. Lecture is free with museum admission. Reservation requested. Admission $5 adults, $3 seniors and children 6–17.

Travel back in time on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. and enjoy a “base ball match” between the New York Mutuals and the NY Knickerbockers. Both teams play by authentic 1864 rules using replica balls, bats and uniforms—but no helmets or gloves! After the game, kids get to join in the fun with a game of rounders with team members, plus free house tours and a raffle for the game ball. Reservation requested. Admission $15 adults, $5 children 6–17; members: $10 adults, $3 children 6–17.

On Sunday, Sept. 20, at noon, join us in celebration of our Native American Festival day by attending “Pocahontas: An Algonquin Icon,” a fascinating multimedia talk on Pocahontas. Artist, author and scholar Nadema Agard discusses this important historical figure from an Algonquin traditional worldview. Appropriate for both children and adults. Reservation requested. Admission $5 adults, $3 seniors and children 6–17.

Garden Clean-Up Volunteer Day will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. Help us keep the gardens and grounds of Bartow-Pell beautiful by rolling up your sleeves and digging in. A light breakfast will be available. Bring gloves and wear sturdy footwear, long sleeves and pants. Reservation requested. Rain date Sunday, Sept. 27.

Reservations are requested for most events; call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmm.org.

**SUMMER SCENES**

Photos by RICK DWORIT and KAREN MAN

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Adult Programs

Basic computer instruction: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Given in English, Spanish and Albanian.

NEW! Resume writing workshop: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Children’s Activities

Picture Book Program: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

Special Event: Ecological Workshop for parents and children, Saturday, Sept. 12, at 12 noon.

Young Adult Programs

Graphic Novel Rewrite: Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Manga Overdrive: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Yu-Gi-Oh: Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Time Game On: Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Special Event: Hip Hop Music and Dance Street Style, Friday, Sept. 18.

We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

As fall arrives, there’s a lot to hear and see at Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779): Friday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m., Duelin’ Daos (Pleasant Bud & Jody, PB&J versus Deuces Child); Saturday, Sept. 5, 8 p.m., Kamikaze Karaoke with host “cousin” George Ongjio, where songs are selected at random and judges select prize winners and the first Kamikaze Crooner; Sunday, Sept. 6, 3 p.m., End of Summer BBQ & Musical Jam; Friday, Sept. 11, 8 p.m., 7th Wheel; Saturday, Sept. 12, 8 p.m., Port o’ Monkeys, with City Island’s own Dr. Chris Wertenbaker; Sunday, Sept. 13, 3 p.m., the YeYas; Friday, Sept. 18, 8 p.m., the Calypso Fay, featuring John Sheridan of City Island; Saturday, Sept. 19, 4 to 6 p.m., the Photographic Art of Madeline Wilson (of City Island); Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m., Donni Furry; Sunday, Sept. 20, 3 p.m., Theresa Sarro, “sweetheart of the Starving Artist”; Friday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m., “Take the Stage” Open Mike (songwriters, comedians, poets); Saturday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m., Nicola; Sunday, Sept. 27, 3 p.m., Kat Spina. For more information on these performers or to see the schedule beyond September, visit www.starvingartistonline.com/.

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.

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At The Library

If a puppeteer entertained children and their parents at the City Island branch library on Tuesday, Aug. 18, during the final session of the New York State Summer Reading Celebration, the theme of which was “Be Creative at Your Library.”

Sunday, October 4, 2009

(Rain or Shine)

10AM-3PM

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After graduating from law school, Sonia Sotomayor worked as a practical nurse to support Sonia and her brother Juan. Celina Sotomayor realized that the key to success was through education, so she sat beside her children every night at the kitchen table and they all studied together: she soon became a registered nurse, which her father, Juan Soto- mayor had to deal with. At the age of eight, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, which she still has to this day. She was also born, raised and educated in the Bronx. She attended Elementary, middle and high school in the neighborhood of the South Bronx. It is here that Geraldine Ferraro spent many of her formative years in New York. She was just eight years old, her father passed away unexpectedly. Unable to support her young family in upstate New York, Geraldine’s mother decided to sell the family home in Newburgh and relocate the family to the South Bronx. It is here that Geraldine graduated high school. She attended Marymount Manhattan College, Ferraro became a teacher and then she practiced law. In 1978 she ran successfully for Congress from New York City’s 9th District in Queens. On July 12, 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale tapped her to be his vice- presidential running mate. She was the first woman and the first Jewish woman to run as the major party’s vice presidential ticket in the United States, as well as the first Italian American. Her nomination at the 1984 Democratic National Convention was one of the most emotional moments of the gathering, and the historic occasion was one of the most viewed televised events at the time.

In her acceptance speech, Geraldine Ferraro said, “The daughter of an immigrant from Italy has been chosen to run for vice president in the new land my father came to love.” Convention attendees were in tears during the speech, not just for its significance for women but for all those who had immigrated to America. The ticket lost, but her candidacy forever reshaped the American political and social landscape. From 1993 until 1996, Geraldine Ferraro served as the Clinton administration as a United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

Rosalyn Sussman Yalow received the Nobel Prize, the highest rank ever held by a woman in the medical field. She was born in New York City in 1921, the daughter of a native Bronxite and long time resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City specializing in Bronx County. Comments are welcomed at BSShanley@optonline.net.

Note: Michael Shanley is a native Bronxite and long time resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City specializing in Bronx County. Comments are welcomed at BSShanley@optonline.net.
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 16th. Mail must be postmarked by the 20th. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar
SEPTEMBER
Sat., Sept. 12, Sunset Cruise, sponsored by Temple Beth-El, 6:30 p.m. sailing from 551 City Island Avenue.
Sat., Sept. 26, POTS Program, St. Mary’s Schoolyard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.
Tues., Sept. 29, City Island Civic Association meets, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

OCTOBER
Fri., Oct. 2, Sat., Oct. 3, 12 noon to 6 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 4, 12 noon to 5 p.m., Pumpkin Sale at the American Legion.
Sat., Oct. 24, Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, Lido Restaurant, City Island Avenue at Pilot Street.

High Holy Days Services Schedule
Rosh Hashana evenings: Friday, Sept. 18, and Saturday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m.
Rosh Hashana mornings: Saturday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 20, at 9:30 a.m.
Tashlich Service will take place at noon on Sundays (children invited).
Yom Kippur evening: Saturday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m. with Kol Nidre.
Yom Kippur day: Monday, Sept. 28, at 9:30 a.m. with the Rabbis’ sermon starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. and Yizkor near 10:45 a.m.
Yom Kippur closing service: Monday, Sept. 28, at 5:30 p.m.
Shabbat/Sukkot Celebration: Friday, Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat/Simchat Torah Celebration: Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Rabbi Shohama Wiener will lead the services with Cantor Elaine Faver’s assistance. For information, contact Mort or Violet Ellis at 718-885-2820.

Trinity Methodist Church
Our worship service and Sunday school (which will reopen on Sept. 13) begin at 10 a.m. Bring your children for Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We often have a coffee hour after the service. Please come and join us for worship and fellowship.
The Reverend Susan Chadwick will lead a 10-week Bible study on the Book of Genesis, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 2. All are welcome. The study will be held in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m.
The Budget Shop will be open on Sept. 15, 19 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A plea to all City Islanders. We are still in need of a volunteer to lead the Budget Shop behind the scenes. You do not need to be a member of Trinity. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 to volunteer. The Budget Shop is our main fund-raiser and we really need help. Please call Myra Martin at 718-885-1049 or Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241 to review the responsibilities of the behind-the-scenes leader. We will both be working with you to help out. A working crew has already been established but we need a leader.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar that our annual food sale will take place on Oct. 3. We will open our open shop on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the church.

The Bible study will meet this fall for five Sunday sessions in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (sharp), beginning on Sunday, Oct. 25, through Nov. 22.

This group will continue a previous study of the Apostle Paul’s New Testament Second Letter to the Corinthians to complete the study with chapters 8 through 13. The theme is: “Paul, Apostle for Open Hearts, Part II.” A subject-by-subject, verse-by-verse study of the text, with discussions and teachings will focus on the subject presented by the text.

George Cavalieri, Trinity’s Lay Leader/ Speaker, will be moderator. No registration is required and all materials are provided. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have attended previously. For further information, if needed, call Reverend Susan Chadwick at 718-885-1218.

Ellen G. Hebard

St. Mary, Star of the Sea
In early September, we bid good-bye to Father Alexander Boonmukwu, who has been with us for the months of July and August. He will return to his parish work as pastor of St. Matthias Parish in Nigeria. We wish him Godspeed.
St. Mary’s School will officially open on Tuesday, Sept. 8, when the faculty will gather for the opening Conference Day. Students will report on Wednesday, Sept. 9. We hope the year will be an enriching and challenging one for all.
St. Mary’s Thrift Shop will reopen on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Come and check out all the fall selections.
Our religious education program will begin on Thursday, Sept. 23, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and grades 4 through 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration for first-grade students and for others who are new to the program will take place after all the Masses on Sunday, Sept. 13, in the vestibule of the church. New students must bring a copy of their baptismal certificates. All former students should have registered by that time by mailing in the form or bringing it to the rectory. Only new students will be registered on Sept. 13.
On Saturday, Sept. 26, we will hold our annual outdoor Mass in St. Mary’s School yard. A light supper will follow the liturgy. This is always a festive occasion, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.
Our monthly holy hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 5 p.m.
St. Bernadette, osu

AARP Chapter #318
AARP Chapter #318 will hold the first meeting of the season on Sept. 3 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church on Bay Street. All are welcome and we look forward to recruiting new members. If you know people who are not members, invite them to join us at our first meeting.
We look forward to an exciting new year.
We have some interesting speakers coming to the meeting and will be planning some new trips.

Carmelia A. Ramfil

Garden Club News
We have been very busy this spring and summer, and there is a lot to tell you about and to show you. None of it would have been possible without the generosity of City Islanders, however, Your donations to our annual Beautification Drive have enabled us to accomplish a record number of projects this year, so we thank you, and we hope you enjoy the results of your contributions.
In addition to hiring a landscape gardener to help us with some of the projects, we have hired some maintenance people to keep the sites both watered and weeded and looking beautiful.
First, the American Legion Memorial Triangle (northeast side of City Island Avenue near the bridge) has been cleaned, weeded and planted with perennials to provide ongoing beauty to this spot.
Next, there was a very neglected garden at the beginning of the Catherine Scott Promenade (northwest side of City Island Avenue near the bridge), which we cleaned and replanted with perennials.
We also put some new plantings by the City Island Welcome Sign, which is further south on the Scott Promenade, and this should keep it looking lovely through all seasons.
The Brotherhood Tree at the southernmost part of the Promenade also received an extensive facelift.
The City Island Nautical Museum in the old B.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street received the most extensive upgrade. First we did a considerable amount of pruning and weeding, then we planted perennials along the fence and the walkways. We are delighted with the result and hope you will drop by to visit the Museum (now open Saturday and Sunday afternoons) and appreciate the beautiful grounds.
We continue to purchase planters for the corners along City Island Avenue in this joint project with the Quality of Life Committee of the City Island Civic Association, which undertakes the actual placing and plantings. They are a perfect uniting addition to the “village” area of City Island.

Although it is moving slowly, progress is being made with the refurbishing of Hawkins Park. We have not yet heard from the Parks Department when the project will be completed, but we hope it is before the fall foliage.
Along with these projects and the “good works” projects we undertake with Providence Rest Home and our annual Christmas wreath placements on public buildings on City Island, we have had a busy year.

Barbara Harrison Kaye

City Island Avenue
Photos by BARBARA HARRISON KAYE

City Island Nautical Museum
Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Call Mary Beth at 914-885-0790 to reserve your spot. Saturday: 2 p.m. Yoga: A beginner-to-intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Ashtanga yoga (flowing yoga). Also, chakras, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 914-400-6153.

**FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS**

Vilma’s Music Together: Music and movement for ages birth to 5 and adults that love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call Vilma at 718-541-3995 for more information. City Island Physical Therapy: Licensed physical therapist with private office space. For an appointment, call Janine Mantratzis at 917-577-1752.

**NEW CLASS**

Guitar Lessons: Beginner to intermediate, all ages and all styles. You have a passion for learning to play the guitar or just want to brush up on some skills and take it to the next level, I am passionate about taking on new students! I am a working pro with many years of real world experience and currently doing some tour dates. I will work with you to achieve your goals whether it’s the basics or learning to improvise! Learn while you are having fun! I am available for group or private lessons. Group lessons are $20 per student for 45 minutes (minimum 4 and maximum 6 students.) Individual lessons are $40 for 60 minutes. All students will need to bring an acoustic guitar for their lesson. Please call Dave at 914-400-6153.

**Weekly Schedule**

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

Irish Dance: Beginners and Intermediate. 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 201-679-9174 or visit citylandcommunitycenter.com.

**Adult Program**

Yoga with Vincenza: Yoga Instructor certified by Synergy Yoga Center of O’Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, accessible way. No previous experience necessary. 55 minutes per class or 60 minute. Beginners welcome. Please bring a yoga mat and water bottle. For more info please call 917-446-3640.

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beat of salsa. No partner necessary. $50 per month or per class. Fridays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nila at 917-680-8892.

**Belly Dancing:** Shimmy by the Sea: Theresa Mahon (aka Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a very old yet contemporary, personal expression for all who participate. Wednesdays after school.

**City Island**

**Legion News**

With the summer almost behind us, we look forward to the myriad fall activities of the Post. We will celebrate the 70th anniversary of senior citizen’s day on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the famous Lido Restaurant. Save the date. Details will be announced shortly.

The annual clam bake was held at the Post on Saturday Aug. 8. We were blessed with good weather for the festivities, which were catered by the World of Foods. Some of you might recall the debacle of the shrunken corned beef some years ago; the commandant decided not to take a chance on shrinking lobsters. Some 140 people attended the dinner, and John Hanlon and his band of renown provided the music. Comrade Joseph Goonan, SAL member James Livington and a committee of Post stalwarts labored to make the party a success. A special thanks to the of the Post at Pilot Street.

City Island Current

To close out the City Island Theater Group’s triumphant 10th anniversary season, the group is pleased to announce its Festival of One-Act Plays. CTIG is thrilled to present original and published comedies and dramas that are sure to be crowd-pleasers. The Festival will run for two weekends in October, and each weekend will feature a different set of plays!

The one-act plays that will be performed are:

- “Anything for You” by Cathy Cesalia
- “Canker Sores and Other Distractions” by Christopher Durang
- “Chocolate” by Fred Schonfeld
- “The Chocolate War” by Stephanie Alison Walker
- “DMY Tyrant” by Christopher Durang
- “The Mordd” by Alan Ball
- “The Man Who Couldn’t Dance” by Aviad Rahav
- “Salvation” by November R. Reed
- “State of Darkness” by Mike Folie
- “Post-Its (Notes on a Marriage)” by Paul Dooley and Winnie Holzman
- “Prince of De unde” by Dominique Gerson
- “Rosa’s Eulogy” by Richard Strand
- “Set for Life” by Islander Bob Mulroy
- “Unmade Bed” by CTIG board member Frank Sciallino
- “Variations on the Death of Trotsky” by David Ives

Don’t miss what sure are to be two memorable weekends of great theater! The perfor- mances are scheduled for October 16 and 17, and 21 and 22. Call 718-885-5066 or visit www.citylandtheatergroup.com to reserve your tickets! See you at the theater! Nick Sala

City Island Republican Club

We are happy to report that City Island Republican Club continues to grow with new members. We welcome anyone interested in of all the candidates on the ballot.

The City Island Republican Club will hold its next meeting on Monday, Sept. 7, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Post Office, 575 City Island Avenue.

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

The squadron will be sponsoring the first annual Vinnie Hecker Memorial Fishing Trip on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 8 a.m. The trip will be held on board Chris Cullen’s boat, “Shirazi.” The cost of the trip is $75. For those who want to fish at 4 p.m., a barbecue will follow back at the Post. The trip, including the barbecue, is $75, and the barbecue alone is $20.

Our next meeting will be held on Thurs- day, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m. at the Post. Just a reminder: 2009 dues are past due. If you have not paid, please do so as soon as possible since we will be collecting for 2010 in another month or so. As a member of a veteran who served during the American Legion’s set period of time at any age is eligible to join. The dues are $30, and for those over 80 years old. Anyone interested can call the Post at 718-885-0639 and ask for Fred, or just stop by. Our Post’s 90th anniversary celebration will kick off with a special members’ dinner on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Lido. Further details will follow soon. Sponsor-ships for tables are being accepted for $500.

Fred Ramflit, Jr.
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Timing Is Everything
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We Can Do It
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September 2009

Marcus, was “Madagascar.”

Mother Patty Alexander and Stephen year’s VBs, led by Pastor Sue Chadwick, Methodist Church. The theme of this held from June 29 to July 2 at Trinity annual ecumenical Vacation Bible school, enjoyed stories, games, crafts and the Children from City Island’s three churches

By JEAN DALTON and the REV. PATRICIA

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (2006). The first unforgettable film is made up solely of television news footage, movies the soldiers took themselves, and their words in letters saved by their loved ones. The second is the story of the battle between the United States and Imperial Japan in Iwo Jima during World War II, as told from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers there. This Clint Eastwood film was critically acclaimed and nominated for Academy Awards for best picture, director and screenplay.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (1988) and Letters from Iwo Jima (1984), Anna Winter (1988) and A Letter to Three Wives (1949), a World War II romantic comedy in which a soldier, Lt. William Seacroft (William Holden), comes home to meet the young woman, Ruth (Joan Caulfield), who, he believes, has been writing him letters. It turns out that her adolescent younger sister, Miriam (Mona Freeman), was actually writing the letters as part of the war effort, but she sent Ruth’s picture instead of her own. Letter-writing is also explored in two extraordinary powerful and moving dramas, Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (1988) and Letters from Iwo Jima (2006). The first unforgettable film is made up solely of television news footage, movies the soldiers took themselves, and their words in letters saved by their loved ones. The second is the story of the battle between the United States and Imperial Japan in Iwo Jima during World War II, as told from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers there. This Clint Eastwood film was critically acclaimed and nominated for Academy Awards for best picture, director and screenplay.

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Debra Granik and Steve McQueen’s familial drama, Winter (2004), stars Melissa Leo as a single mother, Merrie McGraw, who decides to pack up and move her children to her family’s old farm after the death of her husband. In doing so, she makes a new beginning, but one in which she is forced to confront the very past that she was trying to escape.

VBS SPELLS FUN!

Before E-Mail

Letter writing is an art that has been around for millennia. Two classics from the 1940s are about “pen pals.” The Shop Around the Corner (1940) stars James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan as two people anonymously writing letters to each other through a post office box, when one responds to an ad placed by the other and they, unknowingly, start working in the same small department store. This film was remake in 1949 as In the Good Old Summertime with Judy Garland and Van Johnson in the same roles, except that this time, it was a music shop, which provided a wonderful excuse to have Judy sing. These are charming, feel-good films.

The oldest of the classic films in this category is a perfect example of film noir. The Letter (1940) stars Bette Davis as Leslie, a woman who lives with her husband (Herbert Marshall) on a rubber plantation in Singapore. The film begins when Leslie murders a man, ostensibly in self-defense. Leslie thinks she has gotten away with it, but the man’s widow (Gale Sondergaard), a exotic Eurasian woman, has an incriminating letter. The film is shot in exquisite black and white, with exceptional use of light, shadows and the full moon, enhanced by an eerily dramatic musical score by Max Steiner.

Another example of a letter that makes several people unhappy occurs in A Letter to Three Wives (1949). Three friends, Deborah (Jeanne Crain), Lena Mae (Linda Darnell) and Rita (Ann Sothern), all receive a letter from a mutual acquaintance who writes that she has run off with one of their husbands. Over the course of the film, we learn each woman’s marital history, as we try to guess who will be left alone at the end.

In Love Letters (1984), Anna Winter (Jamie Lee Curtis), an up-and-coming radio celebrity, discovers her dead mother’s letters, which reveal she had been having an affair. Anna herself embarks on an affair with Oliver (James Caan), a married man who will never leave his wife. This is a character study in which Anna struggles to reconcile her feelings about her own behavior as well as her mother’s.

A movie with a similar title is the 1999 version of The Love Letter, which has a charming ensemble cast. Set in a New England village, Helen (Kate Capshaw) runs the town book store, Janet (Ellen DeGeneres) is her bookkeeper; Lillian (Blythe Danner) is Helen’s mother, and George (Tom Selleck) is the town firefighter. Someone writes a love letter to “Dearest,” which mistakenly goes from person to person, enabling each cast member to let his or her fantasies run wild. The identity of the one who actually wrote the letter turns out to be an unexpected delight.

Letters cross back and forth across the “pond” in 84 Charing Cross Road (1987). Set right after World War II, this is the story of Helene (Anne Bancroft), an American woman who loves to read and starts ordering inexpensive books from a British bookstore managed by Frank (Anthony Hopkins), who is married to Nora (Dudi Dench). The correspondence between Helene and Frank makes up the entire bitter-sweet film.

In a more comedic endeavor, Dear God (1996) stars Greg Kinnear as Tom Turner, a con man who deals with the boredom of working in a postal dead letter office by reading mail sent to God, Santa and Elvis. When Tom decides to answer a letter, his co-workers Rebecca (Laura Metcalf), Herman (Tim Conway) and Vladek (Hector Elizondo) are swept up into answering some prayers.

A not-so-well-known classic is Dear Ruth (1947), a World War II romantic comedy in which a soldier, Lt. William Seacroft (William Holden), comes home to meet the young woman, Ruth (Joan Caulfield), who, he believes, has been writing him letters. It turns out that her adolescent younger sister, Miriam (Mona Freeman), was actually writing the letters as part of the war effort, but she sent Ruth’s picture instead of her own. Letter-writing is also explored in two extraordinarily powerful and moving dramas, Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam (1988) and Letters from Iwo Jima (2006). The first unforgettable film is made up solely of television news footage, movies the soldiers took themselves, and their words in letters saved by their loved ones. The second is the story of the battle between the United States and Imperial Japan in Iwo Jima during World War II, as told from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers there. This Clint Eastwood film was critically acclaimed and nominated for Academy Awards for best picture, director and screenplay.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

Molly Schroeder, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist Cognitive/Behavioral Psychotherapy (914) 632-3013 office in New Rochelle www.westchestertherapy.com

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And until next time, happy viewing. . . .
Margaret Treanor
Margaret Treanor passed away on June 21, 2009, at the age of 97 after a short illness. Born in Ireland, she was a resident of City Island for more than 30 years.

She was the wife of the late Patrick Treanor and mother of William Treanor, also of City Island, and of Kathleen Tashner and Mary Martingale, who survive her.

Margaret's greatest pleasure in recent years was being a loving grandmother to five children and great-grandmother to six.

Marjorie DeCandido
Marjorie DeCandido, a lifelong resident of City Island, passed away on June 26, 2009, at the age of 86.

Margie was born on April 1, 1923, and attended St. Mary, Star of the Sea School and Walton High School.

Wearing her familiar visor, she was well known on City Island. She would regularly walk from her house near Bowney Street to the Morris Yacht Club to play cards with her friends, Flo, Joan, Ethel and Ellen, and then walk back home. She would also go to the Lina Petite beauty parlor to see Lina and get her hair done.

Margie was predeceased by her husband, Murray, and her son, “Bro.” She is survived by her daughter, Vicky Koller and her son-in-law, Steve Koller; her daughter-in-law, Louise DeCandido; four grandchildren; four great-granddaughters, and two great-grandsons.

Ann Domidion
Former Islander Ann Domidion passed away on July 12, 2009, in Clearwater, Florida.

Ann had grown up and lived with her parents, sisters and brother for many years at 96 Reynolds Street. She graduated from P.S. 17 around 1937, according to her friend Doris Klein Lechko.

She became a teacher and taught for several years overseas in Indonesia and other countries.

For further information about Ann, write to William Borgersen at Borgersen, Low & Associates, 2530 West Bay Drive, Largo, Florida 33770.

Georgene Collins Hannon
Georgene Collins Hannon, who was born and brought up on City Island, died at her home in New Bern, N.C. on Aug. 7, 2009. She was 79.

After graduating from Hunter College, Georgene Collins moved to Washington, D.C., where she met and married her husband, Stuart L. Hannon. They moved to New Bern in 1982 and enjoyed extensive travel. Mrs. Hannon became a member of the New Bern Planning Board, the Craven Arts Council, Public Radio East, the English Speaking Union and the Scottish Heritage Society.

Predeceased by her husband, Mrs. Hannon is survived by her sister, Ruth Collins of City Island, and many friends and cousins.

Obituaries
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By JOHN SHERIDAN and MARIA SUTHERLAND

odds and ends

For this month's column, we play a bit of catch-up. That is, some of the loose ends that have been brought to our attention since we began reprinting the old New York Times article about City Island are herein addressed.

A few months ago, we wrote about the connection between City Island and the Lindbergh kidnapping case. We wrote then about Jenny Barton—who was "the capable young office assistant to" Jafsie, the go-between for Lindbergh and the kidnapper—and her shop on City Island Avenue, but we could not be certain of its location. Well, a number of readers have confirmed what we believed: that Ms. Barton's place was indeed the old pizza place near the northwest corner of City Island Avenue and Fordham Street.

A few more months ago, we wrote about the mysterious swirling in the water between Fordham Street and Tier Street. We wrote then that while our best guess was seals, we couldn't be sure. Since then, there have been numerous dolphin sightings in Long Island Sound, as well as news reports of whales in and around New York City. For example, the New York Post reported in September of '08 that hundreds of right whales, fin whales and humpback whales either commute or make their home near the city. Moreover, in February a sperm whale calf washed up on the beach at Breezy Point and then died. So, who knows, maybe those swirls really were whales, after all, as Ken continues to maintain.

Jordan from Hawkins Street has officially served notice on the snapper population of Eastchester Bay. He caught his first fish ever on his second cast! Next, he proceeded to show the adults around him how to catch fish without casting. In all, Jordan caught ten snappers in about half an hour. And, finally, because he is a little boy with a big heart, Jordan let his fish go.

Those readers interested in greening the planet should consider learning to sail this fall. Some of the best sailing of the year will take place this September and October. Imagine getting from here to there without fossil fuels.

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If you have a tidbit you’d like to bring to our attention, you can do so at jdsstrat@msn.com. Or if the USPS is your speed, we can be reached c/o The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, Bronx NY 10464.

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consistent and that motorcyclists were still speeding after 2 a.m. when the police activity tailed off for the evening.

At a meeting held in July at Councilman Jimmy Vacca’s office with the Civic Association and the police department, all agreed that this effort has provided a substantial improvement in the summer traffic situation. They agreed to monitor the plan in place and then meet again after the summer to assess the actions taken and determine if any improvements can be made to the plan for next summer.

If you have an opinion about the increased police activity, voice it at the next Civic Association meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center or send a message to the traffic committee on the association’s website www.cicivic.org. You can also send an e-mail to the 45th Precinct at cao45pct@aol.com.

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AMERICAN LEGION played Jack's Bait Tin McGonaghy, for arranging all these fun events. The talented All Star team played a nail-bring game, and the team is captivated by Gina DiMarco in the above photograph. In addition to all the ceremonies, there was a circus-like atmosphere in that there was a moonwalk and pony rides for the community to enjoy, cotton candy galore, tasty hot dogs and refreshing drinks courtesy of City Island Little League. Thank you, Kristin McGonigey, for arranging all those fun activities!

Sanny’s Fish box, managed by Larry Saulnier, got two wins in the month of June. On this team there was great pitching with 13 home runs followed by Nick Bellocchio with 6, Danny Pirraglia with 3, Michael Bellocchio with 1. Congratulations to our esteemed Slugger report from this past season was as follows: Nicholas Connolly led the way with 13 home runs followed by Nick Bellocchio with 6, Danny Pirraglia with 3, Chris DiMarco with 1 and Dylan Bernard with 1. Congratulations to our esteemed sluggers! Of course, they are all trying to beat the record of the famous Island Bob Pirraglia, who powered 15 home runs in 2008. On a final note, a tremendous thank you to all our hard-working coaches and volunteers in our concession stand who dedicated their time and attention to our youth throughout this past season!
Sally Page Connolly
Belated 50th birthday greetings across the miles to Georg Weyand, who celebrated his big day on Aug. 4.

Happy birthday on Sept. 12 to Bay Street residents Jean Anderson, Ben DiGregorio and Bob Swiecki.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street’s Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who will celebrate 61 years of marriage on Sept. 5.

Happy 23rd birthday wishes across the miles to Stephen Swiecki, who celebrates his big day on Sept. 2.

Happy 26th anniversary greetings to Marine Street’s Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who will toast each other on Sept. 11.

Happy birthday to Pilot Cove’s Ulla Brennen, who will celebrate her 70th birthday on Sept. 14, with love from her children and grandchildren.

Happy birthday wishes to Minneford Avenue’s Tina Ruggiero on Sept. 28, with love from your family and friends.

Very special birthday greetings to the Sailmaker’s Ann McGuire, who turns 80 on Sept. 5.

Happy Sweet 16 birthday wishes to our beautiful Marissa Ferris, who will celebrate her big day on Sept. 16. We hope all your birthday wishes come true this year and for all the years to come. You are the best daughter anyone could hope for and we love you very much. Mom, Joey, Jake and your family.

Happy birthday across the miles to my sister Marissa, who is turning Sweet 16 on Sept. 8. Have a great birthday and we will celebrate together when I’m home on leave from Japan in December. I love you and miss you, Richie.

Spendy recovery wishes to several Islanders and special off-Islanders, who have recently taken ill, including our Community Affairs Police Officer Mike O’Connor, Bob McKenna and Keith Manfredonia.

Happy September birthday to Mike Rauh. He’s in training for his 32nd consecutive NYC Marathon. Go, Mike!!

Maria Swiecki

The weather cooperated for the City Island Theater Group’s outdoor production of “The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf” on the lawn in front of Grace Church on July 11. Families brought blankets and gave rave reviews to the production directed by Eileen Marcus.