

CSI in the News

October 2009



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Arts

Tapping into her childhood, Islander found dance studio

By [Barton Horowitz](#)

October 07, 2009, 4:01PM



Advance photo/Barton Horowitz Dina Canepa, owner of Dance Sensations dance studio in Great Kills, warms up before teaching a class.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- GREAT KILLS -- Like many Staten Island youngsters, Dina Canepa was enrolled in a dance school when she was not much bigger than a tot. But unlike the majority of pre-school dancers, she has continued to embrace the art into adulthood.

Dancing since the age of 2, the now 21-year-old Great Kills native and Annadale resident is the owner of Dance Sensations dance studio in Great Kills.

Dina, who has long enjoyed instructing others in dance, founded the school at 249 Nelson Ave., in June 2007.

"I absolutely love to teach," she said. "If this wasn't happening for me, I would have been a pre-school teacher."

Dina's students, who range in age from 2 through adult, choose from a variety of styles, including jazz, tap, modern, lyrical, ballet, acro, hip-hop, musical theater and contemporary. Each June, they display their talent

and skill in a schoolwide recital. The next one, in 2010, will take place at the Williamson Theatre on the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook.

A graduate of the Petrides School, Sunnyside, Dina returns each year with her students, who perform during an annual fund-raiser in the battle against breast cancer.

Dina is not the only entrepreneur in her family. She said she was inspired by her parents, Theresa and Nicholas, to try her hand at business.

"They taught me a lot about business and got me started," Dina said of her parents, who have operated Finest Kitchens, Rossville, for two decades.

For more information about Dance Sensations, call Dina at 718-967-1797 or log onto www.dancesensationsstudio.com.

BIZ BUZZ

Congratulations to the March of Dimes Foundation, and its Staten Island chapter under the leadership of executive director John DeSibia. The nonprofit organization has been named to the 2009 Working Mother magazine's 100 Best Companies list. The group is the only national nonprofit advocacy organization named to the list.

"March of Dimes is in the healthy-baby business, John said. "We partner with moms as we work toward the day when all babies are born healthy."

John added that he and his organization are proud to be included on the publication's 100 Best Companies list.

"I think it demonstrates our mission commitment," he said



Staten Island Advance

Young virtuosi light up a fire at CSI

Thursday, October 22, 2009

By **MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA**

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Was it almost too much of a good thing the other night when young violinist Linus Roth and accompanist Jose Gallardo returned to the Center for the Arts at the **College of Staten Island**?

Having dazzled a full house last fall (Brahms and Prokofiev sonatas, Wieniawski and Piazzolla), expectations were high. No one would come away disappointed this time.

The opening piece -- Mendelssohn's Sonata in F, a showcase -- seemed like a pleasant, medium-hard, old fashioned (19th century) warm-up.

Next, well into the 20th century, came a Ravel Sonata (G Major) that put both musicians (and a full house in the concert hall at the **College of Staten Island**) through fast tempos, blues riffs, "modern" sounds and difficult harmonies and spellbinding technique.

Exhilarating? Sure. The music is still fresh and Roth and Gallardo get caught up in the collaboration. Watching them work -- they don't hide the effort or the joy -- becomes part of the fun.

Roth plays with a poker face, but he nearly lifts off when the music heads for high ground. The pianist's face registers every nuance. This level of intensity, lightened by flashes of humor, is contagious and exciting.

Stravinsky's Divertimento for Violin and Piano (which also exists in an orchestral arrangement) was another dense, full-on showpiece for both performers.

It was good afterwards to luxuriate briefly in warmer, slower material -- the first movement of the Nocturne and Tarantella of Karol Szymanowski. It gives way to a much-embroidered tarantella, elaborated to a level that would paralyze a hapless dancer.

The playlist reported back to Ravel for the final piece, the soulful "Tzigane: Rapsodie de concert."

The full house went crazy at the end, not surprisingly, and the young virtuosi had the grace to look surprised. With two Island performances behind them, they are fast becoming local heroes.

The performance took place thanks to the college's emeritus professor (English) and benefactor Michael Shugrue, who underwrites a high-caliber, admission-free concert series every season.

The next, presenting an ensemble of the New York Philharmonic, is officially sold out. But think about showing up even without a ticket. There's always standing room and stray seats.

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico to play Springer Concert Hall

By Ben Johnson

October 22, 2009, 10:00AM



Provided photo

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico (pictured) and NG2 take the stage 8 p.m. Oct. 24 in Springer Concert Hall at the College of Staten Island. The official after-party follows at 11 p.m. at Lorenzo's Cabaret in the Hilton Garden Inn.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Donning a sweater and slippers and hanging out near the space heater isn't going to make the cold weather go away. El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico might have what it takes, however.

Still at it after more than four decades of playing dance music, this 13-man world-renowned salsa band visits Springer Concert Hall at the **College of Staten Island** this weekend with salsa duo NG2 as the opening act.

Led by original members like pianist Rafael Ithier and saxophonist Eddie Perez, El Gran Combo plays a traditional horn-heavy mix of Cuban and Puerto Rican music, audible on hits like "El Menu" and "Timablero." But the group's credentials are impressive beyond the charts: The Puerto Rican Senate officially dubbed the band "Ambassadors of Our Music," and it earned a Latin Grammy for the album "Arroz Habichuelas."

Put on by Doco Entertainment, this event follows the true salsa form. After the party, there's an after-party — in a hotel lobby. OK, maybe not the lobby, but in the swank Lorenzo's Cabaret at the Hilton Garden Inn, where the music and celebration will continue.

El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico & NG2 take the stage 8 p.m. Oct. 24 at Springer Concert Hall, **College of Staten Island**, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook. The official after-party follows at 11 p.m. at Lorenzo's Cabaret in the Hilton Garden Inn, 1100 South Ave., Bloomfield. Tickets are \$80-\$90 (ticket stubs gain free entrance to the after-party). Call 718-227-3566 or visit **DocoLatinGroove.com** for more information.

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Published: October 30,2009

Aeschylus' "Agamemnon" in its Original Poetic Meters

by Rajdeep K. Bhathal



Valois Mickens as Klutaimestra in "Agamemnon." The costume design by Rebecca Bernstein derives from an ancient Athenian vase painting of a satyr play, which showed actors in robes with elaborate graphic designs that are quite different from the plain white chitons and draping that are commonly associated with Greek tragedy. Photo by Zita Bradley.

Historically, English adaptations of "Agamemnon" by Aeschylus have rendered its ancient Greek poetry into proven English poetic forms. The results have been often good and occasionally brilliant. Yet the original Greek meters provide clues as to how a section of a play was performed (sung, spoken or spoken to musical accompaniment). This has prompted Alexander Harrington, a director known for his mastery of oratorical theater, to attempt something radical: approximating Aeschylus' actual, original poetic meters in a new translation.

This intrepid idea has resulted in a script of surprisingly clear stage speech and unusual poetic quality.

La MaMa Experimental Theater Club in Manhattan's East Village will present the world premiere of Harrington's adaptation November 12 to 29, 2009. The piece will be performed by The Eleventh Hour Theatre Company.

The production will also feature an original score by Michael Sirota, a principal composer of La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory, who is setting the sung and chanted sections to music.

Greek tragedy combined song, speech and musically accompanied speech (whether it was chant, recitative or underscored speech is unknown). The plays were written in verse, but of a different nature from ours. Greek meters are based on vowel length, while English meters are based on syllable stress. In more lyrical sections, the chorus uses a variety of meters. It makes the translation trickier, but it also presented Harrington and Sirota their greatest opportunities for creativity, since it is the most evocative in a musical sense. Approximately half of the play belongs to the chorus.

The "authenticity" idea in the poetry will be extended into the play's visuals. Scholars have deduced that the heroes of Greek satyr plays were costumed similarly to those of tragedies. The costume design by Rebecca Bernstein derives from an Athenian vase painting of a satyr play, showing actors in robes with elaborate graphic designs that are quite different from the plain white chitons and draping that are commonly associated with Greek tragedy.

The actors' faces will be painted to achieve the sculptural severity of masks while allowing for facial expression. This technique was used in Harrington's 2007 production at La MaMa, "The Burial at Thebes," Seamus Heaney's adaptation of "Antigone." The severe makeup enables The Eleventh Hour to adhere to the three-actor rule. Athenian tragedies were performed by an all-male chorus and three male actors who played all the principal roles, including women. In this production, some of these male roles will be played by women.

Alexander Harrington (director, translator) is the founder and artistic director The Eleventh Hour Theatre Company, for which he has directed "The Burial at Thebes," "Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2," "Henry V" and his own adaptation of Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov (Part 2)," all at La MaMa. His Eleventh Hour Theatre productions outside La MaMa have been "Richard II" at HERE and "The Brothers Karamazov, Part 1" at The Culture Project. His first production at La

MaMa was the Richmond Lattimore translation of "Agamemnon" in 1997, before he founded Eleventh Hour Theatre. His other directing credits include "Billy Budd," "Twelfth Night," "Much Ado about Nothing" and the premiere of Edward Einhorn's "Linguish." His adaptation of "The Brothers Karamazov" was published in the New York Theatre Experience's anthology "Playing with Canons." As a scholar and critic, Mr. Harrington's work has been published in "Dissent" magazine, "First of the Month," "Upstart Crow," "Shakespeare Criticism, Vol. 89" and "Literary Themes for Students: War and Peace." Along with David Mamet, he is contributing an essay on political theatre to the upcoming anthology "New Threats to Freedom." Harrington teaches acting Shakespeare at HB studio and has taught at Clemson University and the Gallatin School at NYU. He was an original member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and a participant in The Actors Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit.

His productions have been widely praised for their simplicity, resourcefulness, expert acting and clarity of vision. The New Yorker (Liesl Schillinger) deemed his "Brothers Karamazov, Part I" a "gem of a production," adding, "the cast is remarkable." The New York Times (Margo Jefferson) wrote that part II of the adaptation was "resourcefully staged and intelligently dramatized." The New York Post (Donald Lyons) described his "Henry V" as "superb," deeming it "a riveting meditation on the heart of the matter - the simultaneous cruelty and glamour of power."

Michael Sirotta (Composer) has collaborated frequently Elizabeth Swados; their productions together include "The Beautiful Laey" and "Missionaries." He has a long-standing association with La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory, having been a composer, musical director and performing musician in "Danton's Death," "Mythos Oedipus," "Jerusalem," "The Monk And The Hangman's Daughter," "Fragments of a Greek Trilogy," "Seven Against Thebes," "Dionysos Filius Dei," "Carmilla," "Seven," "Perseus," "Herakles", "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Raven." He is a composer in Residence at La MaMa and has been a frequent international traveler with the company, composing, directing and performing music at theater festivals in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Austria, Serbia, and Japan. Since 1985, he has directed the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's Kids on Stage program on Staten Island, for which he received the 2000 Achievement in the Arts and Humanities Award, presented by the Council of the Arts & Humanities of Staten Island. He is on the faculty of **The College of Staten Island** (CUNY), where he lectures on World Music. He received nominations for outstanding musical score at the New York Innovative Theater Awards ceremonies in 2005 and 2007.

Harrington has long admired the ritual nature and visceral power of La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory. For "Agamemnon," he sought out Great Jones veterans Michael Sirotta, Renouard Gee, Valois Mickens, and Shigeko Sara Suga, who are used to working on sung-through pieces with demanding movement and no spoken text. In the production, Harrington and the Great Jones Rep veterans aim to meld textual precision with physical rigor and visceral power. The play's principal actors are Valois Mickens (as Klutaimestra), Robert Ierardi (as Watchman, Agamemnone and Aigisthos) and Jessica Crandall (as Herald and Cassandra). The actors of the chorus are Jason Reiff, Patrick James Lynch, Michael Peterson, Peter Tedeschi, Chris Caron, Shigeko Sara Suga, Sarah Vasilas, Alyssa Wilmoth, Georgia Southern, Gillian Wiggin, Margaret O'Connell and Marcie Henderson. Choreographer is Renouard Gee. Scenic/Lighting Designer is Solomon Weisbard. Costume Designer is Rebecca Bernstein. Attic Greek consultants are Scott Emmons and Susan P. Johnson. Stage manager is A.J. Dobbs.

The show will run from November 12 - 29, 2009. Show times are Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2: 30 PM; there will be no performance on Thanksgiving Day. The show runs for two hours. La MaMa E.T.C. is located at 74A East Fourth Street, between Second Avenue and Bowery. General admission is \$18, with students and seniors at \$13. Tickets can be purchased by telephoning the box office at (212) 475 - 7710 or online at www.lamama.org.

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Faculty & Staff



Staten Island Advance

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Mitchell folding bid for new term

Loser in Dem primary will keep Conservative line but not campaign; McMahon to back Rose

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

City Councilman Kenneth Mitchell will end his campaign for re-election tomorrow, and his mentor, Rep. Michael McMahon, will endorse Debi Rose early next week, well-placed sources said yesterday.

Ms. Rose defeated Mitchell in last month's Democratic primary for the North Shore City Council seat.

While Mitchell's name will remain on the Conservative line on the Nov. 3 ballot, sources familiar with his thinking said he will announce that he no longer will accept matching funds from the city Campaign Finance Board and will abandon the campaign trail.



MITCHELL



ROSE

Tomorrow is the deadline for candidates to state whether they will continue to seek matching money in the fall campaign.

The developments bring Ms. Rose closer to victory in the heavily Democratic district — especially with the support of Democratic heavyweights McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) and Assembly members Michael Cusick and Matthew Titone, who will join McMahon in publicly endorsing her either Monday or Tuesday, sources said.

If she wins, Ms. Rose



ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

Kenneth Mitchell is expected to announce that while he will run for City Council on the Conservative line, he will not actively campaign.

MITCHELL FROM PAGE A 1

Mitchell folding bid for new term

would become the first African-American elected from Staten Island.

After her victory in the primary, Ms. Rose received the backing of big-name Democrats state Sen. Diane Savino, Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer and Democratic chairman John Gulino, along with the party's executive committee.

But McMahon and Cusick, who are personally close to Mitchell, adopted a wait-and-see posture to allow Mitchell to digest the sudden loss of a seat he had won only in February, when he defeated Ms. Rose and others in a special election. Titone followed suit.

Mitchell did not return phone calls yesterday but released the following statement: "My campaign will be issuing a statement tomorrow [Thursday] regarding my future plans for the North Shore City Council race."

It has been a delicate dance for everyone involved, most especially Mitchell, if he wants to run for public office again.

Conservative Borough President James Molinaro made it publicly and privately clear to Mitchell that he expected Mitchell to remain on the Conservative line. The only way Mitchell could have gotten his name removed at this late date would have been to run for a judgeship — leaving the line blank and Molinaro furious.

But Mitchell couldn't actively campaign against Ms.

Rose and the Democratic Party. Remaining on the ballot but not mounting a campaign seemed the only way out for him.

McMahon, in turn, faces his first re-election bid next year and could not be seen as supporting Mitchell over Ms. Rose. For starters, McMahon will need the backing of Ms. Rose and her supporters in the future and he already has angered some Democrats by endorsing Molinaro for re-election over John Luisi, the Democratic candidate for borough president.

Yet McMahon did not want to upset Molinaro, whose continued support he also needs.

Ms. Rose said she has not been privy to all the back-and-forth, but added: "I look forward to working with Ken Mitchell to make sure the constituents in the North Shore get all they are entitled to, and to campaign on the issues we discussed and make sure they are addressed."

The behind-the-scenes maneuverings have played out over several days, including at a meeting attended by Mitchell and McMahon and their campaign staffs, along with Cusick and former North Shore Councilman Jerome O'Donovan.

Both McMahon and Cusick declined to comment on the meeting, saying it was a private conversation. O'Donovan said he was vocal in telling Mitchell to "run hard."

Molinaro did not return a call seeking comment.

Ms. Rose's name also will appear on the Working Families Party line. The Republican in the race is Timothy Kuhn.

REPORTED FIRST ON SILVE.COM
YESTERDAY, 5:41 P.M.



Staten Island Real-Time News

Breaking local news from Staten Island, NY

The Island's tragic breast cancer mystery

By [Maureen Donnelly](#)

October 04, 2009, 7:00AM

By DEBORAH YOUNG



Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island AdvanceStaten Island has the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the city.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- My mother, my aunt, my neighbor, sister, daughter, grandmother, teacher, friend.

The stories are told every day on Staten Island in pained and quiet voices: Who was diagnosed with breast cancer, who is going through treatment, who died after battling the disease.

Lives get lost to breast cancer far more often in this borough than in the rest of the city, and at a higher rate than most of the state and nation.

In fact, according to the state Department of Health, the mortality rate from the disease here is higher even than in the Long Island counties that have come to symbolize the scourge -- spotlighted by national media, named in congressional acts and given millions of research dollars to root out the cause.

Trying to unravel the mystery on Staten Island is a small band of passionate researchers at the [College of Staten Island](#) in Willowbrook.

For the past two years, scientists at the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative have been engaged in groundbreaking work -- plotting the demographics of the disease, performing sophisticated lab testing on chemicals in the environment and educating women in the community -- all on a shoestring budget.

"All we need to know is why here," said Dr. Donna Gerstle, the director of the initiative and of the Center for Environmental Science at CSI. "Staten Island has the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the five boroughs for at least 20 years, and everything we're doing is to find out why."

Every year, about 335 Staten Island women are diagnosed with breast cancer, and 77 women die of the illness, according to statistics gathered between 2002 to 2006 by the state Department of Health.

The incidence of the disease here is among the highest in the state; and the mortality rate of 27.7 per 100,000 women represents a peak.

"There is a stunningly high correlation between the length of residency and incidence of breast cancer," said Dr. Gerstle, herself a native Islander, living in West Brighton. A

CLUES IN OBITUARIES

The researchers utilize a rich source of information unique to this borough -- Staten Island Advance obituaries.

Control groups are created, and death certificates of women who died of breast cancer are compared with their obituaries to learn about where they lived, especially during key times for breast tissue development, such as puberty.

So far, more than 10,000 obituaries from 1980 to 1990 have been analyzed; funding provided last year by the City Council is allowing the team to keep going through the year 2006.

Indeed, the research has confirmed there is a higher rate of breast cancer among women who live in neighborhoods near the former Fresh Kills Landfill and the Island's Super Fund sites -- but the scientists balked at pointing to more specifics.

"Staten Island is the cluster," said Dr. Alfred Levine, arguably the patriarch of the Center for Environmental Science, who taught Dr. Gerstle when she was a graduate student. "Everywhere you look."

And the information in the obituaries threw up another puzzle: Socio-economic issues like low educational level, which often predict poor medical care, and, as a result, higher mortality rates, just didn't factor in to the equation on the Island.

"The numbers are scary," said Councilman James Oddo (R- Mid-Island).

Oddo and Council Speaker Christine Quinn awarded \$140,000 in the past two fiscal years for the study, providing much of the budget for the initiative, which also receives state money and private awards, but operates on less than \$100,000 a year.

"We owe it to the women of Staten Island to find out what it is, and if there is a way to avoid it, whether it is personal behavior or it is the environment," the councilman added.

Oddo cited the long wait time for a mammography in the borough -- which has been somewhat ameliorated in recent years by two new mammography machines -- as one systemic health-care failing here that could

play a role in the deaths.

"That might be part of it, but why should we be higher than the South Bronx?" said Dr. Gerstle. "There has to be more to it."

TOXINS PLAY A ROLE

So is the brand of breast cancer that strikes in the borough particularly vicious, killing women before they have a chance to beat it?

Might the industrial landscape trigger the mortality from breast cancer here, and also have a role in the borough's rates of lung cancer and lymphoma, which are also the highest in the city?

In fact, the scientists said, this study initially focused on lung cancer, because the Island has long been known as an epicenter of that disease. But after pouring over data, it became obvious that breast cancer deaths here are the shocker.

"The minute we started looking at breast cancer, the results hit us in the face," said Levine. "The statistical significance of the results made it in no way this could be pure chance."

Enter Dr. Jimmie Fata from the University of California at Berkeley, who joined the Island research team and designed a way to mimic mammary tissue at puberty.

In the lab, he tests carcinogens commonly found here in the environment.

But what makes his work different than other studies, is he is looking for the tipping point, the concentrations of these chemicals where tissue begins to change.

A paper he and a graduate student will present at a conference in November will share one hypothesis produced by their early research: It asks, might the high average concentration of benzene here, which is 88 times the benchmark level, be linked to the breast cancer mortality rate?

These kinds of questions have haunted Pamela Silano ever since her mother died of fast-spreading breast cancer in 1993. At least one person in almost every house on her short block in Meiers Corners died of cancer, she said.

"We always heard the stories about the landfill and Newark's pollution affecting the Island and the people. Each time someone would pass away from cancer, the families would always say it was the landfill or the fumes that blew over," she said. "But, I guess, when you're grieving you have to blame it on someone, right? At least that is what I thought until it happened to my family."

This kind of pattern -- with so many cancer deaths in such a short block -- could be a fluke, a statistical anomaly, ventured Dr. Gerstle, who, as a scientist, is wary of drawing conclusions without data to prove them.

But it is the quest for an explanation that is driving the long, exhaustive hours the researchers spend at work.

"These are my relatives, my friends, I understand," said Dr. Gerstle, shaking her head and looking down. "We're trying to do the best we can for Staten Islanders. We hope we find an answer one way or another. We won't give up until we do."



Staten Island Real-Time News

Breaking local news from Staten Island, NY

Council candidate's historic run, defined by passion

By [Tevah Platt](#)

October 04, 2009, 10:00AM



Irving Silverstein/Staten Island AdvanceGreeting commuters in the St. George Ferry Terminal, Debi Rose thanks voters after her win in the Sept. 15 Democratic primary.STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- To the sweetheart went the spoils.

In the weeks leading up to the Sept. 15 Democratic primary, North Shore public opinion on City Council candidate Debi Rose seemed to be split between supporters who proclaimed, "She's a sweet woman and...", and the other camp: "She's a sweet woman, but..."

The morning after the election, commuters lined up at the St. George Ferry Terminal to give the victor a congratulatory hug. As various political observers have noted, perhaps no figure in Staten Island politics is as "huggy" as Ms. Rose.

Supporters said they felt they connected with Ms. Rose personally.

"I don't think the ideas were very diverse in this race," said the candidate in an interview at B'nai Jeshurun, West Brighton, following her appearance at the Ferry. She was still hoarse and high on a stunning 16 percent margin of victory against her closest opponent, incumbent Kenneth Mitchell.

Accounting for 100 percent of the vote, the Associated Press reported 4,656 votes (55 percent) for Ms. Rose, 3,344 (39 percent) for Mitchell and 510 votes (6 percent) for Rajiv Gowda. Mitchell's announcement last week that he would end his re-election campaign brought Ms. Rose closer to victory in the heavily Democratic district. She will face Republican Timothy Kuhn and, on the Conservative line, Mitchell's name will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The platforms of the three candidates in the primary were so similar that voters looked to other categories of comparison: Resumes, race, and personal style -- including, to cobble a term to fit, huggability.

Mitchell chalked up his loss to complacency among voters who thought his next term was a sure thing. Members of his camp told the Advance in an informal pre-election survey that, because of his experience as councilman and chief-of-staff under then-Councilman Rep. Michael McMahon, they were more confident in his ability to lead.

Ms. Rose said she won because people wanted a strong candidate who would "actually bring the political will of the people to fruition."

"The difference was in our approach," said Ms. Rose. "It was about whether or not a candidate felt there was a sense of urgency."

Over nearly 40 years as a community activist, Debi Rose has had time to see plans languish.

The development of the Stapleton home port and other parts of the North Shore waterfront, the placement of businesses in the Ferry Terminal, the North Shore rail line, a high school to relieve overcrowding at Curtis and funding from the Health and Hospitals Corp. to relieve local hospitals from the burdens of caring for un- and under-insured patients, are among her agenda priorities.

Ms. Rose, a resident of Arlington, grew up in West Brighton and Mariners Harbor, graduating from Port Richmond High School and Hofstra University. At Port Richmond, Ms. Rose was a member of the NAACP youth group and was vice president of the senior class; she was also known among her classmates, she said, as a nurturing, "earth mother" figure.

"I need to give my parents and grandparents credit for instilling in me the desire to be of service to my community," said Ms. Rose. "...When I talked to my mother about what I wanted to be, I always knew I wanted to help people, or if I wasn't the person to help, I wanted to be the person who could make a phone call to find the person who could."

Her grandparents, Kenneth and Luella Billup, owned what was then one of two African-American-owned funeral homes-- the Billups Funeral Home, in West Brighton. Mr. Billup used to show cartoons to neighborhood kids every Saturday, organized annual Easter egg hunts and routinely helped families who could not afford funeral services, Ms. Rose said.

Ms. Rose's father, Louis Carrington, was a Boy Scout leader and a founder of Staten Island's former FIPOCO organization for firefighters, police and corrections officers.

As a girl, Ms. Rose used to served coffee and cakes when her mother, Muriel, hosted meetings of the National Council of Negro Women in their home.

At 20, she spoke up at one of the meetings, asking the guest, then-borough president Ralph Lamberti, when he planned to develop the "pile of dust" that was Corporal Thompson Park in West Brighton.

At Lamberti's urging, Ms. Rose went on to join the local community board and helped establish budget priorities that put a playground, bathrooms, and a baseball diamond in the park, Ms. Rose said.

Ms. Rose went on to serve the former Community School Board, bringing services to Staten Island that meant parents with visually or hearing-impaired children no longer needed to travel to Brooklyn for evaluations for services.

She fought against the placement of a coal port in Arlington, started the Coalition to Save Bayley Seton Hospital and worked with the late Charles Langere to advocate for the creation of PS/IS 861, Graniteville. Last year, she was a Barack Obama presidential delegate.

As director of the Liberty Partnership Program at the College of Staten Island, Ms. Rose provides educational services and opportunities to students at risk of dropping out of high school.

CSI is looking into the charge that Ms. Rose improperly used the college's e-mail system to conduct campaign business.

Ms. Rose, who stands to be the first African-American elected to political office in borough history, has said often that this is not a race race, and that she is supported by a broad base of progressive voters.

But she has said that there are communities on Staten Island that "do not feel empowered," and that voters want a change from what some voters see as an "old boys club" in local politics.

Ms. Rose lost two previous bids for the City Council seat, but held her aim.

"I have always wanted to serve in City Council because city government affects everything about your daily life: Whose street has potholes, and whose doesn't," she said.

Hearing the votes come in after the primary was "awesome," said Ms. Rose, with a smile for the ages.

"As the numbers came in, I was guardedly optimistic. I kept saying, 'Nope, we can't celebrate yet,' because we'd been there before. Then the numbers kept coming in our favor, and at 90 percent, we knew we'd clinched it. The floodgates just burst, and everybody was just exuberant."

The general election will be held Nov. 3.

Tevah Platt is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at platt@siadvance.com.



October 4, 2009

'What Is a Hero?' topic for AU symposium in October

News Journal staff report

ASHLAND -- "The Ashland University College of Arts and Sciences will present "What Is a Hero" symposium during fall semester. All events are free and anyone may attend.

- 4 p.m. Thursday in Hawkins-Conard Student Center Auditorium -- Panel discussion on "What is a (Super) Hero" featuring Tom DeFalco, Robin Rosenberg and Mark D. White.

DeFalco is a former editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics as written comic books, graphic novels, short stories, prose novels and such books as "Spider-Man: The Ultimate Guide and Comic Creators on Fantastic Four."

Rosenberg is a clinical psychologist and author. She was editor of and contributor to the book "Psychology of Superheroes," and has been featured speaking about psychological aspects of superheroes in various media. She is also co-author of three college level psychology textbooks.

White is associate professor in the department of political science, economics and philosophy at the College of Staten Island/CUNY. He has authored dozens of journal articles and book chapters in the intersections between these fields. His most recent publications include "Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul" (2009) and "Watchmen and Philosophy: A Rorschach Test" (2009).

- 7 p.m. Oct. 15 in Trustees Room of Myers Convocation Center -- Brenda Berkman, retired captain of the New York City Fire Department, will speak on "Taking the Heat: Twenty-Five Pioneering Years for Women Firefighters in the New York Fire Department."

Berkman is a retired New York City Fire Department captain, having served the city for 25 years. She started her career after winning the federal sex discrimination lawsuit she initiated that resulted in the hiring of New York City's first women firefighters. She graduated summa cum laude from St. Olaf College and has other degrees from Indiana University, New York University and the City University of New York.

- 4 p.m. Oct. 21 in Hawkins-Conard Student Center -- Robert Faulkner, professor of political science at Boston College, speaks on "The Greatness of the Hero."

Faulkner is professor of political science at Boston College, where he teaches and writes about political philosophy and American political thought. He has written studies of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and other American statesmen and intellectuals and of Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke and other political philosophers; and has a long list of books and honors to his credit.

- 7 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Trustees Room of the Convocation Center -- Perry Moore, author and film producer.

Moore is author of "Hero" (Hyperion Books), the story of Thom Creed, a teenager grappling not only with high school, a strained family life and sexual orientation, but also with his own budding superpowers. Moore reminds readers of the significance of teamwork and family, while recognizing that it is not the mask you wear that makes a hero, it's what's in your heart.



Bringing Out the Vote

October 5th, 2009

With only about 7 percent of those eligible casting votes in last Tuesday's runoff for comptroller and City Council, some politicians are looking for an alternative.

Sen. [Joseph Addabbo](#) has recommended a ban on runoffs all together. The person who got the most votes in the initial primary would win the election. Calculating that the Sept. 29 runoff cost about something like \$72 per vote cast, Addabbo said, "I plan to research the process by which run-off elections can be eliminated entirely."

"The economics of it doesn't make sense," Sen. [Bill Perkins](#), who also supports ending the runoffs, [told](#) the Daily News, "especially as we are struggling in this economy."

Runoffs, as DeNora Getachew of [Citizen Union Foundation](#) recently [explained](#) on the Wonkster, are a relatively new feature on the city's political landscape. For years, whoever won the primary, regardless of by how narrow a margin, got the party nomination. But in 1969, Getachew wrote, "A candidate who was considered outside of the mainstream won the Democratic primary with only 33 percent of the vote." The city changed its election law to require a runoff in the primary for citywide office if no candidate received at least 40 percent of the vote."

The city does not have runoffs in City Council elections. But that has its pitfalls too as can be seen in the recent primary results from the [28th City Council District](#) in Queens. There the incumbent [Thomas White](#), managed to hold on to his seat even though he received less than a third of the votes in the primary — and edged out his nearest rival by six hundredths of a percent.

Seeing flaws in runoffs and in not having runoff, experts have proposed other ideas.

In Gotham Gazette this week, Richard Flanagan of the [College of Staten Island](#) [discusses](#) nonpartisan elections, an idea the mayor has backed and which gets renewed support in Francis Barry's recent book, [The Scandal of Reform](#). This would open elections — including primaries — to all registered voters, not simply members of a particular political party. It has particular appeal in a place like New York where one party — in our case, the Democrats — hold such an edge in support that the general election often is little more than a formality.

Nonpartisan elections could still be won by the narrowest of margins (remember Bush v. Gore and Coleman v. Franken), but their supporters say that at least the total pool of voters would be far

larger. “The best case for the adoption of nonpartisan elections is the principled one,” Flanagan wrote. “Nonpartisan elections give more people the opportunity to exercise, in a meaningful way, the most fundamental right and obligation in a democracy, the vote.”

Other, as Getachew wrote, propose instant runoffs, a method the Motion Picture Academy will use to award the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2010. Under this system, voters go to the polls once and rank their candidates in order of preference. If no candidate emerged with, say, 40 percent of the vote, the system would stage conduct a series of simulated runoffs, matching up the leading candidates and using the voter preferences to determine their vote totals.

By [Gail Robinson](#) on October 5, 2009, 2:41 pm

Re-enfranchising New Yorkers
by Richard Flanagan
05 Oct 2009



Photos from the [Polling Place Photo Project](#)

The results from the primary elections on Sept. 15 were remarkable in two respects for those who worry about the health of democracy in New York.

Gotham Gazette
[com·men·tar·y]

*The views expressed here are
those of the author and do not
necessarily reflect the opinions of
Gotham Gazette or its publisher.*

The electorate showed some spunk, or at least a measure of restiveness, [rejecting](#) five City Council incumbents in their bid for re-election. When you take a look at each race where the incumbent lost, it is easy enough to identify weaknesses. Each district has its own story, a blend of foible and miscalculation on the part of the incumbent, against the backdrop of the poor economy. It is also important to note that four of the ousted incumbents followed the lead of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Speaker Christine Quinn and voted to [extend term limits](#) last year (the fifth loser, [Kenneth Mitchell](#) from Staten Island, was not in office at the time of the vote). Many voters are still sour about the decision of the city's political establishment to change by local law what many voters viewed as an issue they had settled on in two referenda many years before.

Local politics is usually about getting a nice big slice of the pie for your neighborhood -- saving a fire house, some parking spots, or building a park or school -- but last month's election suggested that something quite different was in the air. The game is not just all about winning, but being fair. The decision to throw out term limits sticks in the collective throat of New Yorkers. That's the good news -- voters upset about process.

The second remarkable aspect of the election was the [turnout](#). The final number is not in yet,

but between 10 percent and 12 percent of registered Democrats came out on Sept. 15 to cast a vote. In last week's runoff primary for city comptroller and public advocate, the turnout was even lower, a little less than 8 percent. This is a startlingly low number. In the November 2008 general election (Barack Obama v. John McCain) 50 percent of all registered voters came out to vote; in the February Democratic primary for the presidential nomination (Obama v. Hillary Clinton) 33 percent of Democrats showed up.

The vitality of last year's political season has drained away. Recall that when the state legislature moved control of the city schools to the mayor in 2002, one of the most compelling arguments for changing the system was that local community school boards no longer worked, in part because no one was voting for members of the board. Voting percentages in school board contests in many neighborhoods often dipped into the same range as the turnout reported in the recent primary. Will the current system of closed primary elections in New York one day suffer from a crisis in legitimacy that we saw with school board elections? It certainly is tracking that way.

It is not just the fact that roughly 2.5 million Democrats stayed home. Another 711,000 independents (17 percent of all voters) are ineligible to vote to any closed party primary. About 482,000 Republicans and 130,000 third party registrants cannot participate in the all-important Democratic primary too. So, we are left with about 8 percent of the total registered electorate picking the local legislature in the closed Democratic primary election on September 15, since the winners are virtually a lock to win the general election races in all but three of the 51 districts in the November general election

The Case for Nonpartisan Elections

Francis Barry makes the case in [The Scandal of the Reform](#) that nonpartisan elections can bring the franchise back to voters who are not registered Democrats. "Why," he asks, "exclude independent voters from the first round of voting [the closed primary] if that is the decisive election?" Messy empirical and practical arguments aside, this is a compelling argument on its face. As new generations of voters entering the polity valuing their independence and refusing to commit to one political party or the other, the numbers of the effectively disenfranchised will only climb.

Most cities have nonpartisan elections; Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami are among the larger ones on the list. Municipal elected officials in nonpartisan cities still participate in partisan politics; Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is a stalwart Democrat who is plotting a run for governor in his party's primary. In another nonpartisan city, Jersey City, Mayor Jerramiah Healy ran with the backing of the Hudson County Democratic machine. A point that is often lost is that nonpartisan election schemes can vary greatly; some cities allow candidates to identify themselves as partisans, others do not.

Bloomberg likes nonpartisan elections too, but he focuses more on the managerial quality of local government, along the lines of Fiorello LaGuardia's old chestnut that there is no partisan way to pick up the garbage. In 2003, Bloomberg [established a charter commission](#) under the chairmanship of Frank Macchiarola, the president of St. Francis College, to investigate and make recommendations for a nonpartisan election plan for the city. The commissioners worked hard, but faced overwhelming opposition from "reform" groups in New York. (I use the quotations here because Barry is not buying into the conventional nomenclature.)

Bloomberg's charter commission [recommended](#) giving candidates the option of identifying their party affiliation if they chose, but opening the election to all registered voters, thus eliminating the closed party primary. If you are concerned about a crowded election contest that will produce a winner with 10 percent to 15 percent of the vote, no worries -- we can employ instant runoff techniques where voters can select their second and third choices. The top finishers can

be paired off with the additional preferences supplied by voters and a winner with a legitimate majority can be crowned. (For more on instant runoff voting, see [The Wonkster](#).)

Voters overwhelmingly [rejected](#) Macchiarola's plan for nonpartisan elections, 70 percent to 30 percent. But only 13 percent of registered voters bothered to show up for the off-year election of 2003, and many had ties to the unions, interest groups and political clubs that benefit from the status quo and know how to pull the levers of the current system to their advantage. They were loathe to expand the electorate and risk the surrender of power.

The Limits of 'Reform'

In a style reminiscent of the restaurant scene in *Goodfellas* in which we are introduced to Henry Hill's partners in crime in an extended panning shot, Barry describes a fundraiser in South Street Seaport for [NYPIRG](#) where he identifies the good government players who came to pay their respects. The crowd at the fundraiser included the leadership of NYU's [Brennan Center](#), [Common Cause](#), the [League of Women Voters](#) and the [Citizens Union](#) -- almost all of them liberal Democrats. (Citizens Union's sister organization, [Citizens Union Foundation](#), publishes *Gotham Gazette*.) Barry argues that the city's reform community is more interested in advancing a liberal Democratic policy agenda than in process questions -- putting the living wage before ballot access, so to speak -- and the reform groups are more than willing to accommodate the city's incumbents and political insiders to get the job done.

"Good government leaders preach the virtues of process purity until that process works against them," writes Barry. "Then they break their own rules and hope no one notices." The city's public interest groups may cloak themselves in the language of the common good, but by Barry's lights they are just pigs at the city's trough, slopping up power and influence.

It was not always this way. In the age of Tammany, good government groups advocated the nonpartisan ballot as a method of combating the corruption of the political machines, even as they often surrendered to their nativist impulses and sought to restrict citizenship and ballot access. But Barry is no fan of the old-fashioned progressives, and he appreciates the way the county organizations brought immigrants into the political system.

Barry argues that things took a really bad turn when the mass politics base of the county organizations and political clubs began hollowing out after World War II -- the rank and file stopped going to meetings and making decisions. Political consultants become the new party bosses, and today elected officials try to build small machines devoted to their reelection and advancement. These new, candidate-centered machines are devoted to keeping people off the ballot with arcane petitioning procedures, rather than expanding the choices for voters and the electorate itself. And the good government groups are largely quiet about it.

Barry works for Bloomberg and served on the staff of the several charter commissions that considered the proposals for nonpartisan elections. Much of this hard work is evidenced in the book, as he demolishes conventional arguments in political science that claim that partisan elections mobilize voters and encourage minority voting. This political science folklore is based on a few dusty studies that are decades-old. Political scientists have been trained to love the theory of strong party government -- it is a tough habit to break.

Barry's work is full of wisdom about local politics. His well-written history of the machine/reform dynamic over the last 150 years is balanced and fair. He casts a critical eye on the city's campaign finance system, arguing that it has not increased political competition. One campaign operative told me, cracking wise, that the program should be renamed the printers and consultants relief act. The generous public matching system has lined the pockets of the political professionals, but has not increased political competition in any structural way. Anyone who got

a stack full of useless campaign junk mail this fall sees their tax dollars at work.

Barry says that nonpartisan elections very well might create a more cooperative spirit in City Hall, and embolden rank and file legislators to break with orthodoxy. I am not so sure -- many cities, after all, have nonpartisan municipal elections and are just slogging it out like we do in the Big Apple. The best case for the adoption of nonpartisan elections is the principled one, removed from any impact it may have: Nonpartisan elections give more people the opportunity to exercise, in a meaningful way, the most fundamental right and obligation in a democracy, the vote.

*Richard Flanagan is associate professor of political science at the [College of Staten Island](#) and co-directs the [Center for the Study of Staten Island](#) there. He is co-author of *Staten Island Politics: Conservative Bastion in a Liberal City* (forthcoming).*

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Staten Island Advance

FRIGHTENING FUTURE FOR ISLAND TRAFFIC

Borough projections show steady hike in drivers on the road

Sunday, October 11, 2009

By MAURA YATES

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- If you think traffic is bad now, wait a few years.

With some forecasts calling for population growth of 35 percent in the next two decades, Island newcomers will be taking to the roads in droves, and that's not even counting teens who will be passing their road tests and getting behind the wheel for the first time.

"There's going to be more traffic every time there's a new driver," said Ken Petrizzi of Westerleigh, an instructor with AAAA Driving School in Eltingville, who estimated a good 300 students will pass through his company's Drivers Ed classes every 16 weeks, not counting students who sign up for private lessons.

"There will be a lot more drivers," Petrizzi said. "It's too congested now."

Brooklyn resident Melissa Panebianco just bought a house in West Brighton and plans to get a new car. A first-time driver at age 29, she passed her road test last month in preparation for her move to a borough where having a car is a necessity, and taking the bus to her job in Brooklyn would tack hours onto her commute.

In Richmond County where the car is king, just over 263,600 cars are registered --12,700 more than in Manhattan, according to 2008 DMV statistics. That's in a borough with 487,400 people and 174,000 households, which breaks down to roughly one-and-a-half cars per average three-person household.

And more cars are on the way. There are already roughly more than 10 percent more vehicles registered to Staten Islanders last year than a decade ago, and with forecasts for continued population growth in the years to come, the borough's already-clogged and limited road network is going to feel the strain more than ever.

In just the past 12 months, more than 13,200 new drivers were licensed at the Staten Island office of the DMV, between new permit holders and those who switched their license over from another state, according to DMV records. That figure includes residents from elsewhere in the city and the state who chose to visit the Staten Island branch though they don't reside here.

That thought is enough to keep Jonathan Peters awake at night. The **College of Staten Island** professor and transportation expert is a former professional forecaster who now teaches his students how to make accurate projections based on long-term patterns.

Peters believes the future of Staten Island's roads is bleak unless a "radically different" approach is undertaken, and soon.

"Picture Victory Boulevard with 35 percent more cars on it," he said. "Picture the Staten Island Expressway with 35 percent more cars."

Of all the things he wonders about, he said, "this is one of the ones that haunts me. This is the reality we're heading toward, and we have to be prepared."

Peters based his own projections for traffic in the year 2030 on the borough's pattern of continuous growth, though the current economic decline has slowed the momentum somewhat.

To alleviate the crunch of new drivers who will be taking to the borough's fixed road network in future years, Peters believes the city should focus on "transit-oriented development," where housing is added to areas with a variety of transit options. One such example would be building up housing density along the North Shore, where plans are in the works to restore transit service along the North Shore Rail line.

It's still unclear how the city will choose to develop large swaths of the West Shore, and suburban, car-centric developments there would push the existing infrastructure to the limit, he said.

"I'm very, very concerned about the population growth," he said. "If I felt we had a system in place to deal with the growth, I'd be a lot less nervous. But there seems to be denial."

Maura Yates covers transportation news for the Advance. She may be reached at myates@siadvance.com.

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A Changing of the Guard on Staten Island
by Dana Farrington
13 Oct 2009



Photo by [Jason J. Price](#)
Miller's pharmacy in Park Hill, Staten Island

Supporters of [Deborah Rose](#) cried out of happiness on Sept. 15. The president of the [Staten Island Democratic Association](#) later said the celebration was more joyous than the party after the last month's run-off election for city comptroller.

The unusual level of emotion over Rose's victory arose largely because Rose, the Democratic candidate for City Council [District 49](#) on Staten Island, is well on her way to becoming Staten Island's first African-American lawmaker.

In a three-person race, Rose beat the incumbent, Councilmember [Kenneth Mitchell](#), in September's Democratic primary and will now face Republican first-time candidate [Timothy Kuhn](#) on Nov. 3. Kuhn and Rose will face off on issues like transportation, health care, education and the economy.

Third Time's the Charm



Debi Rose

This race will be Rose's third for the 49th district City Council seat. She [ran unsuccessfully](#) in 2001 and again during the [special election](#) in February to fill the vacancy left when Councilmember [Michael McMahon](#) was [elected to Congress](#). Mitchell, formerly McMahon's chief-of-staff, won in February, but lost by a wide margin to Rose this time around.

Initially Mitchell planned to stay in the race on the Conservative Party line, but he [dropped out](#) earlier this month. The Democratic support has been moving squarely behind Rose since then. Mitchell's name, however, will appear on the ballot.

Observers point to several factors in Rose's decisive victory. Dora Berksteiner, president of the [Staten Island African-American Political Association](#), said that the previous campaigns had given Rose name recognition. More significantly, Berksteiner said, people were wary of electing a politician, like Mitchell, with such close ties to his predecessor.

"I think people just wanted change, to be quite honest," she said.

A New Staten Island?

Rose said that, assuming she wins in November, being the first African-American to represent Staten Island would be significant.

"I think for Staten Island it definitely is an opening," said Rose. "One that they hadn't felt would become a reality any time soon."

Rich Flanagan, an associate professor of political science at [College of Staten Island](#) and coauthor of a forth-coming book about Staten Island politics, said this election was "the first time we've seen the loss of influence of that Irish-American coalition" on the North Shore. He said those politicians held sway from the 1980s up to today.

African Americans comprise 10 percent of Staten Island's population. In District 49, they account for 23 percent of the population, with whites making up just over 42 percent.

Berksteiner said that Rose's victory would not have happened without support from all communities on the North Shore, and that Rose would work toward unifying the district.

"I think that she will serve Staten Island on both sides," said Berksteiner. She added that Rose would have to "bring that balance to the 49th district."

Unlike Staten Island's two other council districts, the 49th district is primarily Democratic. Rose's primary victory is pretty much a guarantee of victory in November.

The Next Race



Tim Kuhn

Kuhn, though, might disagree. He said his success depends upon voters pulling away from party affiliations and concentrating on the issues. He said he is focusing on getting support from independents and veterans. Even though he is running on the Republican ticket, he said he is more of an Independent-Conservative.

"I'm a military person, so everything is logic to me," said Kuhn, who served in the Air Force for 20 years. "You don't do anything just because."

Due to the state of the economy, Kuhn said lawmakers should cease all unnecessary spending. Instead of bringing more hospitals to Staten Island, Kuhn said he would like to see more health clinics run by the North Richmond University Hospital.

Rather than bring the people to the hospital, bring the hospital to the people," he said. "That's something that's worthwhile to pay taxes for."

Rose said she had been working on this issue as a community activist and doesn't see a public hospital in Staten Island's future (it is the only borough without one). Instead, she wants to bring in money for the clinics that are already there.

Transportation projects, such as restoring the North Shore Rail Line, are "shovel-ready," according to both candidates, and should be built quickly to ease traffic congestion. Kuhn said he wants to improve roadways on the island and has also backed eliminating tolls on the Verrazano Bridge for island residents. Rose, who said she hopes to be named to the council's transportation committee, wants to improve the amenities at the ferry stations.

Turning to the economy, Kuhn said he wants to ease unemployment by paying attention to local "mom and pop" stores and proposes revisions that would allow local businesses to use an individual's unemployment benefits as his or her wage. This would allow them to employ more people, said Kuhn.

Both candidates have a background in education. Kuhn teaches high school at the [Michael J. Petrides School](#) in Staten Island and is the senior instructor and program director of the Air Force Junior ROTC unit, which he started in 2000. Rose is the executive director of the Liberty Partnership Program at the [College of Staten Island](#), a program designed to provide alternatives to students at risk of dropping out. She is particularly concerned with overcrowding in schools and said the community needs another high school.

Paying for new educational facilities or roadwork in the district would not be excessive, according to Rose, and instead would compensate for what she sees as longstanding "neglect." "I just believe that the political will hasn't been there to improve the North Shore," she said.

In a position paper on education, Kuhn advocates making it "easier and quicker" to fire teachers

who are not performing up to par. He also support extending school days and using after school detention for punishment. "We must bring back discipline and respect for authority to the schools," his paper said.

Rose has raised \$66,217 in private funds and received \$115,379 in public matching funds, according to the [Campaign Finance Board Summary](#). Her biggest [contributions](#) came from union-affiliated groups. She has received endorsements from the United Auto Workers Region 9A, District Council 37 and its affiliated Local 1701, as well as by the Working Families Party and NARAL New York.

Kuhn has raised only [raised](#) \$1,660 in private funds, \$1,500 of which came from one contributor.

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City Council candidate, assemblyman call for Island's 'fair share'

Pols want health dollars from city and state coffers; Rose also picks up Titone's endorsement

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Democratic North Shore City Council hopeful Debi Rose joined forces yesterday with Assemblyman Matthew Titone to call for the borough's "fair share" of health dollars from city and state coffers.

Pointing to the lack of city Health and Hospitals Corporation services here, Ms. Rose and Titone (D-North Shore) said more attention — and more money — must be spent on Staten Island for HIV-AIDS testing and for programs that address sexual assault and the high incidence of smoking.

GROWING POPULATION

"We are a borough of growing population but decreasing services in health care," said Ms. Rose, who said she would like a seat on the Council's Health Committee if elected.

Titone also used the occasion to formerly endorse Ms. Rose. He had backed her opponent, Councilman Ken Mitchell, in last month's Democratic primary. Mitchell lost the primary but remains on the ballot on the Conservative line, although he has refrained from campaigning.

"I proudly endorse Debi and I really look forward to working with her," said Titone.

HIV DEATHS

Titone said he and Ms. Rose had found "common ground" on a host of issues, particularly health care. He noted that Staten Island has the lowest HIV infection rate in the city, but the highest mortality rate in the state. He called the North Shore "ground zero for HIV-related deaths."

Titone pointed to meager testing services here — just three hours on Thursdays at an HHC clinic in Mariners Harbor — as a contributing factor. Ms. Rose agreed.

"It is almost criminal," said Titone. "The city won't pony up" money.



Democratic North Shore City Council candidate Debi Rose and Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore) discussed health care at Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton.

"We need equal operating subsidies out of the HHC budget," said Ms. Rose, noting high rates of cancer and asthma among borough residents.

The two pledged to work "collaboratively" on the issue.

They made their remarks at a press event at Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton.

Judy L. Randall is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at randall@siadvance.com.

Mayor Bloomberg teams up with the PEP on educational issues

Queens Education News Examiner

■ Lorraine Cappuccio

Having seceded in reclaiming mayoral control of city schools when the New York State Senate voted to reinstate it in the public schools, Mayor Mike Bloomberg once again will be working with the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) on various educational issues. This school governing panel previously known as the Board of Education worked with different school districts. The PEP handles educational policies that the mayor presents.

Panel members approve policies and regulations about educational achievement and student performance, contracts, school budgets, proposals to close schools not doing well, school construction projects etc. Panel members work for free.

The PEP is made up of eight members appointed by the mayor and five members chosen by each of five borough presidents. Currently due to changes made to the mayoral control law there is a requirement that two of the mayor's appointees need to be parents of public school students. At least one of the borough president's picks must also meet this requirement.

Queens Borough president Helen Marshall will select Dmytro Fedkowskyj a father of three who resides in the Middle Village section of Queens. Two of his children attend city public schools. Several of the mayor's appointees include Phillip Berry, president of the managing consulting firm Phillip Berry Associates, Linda Bryant, a public school parent and executive director of the Inwood House in Manhattan, Joe Chan, a Brooklyn parent and former city teacher in the Bronx, Tomas Morales, president of the **College of Staten Island** and Gitte Peng, a filmmaker who served for five years as the senior education policy advisor to Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott.

The next meeting for the Panel will be in September. One of the topics expected to be discussed and voted on at the meeting is the mayor's efforts to end social promotion in grades 4 and 6.

Source: The Queens Chronicle (8/27/09)



Staten Island Advance

CSI professor named to advisory collective

Sunday, October 18, 2009

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Sarah Schulman has been named to the Founding Advisory Collective of the Human Rights and Social Movements Program at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

Ms. Schulman is currently a professor of English at the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook. She also is an author, a playwright and an historian. She also is an activist for the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

As part of the Carr Center, she will be sharing a space with several writers, including Frank Rich, columnist for the New York Times, and journalist Naomi Klein.

This fall's program will examine when society puts human rights and social movements together and how those social movements challenge the way the public thinks about human rights, and how human rights inform, inspire, or confound social movements that seek to transform society.

The program will employ research and teaching to address these issues including sponsoring conference and lecture series, biweekly study groups, a spring-term brownbag series on humanities and human rights, and other activities.

Schulman is the author of 14 books; her awards include a Guggenheim, a Fulbright, a Revson Fellow for the Future of New York at Columbia University, two American Library Association Book Awards, three New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, finalist for the Prix de Rome, and Kessler Prize for Sustained Contribution to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies.

She has also been active in a number of foundational movements for social change, including abortion rights, AIDS activism and the gay and lesbian liberation movement. She is co-founder with Jim Hubbard of both the MIX:NY LGBT Experimental Film and Video Festival, and the ACT UP Oral History Project.

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October 27, 2009

Children of the Marathon Recall a Forgotten Time

By [LIZ ROBBINS](#)

Unlike most 8-year-olds touring New York City, Wesley Paul began his sightseeing on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, standing elbow to knee with 4,822 strangers.

Paul was ready to run the 1977 [New York City Marathon](#), and while the magnitude of the moment did not faze him — it was his fourth marathon, after all — the scale of his surroundings did.

Having come from Columbia, Mo., and not even 5 feet tall, Paul gazed in awe at the nearly 700-foot towers of the bridge. “I didn’t know people could build stuff like that,” Paul, 40, recalled recently.

Paul ran without parental supervision across five bridges and five boroughs — watched by relatives standing on sidewalks — to finish the race in a startling 3 hours 31 seconds. He is the youngest marathoner recorded in the marathon’s 40-year history but not the only child to become infatuated with a distance many adults find torturous, even life-altering.

Scott Black was exhilarated in 1979 as a 9-year-old. “People were holding out their hands, cheering me on,” Black, 39, said. “I remember there being TV cameras on me, a blimp for a portion of the race. I remember the crowds going crazy.”

Howie Breinan was exhausted but euphoric when he finished in 3:26:34 in 1978, also at age 9.

“I was hurting at the end, but I also remember the feeling of running in the park,” Breinan, 40, said of Central Park, “and what kind of a crazy boost of adrenaline I got from the fans.”

The adventures of Paul, Black and Breinan offer a glimpse into a forgotten aspect of the running boom of the late 1970s. Preternaturally self-disciplined, they were among about 75 children (ages 8 to 13) who tackled the early years of the New York City Marathon in a time of novelty and naïveté.

Organizers were uneasy about young runners, but it was not until 1981, records show, that age 16 became the requirement. New York’s official minimum age became 18 in 1988, after [an advisory](#) set by the International Marathon Medical Directors Association in the early 1980s, and reasserted in 2001.

With no conclusive study, physicians still [debate](#) risks to children who compete in marathons, like muscular-skeletal injuries, stunted growth, burnout, parental pressures and the ability to handle heat stress.

Mary Wittenberg, the chief executive of the New York Road Runners, said her organization endorsed children running only shorter races. “We are all about people running and being physically active for their

entire lives,” she said.

Some marathons — Houston and Twin Cities in Minnesota — allow teenagers or admit younger runners on a case-by-case basis. Los Angeles has [a program for schoolchildren](#) ages 12 to 18.

“There’s no real medical data to say that kids should or shouldn’t run,” said Dr. William O. Roberts, the Twin Cities Marathon medical director.

“If it’s a kid’s decision to do it, they train well and they’re supervised, then there’s no harm to it.”

Paul, Black and Breinan began running as a chance to spend time with their fathers. Fathers themselves now, their perspectives have changed.

“I wouldn’t do anything differently,” said Black, a senior trial lawyer for the [Securities and Exchange Commission](#). “I find that running has defined me as a person; a lot of my self-esteem has come from it. I don’t regret anything. That said, as a parent, I wouldn’t push my kid to that.”

Paul’s concerns were more safety-related. “I don’t think I would let my 8-year-old run New York City alone,” he said. “It’s just a different environment.”

The three have not run the New York City Marathon since the 1980s; they sustained injuries before they were 20, then concentrated on their studies. Only Breinan, who teaches chemistry and coaches cross-country at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut, still competes (in long-distance trail runs). He ran six marathons and six 100-kilometer races as a teenager and younger (3:18:29 was his New York best, in 1979).

As a child, he could not sit still, his mother, Eleanor, said; his daily run helped him channel his energy. “I got lost in it,” Breinan said. On weekends he loved going with his father, Edward, and his training buddies, who were swept up by running’s popularity.

Paul’s father, Ailo, was his only training partner while growing up in Missouri. “I was in a place where there wasn’t anything to do,” Paul said. “No cable, Nintendo, Wii. It was either go out with him, or that’s it.”

Paul first ran with his father at age 3, when the family briefly lived in Queens, and he credits Ailo for motivating him.

“Most of the time, he was trying to prevent me from overdoing it,” said Paul, who set more than 15 world and national age records. “For me, it was always just a matter of internal challenges, doing something that nobody else had done.”

His Olympic aspirations waned at 14, when he developed tendinitis in his knees from Osgood-Schlatter disease. According to [a July 2000 report](#) by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), that injury can be a consequence of excessive training, for both children and adults.

Paul still ran a 2:38 personal best at 15, in the Houston Marathon. The next year, he fractured his knee when a car backed into him while he was running. He never recovered. “I don’t think it was an unhealthy situation; I know that there were people out there that thought that it was,” Paul said. “The moment I said I didn’t want to do it anymore, my parents were fine with it.”

Black began running when he was 6. One day, his father, Martin, a guidance counselor at the College of Staten Island, dropped him off at a stop sign and suggested he run the quarter-mile home. Black repeated the ritual, and soon his father entered him in local races, even petitioning in public hearings for his entry. Black ran the New Jersey Shore marathon when he was 8.

At 13, he had put himself on a strict high-carbohydrate diet, and at 14 ran his personal best in Philadelphia, 2:53:49. He ran New York three times in high school, never training more than 50 miles a week.

“I think people thought it was weird and cool,” Black said. “I felt special among my friends because I was not a gifted athlete in terms of skill sports.”

Martin Black has often asked himself if he pushed his son too hard. “It seems to me pretty obvious that it’s impossible to get a kid to do something like that if they didn’t want to do it,” Martin concluded, adding that his younger son, Eric, “retired” at 8.

“We never thought that Scott was going to be a world-class runner,” he added. “If Wesley Paul was in the race, he wasn’t going to beat him.”

While Black and Breinan were featured in the local news media, Paul was featured in running magazines. In 1979, Paul had a children’s book published about him. By then, he had become a celebrity in Taiwan, where his parents lived in the 1950s after moving from China. There, he and Ailo put on running clinics and started clubs.

Paul ran more than 40 marathons before he was 16. Now a partner at the law firm Michelman & Robinson, he says he has only a half-hour to run, and prefers treadmill interval workouts. At 6 feet 2, he also competes in recreational basketball leagues, while sponsoring three teams of his own.

Pre-adult injuries have not completely stopped Paul, Black and Breinan. “I have bad knees now,” Breinan said, insisting that running was not to blame because he also played other sports.

Black developed a stress fracture in his hip before the London Marathon in 1991, and that was that.

“I could run up to a certain distance without having pain, and beyond that, I said I’m happy that I could still run,” he said.

Sunday’s New York City Marathon makes him sentimental and sad. “Every year, it’s very hard for me to watch it,” he said. “Every year, I say, ‘Why don’t I do it?’ It’s not worth it. I’m afraid I won’t be able to run anymore.”

Paul has no qualms about sitting out. “We’ve done it,” he said. “There’s no question we could do it again if we wanted to.”



Staten Island Advance

Friendliness comes in first in North Shore Council race

3 candidates have convivial discussion of issues before Advance Editorial Board

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

By JUDY L. RANDALL

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Between the hugs and the handshakes, and the convivial conversation that ensued on a wide range of issues, it was sometimes hard to remember that the three people sitting before the Advance Editorial Board were rival candidates for the North Shore City Council seat.

But they were, and they are: Councilman Kenneth Mitchell (D-North Shore), whose name will appear on the Conservative Party line; Democrat Debi Rose, whose defeat of Mitchell in a September primary means her name will be on the Democratic Party and Working Families Party lines, and first-time Republican candidate Timothy Kuhn, whose name will be on the GOP line.

After Mitchell's loss to Ms. Rose, he said he had an obligation to Conservatives to remain on their line but would not actively campaign. The other day, he added that he was "a choice for voters in November" and said he continues to work hard at his job as a Council member.

This is Ms. Rose's third run for the seat; if successful, she would become the first African-American elected on Staten Island.

Both Ms. Rose, of Arlington, and Mitchell, of West Brighton, are native Islanders, veterans of Community Board 1 and have decades of community service on a host of boards and civic committees between them. Ms. Rose is an educational administrator at the College of Staten Island. Prior to Mitchell's stint on the Council, he was chief of staff to the former councilman, now Rep. Michael McMahon.

Born upstate, Kuhn, now of Stapleton, has lived on the Island for 10 years. A retired captain in the U.S. Air Force, with far-flung postings, Kuhn's civic involvements have centered on veterans' affairs, including serving as commander of the Richmond County American Legion.

On the issues, all said word that the Island's hospitals will be the beneficiary of long-term, low-interest city-backed loans is a start but shouldn't be viewed as the end of city's obligation to the borough to deliver the Island's fair share of health care in the form of clinics run by the Health and Hospitals Corporation.

MORE FUNDING

"We need to push to get more public funding," said Kuhn, "and funding we shouldn't have to pay back."

"HHC is made to feel it is relieved of some of its responsibility," said Ms. Rose, who said a "public-private marriage of clinics for the un-insured and under-insured would work well." She also called for the creation of a rape victims unit, smoking cessation classes and help for those with asthma and autism.

Still, Mitchell called the "\$20 million (loan) a momentous step." He said that while "HHC has to do more," the infusion of money will mean expanded clinic care, including mammography services. He also said it was important to let people know where current clinics are located.

On the topic of possible decentralization, Ms. Rose suggested borough-specific city agencies could be housed in unused Teleport space to spare Islanders from going into Manhattan on business. Mitchell wondered whether there would be enough of a workload there for city workers, but Kuhn said he liked the idea of setting up "temporary duty" there. All said one city agency in particular that could use hands-on local input is the Economic Development Corporation, which Ms. Rose said has thwarted timely progress on ferry terminal shops and amenities and home port redevelopment.

On the transportation front, Kuhn said the old toll arms on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge should be removed -- a function of the MTA -- and said road maintenance work should be done at night whenever possible. Ms. Rose said there is an overall lack of planning on road repair so alternate travel routes can be devised, called for the utilization of "smart lights" to synchronize traffic signals to avoid backups, and the use of bus lanes where possible. Mitchell said more attention should be paid to bottlenecks at intersections and implementation of turn lanes.

All held out hope for a North Shore rail line, but when Ms. Rose said, "Let's get it done," and suggested that studies to move the project forward could be done simultaneously, Mitchell pointed out that the state and city mandates each phase needs to be completed independently and is contingent on previous findings.

FERRY SCHEDULE

Elsewhere, Ms. Rose said she'd like to see a new pre-K through community college housed on the home port site and Mitchell said he'd like ferries to run on a half-hour schedule overnight.

All three advocated a strengthening of community/police relations. Ms. Rose said some North Shore residents have felt they don't have "access" to government and the services it provides "because of their ethnicity."

Judy L. Randall is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at randall@siadvance.com.

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Hunger Pains: Pakistan's Food Insecurity

Posted: Oct 28, 2009 Wed 06:54 am

In recent weeks, Pakistan's military has been waging a full-scale campaign against the Taliban in the country's Swat Valley. This operation has displaced several million people from Swat and surrounding areas, threatening their access to food. This developing humanitarian crisis is exacerbating Pakistan's already-widespread food insecurity.

According to 2008 data from the World Food Program, 77 million Pakistanis—nearly half the country's total population—are food insecure, while 95 of Pakistan's 121 districts face problems such as hunger and malnutrition-related disease. Last year, a UNICEF report concluded that half of all child deaths in Pakistan can be attributed to poor nutrition.

In the conference's opening address, Zafar Altaf of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council pointed out the key obstacles to improving Pakistan's food security, including a disproportionate emphasis on wheat, inefficiencies of fertilizer and irrigation systems, poor infrastructure in the western provinces, and a lack of innovative knowledge generation.

The morning panel examined the macro-level challenges of Pakistan's food security. Sohail Jehangir Malik, of the Pakistani consulting firm Innovative Development Strategies, spoke about agricultural production, with an emphasis on wheat. He argued that Pakistan's food security is tied to the production and availability of this staple, which accounts for more than 55 percent of the country's total caloric consumption. In Pakistan, the availability of, and access to, wheat is a story of regional disparities. For example, the volatile Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) suffers from "huge shortfalls" in wheat, while the fertile eastern province of Punjab enjoys a surplus. Malik criticized Islamabad's subsidizing of the wheat industry, contending that wheat millers benefit disproportionately from this aid. He advocated for a middle ground between protecting consumers and subsidizing producers.

Saadia Toor, of the **College of Staten Island**, declared that Pakistan's food insecurity is not just the result of poor agricultural production, but also a byproduct of structural factors such as unequal land distribution. Land, she asserted, is Pakistan's "single-most important asset"—yet @@@@millions of Pakistanis are landless@@@@. "Broad-based"—and not simply "cosmetic"—land reform is essential for strengthening food security and reducing poverty, because improved land access reduces food prices for families. How, Toor asked, do these crucial reforms come about? Lobbying the government is pointless, she contended, recalling how Pakistan's prime minister announced in 2002 that land reforms were "over." Instead, she advocated for empowering peoples'—particularly peasants'—movements. Food is a basic right, she concluded, and therefore should be thought of not in terms of availability and access, but instead in terms of entitlement and justice.

2ND CALL FOR PAPERS: FLAIRS-2010 SPECIAL TRACK ON AI EDUCATION

[apologies for cross-postings]

*** 2nd [CALL FOR PAPERS](#) ***

Special Track on [ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION](#)
The 23rd International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-2010)
Daytona Beach, Florida, USA
The Shores Resort and Spa
May 19-21, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline: November 23, 2009
- Acceptance notification: January 22, 2010
- Final versions due: February 22, 2010

Papers are being solicited for a special track on AI [Education](#) at the 23rd International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-2010). The FLAIRS Special Track on AI [Education](#) is intended to provide a setting in which educators and researchers from all areas of AI can come together to share ideas and approaches for teaching AI at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We are especially interested in submissions that describe innovative curricular materials, teaching methods, pedagogical experiences, or ways to promote student interest in AI and the participation of underrepresented groups. We welcome submissions on all aspects of AI pedagogy, including, but not limited to:

- [Model](#) assignments, course syllabi, [software](#), or other curricular resources
- Implementation of the [Computing](#) Curricula 2001 [Intelligent Systems](#) area
- AI classroom techniques or innovations for undergraduate and/or graduate instruction
- Intelligent applications for instruction of AI and assessment of such applications
- The use of robots or other hands-on equipment for teaching AI
- Strategies for incorporating AI research into AI courses
- Strategies for encouraging wider student interest and participation in AI
- Descriptions or [case studies](#) of successful class projects or other pedagogical experiences

Note: There is a separate special track for [Intelligent Tutoring Systems](#).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested authors must submit completed manuscripts for double-blind review by November 23, 2009. Papers should follow AAAI formatting guidelines (<http://www.aaai.org/Publications/Templates/AuthorKit.zip>). Submission guidelines can be obtained by referring to the conference website (<http://www.flairs-23.info/>). Papers will be refereed and those accepted for presentation will appear in the conference proceedings which will be published by AAAI Press. Authors may be invited to submit a revised copy of their paper to a special issue of the International

Journal on [Artificial Intelligence Tools \(IJAIT\)](#). Questions regarding the track should be addressed to Todd Neller (<http://cs.gettysburg.edu/~tneller/>) or Jim Marshall (<http://science.slc.edu/~jmarshall/>).

ONLINE RESOURCES

- FLAIRS: <http://www.flairs.com>
- FLAIRS 2010: <http://www.flairs-23.info/>
- AI Education Track: <http://cs.gettysburg.edu/~tneller/flairs10/>

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We look forward to your participation at next year's FLAIRS!

- Todd Neller and [Jim Marshall](#)



PHOTO COURTESY OF GERRI HERNANDEZ

Sen. Charles Schumer endorses Debi Rose for the City Council seat on the North Shore.

Senator backs Dem hopeful in North Shore Council race

Schumer says Rose is 'the best choice' for community

By TOM WROBLESKI
ADVANCE POLITICAL EDITOR

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer yesterday endorsed Democratic City Council candidate Debi Rose, calling her "the best choice for the North Shore."

"As a City Council member," said Schumer (D-N.Y.), "we can count on Debi's strong independent voice fighting for better transportation, smarter planning and economic development, stronger schools and programs for seniors, quality health care and affordable housing."

Said Schumer, "When I'm working in Washington, Staten Island needs Democrat Debi Rose working for us at City Hall."

"Sen. Schumer sets the gold standard for fighting against the special interests on behalf of everyday New York families," said Ms. Rose. "In the City Council, Staten Islanders can count on me to be the same kind of independent Democrat."

3 RECEIVE APPROVAL

A trio from the Island legal community has gotten the seal of approval from two professional organizations here.

The Richmond County Bar Association gave its "approved" rating to state Supreme Court Justice Philip Minardo, who is running for re-election, and to attorney Orlando (Lindy) Marrazzo, who is seeking the vacant North Shore Civil Court seat.

Both men are Democrats. The bar association gave its "recommended" rating to Republican Justice John Fusco, who is seeking a two-year extension on the bench, known as a recertification.

Group president Jonathan Behrins called the men "two proven jurists of the highest quality and one who will certainly be at that lofty level within the next few years."

The Staten Island Trial Lawyers found the three men to be "well-qualified," which president Thomas Tormey said is the group's highest rating.

Minardo is the supervising judge of Richmond County. He and Marrazzo, a first-time candidate, are running without opposition and have been endorsed by the top five parties on the ballot.

Fusco is a former borough Surrogate and City Council member.

ODDO ENDORSEMENTS

GOP City Councilman James Oddo yesterday announced nearly two dozen endorsements, which he said shows that he has a wide range of support in his re-election bid.

"I am humbled that such a diverse group of organizations has, upon looking at my record in the City Council, decided to endorse my candidacy for re-election," said Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn). "It is particularly exciting to once again have the strong support of the public safety, fire and education communities."

Among those who endorsed Oddo were Uniformed Firefighters Association; Uniformed Fire Officers Association; United Federation of Teachers; Council of School Supervisors and Administrators; Patrolmen's Benevolent Association; Sergeants Benevolent Association; Captains Endowment Association; United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; Amalgamated Transit Union Local 726; Freelancers Union, and Citizens Union.

Rose: Mitchell running a 'stealth campaign'

Incumbent councilman, on Conservative line, had said he would not actively run against Dem challenger

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Maybe things aren't as Rose-y as they appeared at first blush in what has largely been a friendly race for the North Shore City Council seat.

Democrat Debi Rose's camp yesterday accused Councilman Kenneth Mitchell (D-North Shore) of running a "stealth campaign" on the Conservative line after promising not to actively campaign against Ms. Rose when she beat him in last month's Democratic primary.

Rose campaign manager David Jones said Mitchell has been campaigning in Rosebank with Borough President James Molinaro, with whom he shares the Conservative line, and appearing in TV commercials funded by the Conservative Party.

But Mitchell contended he merely has been throwing promised pizza parties at senior citizen centers, without Molinaro in tow, and that the commercials are part of the overall Conservative Party campaign for its candidates.

Mitchell accepted an invitation to appear before the Advance Editorial Board earlier this week with Ms. Rose and Republican Tim Kuhn. He said he did so because he had an obligation to Conservatives, adding he remained "a choice for voters in November." The tenor of the meeting was congenial.

Said Mitchell yesterday: "I am not actively campaigning. I am doing my job as a councilman. It appears some people are concerned that I remain an option on the ballot."

Still, said Jones of Mitchell: "I had expected him to



MITCHELL

live up to what he said after he lost. He said he was a good Democrat and he would not be running. But you turn on the TV and there he is. I had hoped he would be stepping back, because that is what he had indicated. This creates a problem for us; he is stirring the pot. I thought he would be asking his supporters to support Debi, but that has not happened."

Jones also argued that Mitchell's old boss, Rep. Michael McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) — who has yet to formally, publicly endorse Ms. Rose — could put an end to any mixed signals "if he wanted to."

Jones' comments came hours before last night's \$100-a-head "Unity Celebration" fundraiser for Ms. Rose at the Staaten, West Brighton. McMahon was listed as an "honorary co-chair" but was in Washington.

HOME FOR WEEKEND

Jones said he had hoped a public endorsement by McMahon would happen tomorrow, when the congressman is home for the weekend, but said nothing has been arranged. The election is Tuesday.

Jones also said McMahon & Co. have failed to "reach out" to Team Rose in recent days regarding an endorsement, but admitted that neither had there been any recent "outreach" to McMahon on behalf of Ms. Rose.

A few weeks ago, McMahon organized what one participant described as a post-primary "kumbaya dinner" with Ms. Rose and the party's elected officials.

Of the attendees, state Sen. Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer endorsed Ms. Rose after her primary victory; Assemblyman Matthew Titone did so later. Assemblyman Michael Cusick and McMahon had yet to follow suit.

At the time, observers said McMahon and Cusick were waiting for their cues from Ms. Rose's campaign for endorsement events wrapped around issues of importance to each.

Other elected officials, and Democratic Party Chairman John Gulino, who also had endorsed Ms. Rose, also were listed as "honorary co-chairpersons" on last night's Rose fund-raiser invite.

Meanwhile, Jones said the Rose campaign is "taking nothing for granted" and is "working hard" to win Tuesday's general election.

McMahon and Ms. Rose were rivals for the North Shore Council seat in a 2001 primary, which McMahon won narrowly. Ms. Rose remained on the ballot on the Independence Party line but did not actively campaign in the Democrat-heavy district.

Ms. Rose declined to comment directly yesterday, referring calls to Jones.

McMahon could not be reached for comment. His

spokeswoman, Lauren Amendolara, said: "Of course, Congressman McMahon has endorsed Debi Rose's historic election as North Shore councilwoman, plain and simple."

"At a dinner organized by Congressman McMahon, he directly offered to do a public event endorsing her for City Council. The Rose campaign declined the traditional endorsement, which the congressman had offered to do the next day."

"Congressman McMahon also expressed interest in doing an issue-related event. The Rose campaign is working it out, and Congressman McMahon hopes to do it this weekend."

Ms. Amendolara continued, "However, the main point is that with less than a week to go until Election Day, it is time to focus on electing Ms. Rose. To that end, the congressman is being represented at a fundraiser for her, which he is a sponsor of, because he is in Washington."

"In addition, he is in Ms. Rose's campaign literature and has given the Rose campaign a contribution from his campaign committee."

"Congressman McMahon supports Ms. Rose's candidacy, encourages North Shore residents to do the same, and is more than happy to assist her campaign in any way that he can."

McMahon made a \$500 contribution to Ms. Rose's campaign.



West Coast 'vagrant' welcomed here

By [Kathryn Carse](#)

October 29, 2009, 4:47PM

STATEN ISLAND, NY – **STAPLETON** -- A vagrant landed in **Howie Fischer's** back yard one recent Saturday afternoon. This is not normally a welcome occasion. But Fischer was thrilled and immediately put the word out; soon after, folks began arriving at his Stapleton home as if royalty had landed.

The unexpected visitor is a selasphorus – Rufous and Allen – hummingbird. A common inhabitant of the West Coast, it was far off its migratory trail between Alaska and Mexico. In birding circles, that qualified it as a vagrant. The Rufous and Allen hummingbirds, nearly indistinguishable, both turn up frequently in the East; however this was a first sighting on Staten Island.

The birds could have been here before, but if this bird wanted to make it official, it couldn't have picked a better back yard. Fischer, a science teacher at Bernstein Intermediate School in Huguenot, has been birding since he was a teen and is a dedicated enthusiast, leading walks through the year, including one that morning at Conference House Park.

"I noticed right away it was different and not a Ruby-throated hummingbird," said Fischer. One tip-off was the bird's cinnamon (or rufous) tail.

If you have seen a hummingbird on Staten Island, it's likely a Ruby-throated one. This year, local birders have commented on the unusual numbers seen at feeders and flowers.

So small is the hummingbird, that it can easily be mistaken momentarily for a big insect. If its movement doesn't attract attention, its whirring – or humming – wings will.

With its characteristically long thin beak, used to probe tubular flowers for nectar, the hummingbird can fly forward and back with its quickly beating wings.

Most hummers have some iridescent feathers and like a jewel, the bird's colors seem to change with the light. Many of the males also sport a gorget, that in spring appears to be a brilliantly colored little chain maille scarf at the neck.

Fischer called a few key people to spread news of the bird's sighting, including resident expert Dr. **Richard Veit**, ornithologist at the **College of Staten Island**, and **Seth Wollney**, public program associate at the Staten Island Museum, both of whom came by. Wollney, in turn, started the electronic drumbeat – texting local bird chasers and posting a notice on the SI Naturalist home page.

The rufous and Allen hummingbirds are nearly indistinguishable except for the amount of color in a few tail feathers, but the consensus is that this is a rufous hummingbird.

By this time of year, the ruby-throated hummingbirds are on their way to Central America where they winter. Fischer said he always keeps his feeders out after they are gone in the hopes that a West Coast hummer gone astray will find it.

"Late in the season is when rare hummingbirds show up," said Fischer.

The arrival of Teddy, so nicknamed for Fischer's Aunt Theodore with whom he was talking on the phone when he spotted the bird, was a long awaited reward. In the shadow of Wagner College's Grymes Hill campus, his terraced yard is still full of flowers. Fuschia, Texas Dwarf salvia, and bouvardia from Mexico where the little guy was supposed to be wintering, are closest to sugar-water feeders.

Although it can zip off in a flash, the elegant hummer did not mind being observed from just a few yards away.

Fischer had visitors all day on a recent Saturday and Sunday afternoon: **Cliff Hagen** and his two daughters, **Erin** and **Kate**; **Ed Johnson**, director of science at the Staten Island Museum and his son **Zach**; **Anne Purcell**, **Catherine Barron**, **Matt Savoca**, **Dave Eib** also stopped by.

The bird seemed to favor a butterfly bush and tomato cages as perches, but it also swooped up to lofty tree branches.

On a recent visit it wasn't long before we spotted it flitting in an evergreen. Soon enough, though, it was at the feeder to sip some sugar-water elixir, hovering in full view between sips. A tiny bit of the iridescent red-orange at its neck that flames out in spring was visible.

"It's not usual for something totally new to show up," said Johnson. The last bird new to the Island – an ash throated flycatcher – flew in between five and 10 years ago. A tufted duck, a great white heron and a roseate spoonbill have also shown up in the last 20 years, said Johnson. And **Gloria Deppe** spotted a black-headed grosbeak at her feeder about 10 years ago.

Although not a first-sighting, the appearance of the unique scissor-tailed flycatcher caused quite a stir this summer when it was spotted by Cliff Hagen in Fresh Kills, but it didn't stick around long enough for many others to see.

Fischer is hoping Teddy sticks around. After a 12-day string of sightings, including the weekend of the nor'easters, he disappeared, and Fischer realized with a jolt how attached he had become.

He had a surprise on Sunday. Teddy reappeared, apparently having hung out at a neighbor's. Perhaps he needed a break in the celebrity status which has included a string of visitors, including photographers, and a father and son from Connecticut. The son, who is being treated for cancer, is a birding enthusiast and his father treated him to the trip to see the hummer and a cackling goose on the grounds of Mount Loretto.

Back yard birding

If you have spotted a bird you think is unusual or just want to know more about the birds at your feeder, here are some useful resources.

Staten Island Museum

Call Ed Johnson at 718-727-1135 or better yet, e-mail a photo of the bird to him. ¶

Local birding

Visit the Web site, birdingonstatenisland.com and link to SiNaturalist where birders post sightings from all over the Island.

Identification site

Visit allaboutbirds.com, the Cornell Cooperative Extension's extensive site with photos, text and audio for identifying.

Back yard birds

Become part of the Great Backyard Bird Count at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

Sports



Staten Island College Sports

News, scores & more from Wagner College & the College of Staten Island

Staten Island college sports roundup for October 4, 2009

By [Staten Island Advance Sports Desk](#)

October 05, 2009, 9:58AM

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mount St. Mary's converted on a long throw-in into the box in the 79th minute for the game's only goal to drop Wagner College to 1-9-1 overall and 0-3 in the Northeast Conference after the 1-0 league loss on Sunday.

CROSS COUNTRY

Lisa Lamanna finished sixth in the [College of Staten Island](#)-CUNYAC cross-country meet at Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx. Lamanna crossed in 27 minutes, 44 seconds for the 6K race. Matt Hogan was the first CSI male across in the 8K run with a time of 35:34.

CSI women

6. Lisa Lamanna, 27:44; 38. Liz Grieco, 32:26; 52. Caitlin O'Neill, 34:09; 56. Sackiema Thomas, 34:40; 86. Genesis Aquino, 39:22; 103. Stacy Janty, 54:58.

CSI men

63. Matt Hogan, 35:34; 82. Dean Kunjrabia, 36:40; 104. Shannon Pierre, 38:58; 107. Matt Greger, 39:19; 131. Mark Rodriguez, 49:48.

Varsity 845 U

Mount volleyball player Sorrentino named athlete of the week

By Ken McMillan
October 06, 2009

Times Herald-Record
October 06, 2009 9:05 PM

Teresa Sorrentino helped lead Mount Saint Mary to a 3-1 record in volleyball, earning school athlete of the week honors for the period ending Oct. 4. The Mount beat Bard (3-0), Southern Maine (3-2) and Salem State (3-0) and lost to Western New England (3-0) — the latter three matches were in the Salem State tournament.

The sophomore outside hitter from Bellerose, Sorrentino averaged 3.62 kills and 2.62 digs in the four matches. She had 16 kills in a three-game sweep of Bard. For the season, Sorrentino has a team-high 152 kills, eight assists and 183 digs.

Sorrentino, a nursing major, played three years of varsity volleyball for Saint Mary's High School on Long Island, and was the team most valuable player each season. In her freshman season at the Mount, Sorrentino posted 134 kills, 24 assists, 234 digs and 11 blocks — her digs and kills total ranked second on the team.

Mount Saint Mary (10-9, 3-1 Skyline) hosted John Jay on Tuesday evening. The Blue Knights play at College of Staten Island on Thursday and take on Russell Sage and host Polytechnic in a twinbill in Brooklyn on Saturday.

The Mount will host Vassar College and Bard College in the Hudson Valley Tournament on Oct. 17.

Varsity 845 U

Mount's Kenney earns top athlete recognition

By Ken McMillan
October 06, 2009

Times Herald-Record
October 06, 2009 9:05 PM

Courtney Kenney helped Mount Saint Mary to a 2-1 record in Skyline Conference action, and garnered school athlete of the week honors for the period ending Sept. 27. The Mount beat Mount Saint Vincent (3-0) on Sept. 22, lost to Saint Joseph's (3-0) on Sept. 26 and beat SUNY Old Westbury (3-1) on Sept. 26.

A sophomore outside hitter from Hicksville, Kenney averaged 2.90 kills and 2.50 digs in the three matches. In the match against SUNY Old Westbury, Kenney had 14 kills. For the season, Kenney ranks second on the team with 148 kills, has six assists and 145 digs.

Kenney played one varsity volleyball season for Kellenberg Memorial High School. In her freshman season at the Mount, she posted 247 kills, 17 assists, 220 digs and 16 blocks.

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The Mount will host Vassar College and Bard College in the Hudson Valley Tournament on Oct. 17.



Staten Island College Sports

News, scores & more from Wagner College & the College of Staten Island

College soccer: CSI falls to John Jay

By [Staten Island Advance Sports Desk](#)

October 08, 2009, 11:44AM

John Jay College's Kareem Roberts scored the only goal in the 20th minute and the Bloodhounds made that goal stand during a 1-0 CUNY victory over [College of Staten Island](#) yesterday in Willowbrook.

The Manhattan squad (1-3-2) picked up its first CUNY win while the Dolphins dropped to 2-3 in the CUNY and 3-11 overall.



Varsity 845 U

Oct. 9 Mount Saint Mary roundup: Volleyball team sweeps Staten Island

October 10, 2009 2:00 AM

Women's volleyball

Mount sweeps Staten Island

Mount Saint Mary posted six service aces in a 25-10, 25-21, 25-10 victory at the **College of Staten Island**. Mary Ann Raftery had 14 digs, four kills and six aces. Elizabeth Douress had eight kills. Katie Toole of Wallkill posted 28 assists for the Blue Knights (12-9), who are three games above .500 for the first time since opening 3-0 in 2005.



Varsity 845 U

Oct. 10 Mount Saint Mary roundup: Women's tennis blanks NYU-Poly

October 10, 2009 11:55 PM

Women's tennis: Mount Saint Mary College 9, NYU-Poly 0

MSMC continued its perfect start to the season by sweeping NYU-Poly in a Skyline Conference match at the College of Staten Island. Gabriela Murphy-Goldberg, Lindsay Searle, Linnea Mowat, Rebecca Schwartz, Jen Gregory, and Emily Gregory won singles matches for Mount (10-0, 3-0).



On athletics, Department of Education accountable to no one

By Jack Minogue

October 10, 2009, 4:58PM

Dual standards. The public has been constantly told students, teachers and school administrators are being held accountable.

Did you ever notice the Department of Education and accountability are never mentioned in the same breath? Not when it comes to such as a 7-year-old being given a Metro Card to get to and from school and absolutely not when it comes to athletics.

An obvious example is the chaos created by the D of E's caving in and moving high school girls' soccer to the fall when the New York Civil Liberties Union, at the behest of three girls (out of approximately 1,700), threatened a lawsuit.

Advance columnist Tom Dowd has recounted the problems the D of E meltdown has created on Staten Island in scheduling games and especially practice times since the girls had to be fitted in with their school's boys' soccer and varsity and JV football teams.

It's utter chaos in the other boroughs.

For example, according to PSAL.org, as of last week, there have been over 100 boys' and girls' soccer forfeits and two girls' teams, Springfield Gardens and Beach Channel, have been scheduled to play six games in nine days. Try to find a college or even Major League Soccer team that plays anything close to that. You won't.

Another obvious example of how accountability is not applied to the Tweed Courthouse Gang is its response to the Curtis HS pool's being closed for renovations.

Curtis has been the site for Island public school teams' practices and meets and its closing meant schools would have to rent facilities.

The decision was announced on June 26, but school athletic budgets which had already been cut, obviously didn't have money for rentals, an additional expense.

The Tweed Gang didn't come up with the rental money until mid-October, nearly four months after the announcement — and three weeks after teams were supposed to begin practice.

Will the boys' swimming season fare any better? Don't count on the unaccountable D of E.

PIRATE BASEBALL ALUM STEP UP TO PLATE

The Tottenville HS baseball alumni will stage a benefit game for John Benedetto at the College of Staten Island tonight at 7.

As recounted here three weeks ago, the former Tottenville HS baseball standout, a two-time Advance Baseball All Star, was body surfing at Point Pleasant (N.J.) Beach on July 3 when the surf slammed him into

the sand, fracturing his C6 vertebra. He had no feeling and no motor skills when he awakened in the hospital.

Benedetto's teammates from the 2003 city PSAL championship team teamed with his friends to organize the game to help the Benedetto family with ever-mounting medical bills.

"We've been able to borrow a van to bring John home for the game," Benedetto's father, John Sr., said yesterday, adding that the rigorous rehab schedule at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, N.J., has continued to produce results.

Three weeks ago, Benedetto had progressed to where he could brush his teeth and his hair.

"Now," his father said, "he has use of his right triceps."

Admission for the game is \$10, and the evening will also feature a raffle (a ticket will be provided at the gate) and a Chinese auction with gift baskets and gift certificates provided by local businesses.

FINAL BOBBY WIT FUNDRAISER OCT. 29

Robert Witkowski, "Bobby Wit" to his friends, played a major role when Willowbrook State School (now CSI), a warehouse for special needs people, was phased out and replaced by the Staten Island Developmental Center where Witkowski served as director until he passed in 2004 at the age of 56.

The Wagner College grad and Wagner football fanatic was just as fanatical about the disabled getting as close as possible to a "normal" life.

Athletics and recreation are "normal," so Bobby Wit and Bill Britton raised money through the Bob Lowney Memorial Golf Tourney which provided the funds — Bob provided the space — for a special education athletic complex, the first in New York State.

Connie Witkowski, Bobby's widow, and his friends, primarily from the Delta Nu fraternity, have established a \$1,500 scholarship in his name. It has been awarded annually to a Wagner graduate who is special education major and who will need to obtain a masters in special ed to follow in his footsteps.

The fundraising dinner at The Staaten in West Brighton will be the last, according to Connie. The Robert Witkowski Scholarship Fund is expected to reach its goal of \$100,000 which will endow the scholarship in perpetuity.

As usual, the fare will include a buffet and an open bar. Tickets are \$100 and checks for tickets or donations should be payable to Wagner College with Witkowski Fund noted on the memo line.

Checks should be mailed to Connie Witkowski at 23 Howard Ave., Staten Island, 10301.

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October 11, 2009

Vassar makes it to finals

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. - Tess Johnson and Sarah Potts had 11 and 10 kills, respectively, as the Vassar College women's volleyball team advanced to the championship game of the Seven Sisters Women's Volleyball Tournament with a 25-16, 25-20, 25-18 win over Smith on Saturday.

The Brewers (12-5) will face Wellesley for the title at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Dutchess drops pair - Alysia Dodge dished out 33 assists for Dutchess CC in its 3-2 loss to Kingsborough CC.

In a second match, Megan Woody had eight digs as the Falcons were beaten by the Fashion Institute of Technology, 25-9, 25-10, 25-20. Dutchess is 4-9.

Marist 3, Manhattan 1 - Alexandra Schultze and Joanna Foss had 16 kills apiece as the host Red Foxes defeated the Jaspers, 25-15, 23-25, 25-22, 25-21, late Friday in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play.

Men's soccer

Ross Macklin scored the game-winning goal for host Vassar College in the 86th minute in a 3-2 home victory over Union College.

Plattsburgh 3, New Paltz 0 - Tom Viscardi had three saves for host New Paltz (6-6-1, 1-5 SUNYAC).

Culinary Institute of America 3, Vaughn 1 - Corey Ferguson scored twice and Pierre Mewissen had the other goal for Culinary (7-0-1).

Fairfield 3, Marist 1 - Stephan Brossard scored for the host Red Foxes, who lost their MAAC opener to the Stags late Friday.

Women's soccer

PLATTSBURGH - Stephanie Vega made five saves for SUNY New Paltz in their 1-0 road loss to SUNY Plattsburgh.

Union 4, Vassar 0 - The Brewers fell to 5-7, 1-4 in Liberty League play.

Women's cross country

CANTON - The Vassar women's cross country team finished in third place with 62 points at the 6-kilometer Liberty League championships at St. Lawrence University.

Johanna Spangler came in fifth place with a time of 23 minutes and 8 seconds. Teammate Zoe

Carpenter placed 10th at 24:14 and Kelly Holmes took 13th at 24:30.

Men's cross country

CANTON - Vassar College's Jonathan Erickson placed 15th in 27:14 at the 8-kilometer Liberty League Championships. Vassar placed third with 98 points.

Women's tennis

Vassar College took every singles and doubles match in their 9-0 home sweep of Union College (3-1).

Nicole Pontee, Jennifer Beckerman, Joy Backer, Elizabeth Anderson, Jennifer Ruther, Natalie Santiago and Nicole Block were the singles winners for the Brewers, who improved to 3-1.

Mount Saint Mary 9, NYU-Polytechnic 0 - The Blue Knights swept in a match held at the College of Staten Island.

The doubles teams of Gabriella Murphy-Goldberg and Annie Llewellyn, Caitlyn Giordano and Rebecca Schwartz and Jen and Emily Gregory won for the Blue Knights, who are 10-0, 3-0 in the Skyline Conference.

Kingsborough 4, Dutchess 3 - Roy C. Ketcham graduate Jessica Segarra won at fourth singles and teamed with Arlington graduate Valerie Ferrone at second doubles for wins, but the Falcons lost on the road.

Field hockey

NEW PALTZ - SUNY New Paltz (4-8) lost its fifth straight game, falling to Endicott, 1-0.

William Smith 4, Vassar 0 - Brewers goalkeeper Rachel Horwitz made five saves, but Vassar lost a Liberty League game in Geneva.

Vassar is 2-12 and 0-5 in league play.



CSI women's soccer loses to Ramapo, 9-0

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

October 11, 2009, 6:58PM

MAHWAH, N.J. — The visiting **CSI** Dolphins (2-6-2 overall) dropped a non-league decision to Ramapo, 9-0.

CSI hosts Mount St. Vincent Wednesday at noon.



Volleyball Falls to Rutgers-Newark, 3-1

By: Kean Athletics

Posted: 10/13/09

NEWARK, N.J. (10/6/09) - Sophomore Jamie Sacco (Park Ridge, N.J.) had a match-high 14 kills,

however the Kean University volleyball team fell to Rutgers-Newark, 3-1, in New Jersey Athletic

Conference action on Tuesday evening.

The Scarlet Raiders posted scores of 25-22, 15-25, 25-20, 28-26.

Rookie Rachel Witt (Basking Ridge, N.J.) had a double-double with 19 kills and 13 digs, while sophomore Toni Moppert (Woodcliff Lake, N.J.) finished with nine kills, 14 digs and two aces.

For the Cougars, sophomore Tara Richey (Bayonne, N.J.) chipped in with nine kills and three solo

blocks.

The Cougars travel to **College of Staten Island** on Saturday, October 10, for a match at 4:30 p.m.



College soccer: CSI women notch shutout victory

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

October 13, 2009, 9:47AM

Tina Chechel and Lauren Neglia (assist) each recorded a hat trick as the **College of Staten Island** rolled to a 9-0 non-league victory over visiting Mount St. Vincent yesterday.

The 3-6-2 Dolphins, who had 17 shots on goal and 16 corner kicks, also received goals from Christina Sgarlato, Kelly Kenny (assist) and Ednita Lorezno. Valarie Incontrera had two assists and Christina Jacob added a single helper.

Goalie Mayda Perdomo finished with three saves.



College women's sports roundup for October 14, 2009

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

October 15, 2009, 10:24AM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

CSI wins

The College of Staten Island won its third straight women's volleyball game with a 3-0 non-league victory over St. Joseph's College of Brooklyn last night in Willowbrook.

The Dolphins (9-12) picked up 25-16, 25-16, 25-15 victories but needed to mount comebacks in the first and third sets.

CSI was led by Alba Basha's 22 assists and team-high 11 digs, Karina Zenkova's 10 digs, Samantha Fink's career-high nine kills and Danielle Ponsiglione's six kills.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Farmingdale 9, CSI 0

The Dolphins fell to 3-7-2 overall with the non-league loss in Willowbrook.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

CSI wins

The Dolphins' CUNY match at Medgar Evers, which was a make-up from Sept. 11, was canceled with CSI being awarded a victory.

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MSIT topples Tots to claim share of division crown

By JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Last Updated: 7:11 AM, October 19, 2009

Posted: 1:48 AM, October 19, 2009

One loss was enough for Samantha Cunzo.

The senior suffered her first ever regular season setback on Columbus Day to Susan Wagner, with MSIT losing key players to their club soccer teams. Cunzo made it known to her teammates that she wasn't missing out on a chance to claim a share of the PSAL Staten Island A girls soccer title with a win over Tottenville on Senior Day.

"I was like girls, 'I have one blemish on [my] high school career record and my season and I am not having another one,'" Cunzo said.

She got her wish.

MSIT scored twice early in the first half and held on for a 2-1 win over Tottenville at the **College of Staten Island** Sunday morning. The victory gives the Sea Gulls a share of the crown with the Pirates and likely a higher seed in the PSAL playoffs, which begins next Saturday. The teams played to a scoreless tie in their first meeting. It is the fourth straight McKee/Staten Tech, the defending city champions, has finished in first place.



DENIS GOSTEV

MSIT sophomore Jackie Bruno scored a goal and had an assist in a 2-1 win over Tottenville Sunday.

"We definitely didn't want another loss because everyone took the [one] loss really hard," sophomore Jackie Bruno said.

The Sea Gulls caught the Pirates off guard at the outset. Bruno sent a perfect cross to an open Cunzo at the top of the box on the near side. She scored to the fair side post to give MSIT the game's first goal in the 4th minute.

Bruno later created a goal on her own. She stole the ball from Kasey Murphy in the box and then drilled a shot to the top far corner of the goal.

"I couldn't [give up]," Bruno said. "Everyone wants to score so bad and when you are given the opportunity and have a feeling where you could possibly get it, you are not going to give up."

Tottenville (10-1-1) put tremendous pressure on MSIT (10-1-1) in between its two scores. The Pirates managed five corner kicks and saw a 20-yard shot from Brianna Castaldo hit off the cross bar. Jessica Chung made two of her seven saves during that time, including one on a header by Veronica Bulger. Cunzo described that period as "heart attack after heart attack."

"My defense did a great job all year," MSIT coach Joanna Santarpia said. "We have only allowed [seven] goals only."

Tottenville did get on the board when a charging Kaitlyn Regan scored on a cross from Brittany Sheeran in the 55th minute. Sheeran then provided the Pirates best chance to tie when she poked a shot just wide of the far post five minutes from full time.

MSIT staged a mild celebration after the final whistle blew with a few cheers and hugs. The real party began later when players rubbed the cream from the senior's cake in each other's faces.

"Losing all the girls [from last year]," Bruno said, "and knowing we can come back and do it again is a great feeling."

jstaszewski@nypost.com

COLLEGE SPORTS

CSI women gain tennis tourney

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island women's tennis team earned the fifth seed in the CUNYAC Tournament after edging City College of New York 5-4 in the regular season finale yesterday at Randall's Island.

CSI (7-10 overall, 5-4 overall) will travel to

play at Lehman College today at 3 p.m. in the quarterfinals.

In yesterday's contest, CSI took a 2-1 lead after the three doubles matches, but CCNY registered wins in the three top spots. However, wins by Nancy Almazo at fourth singles, Justine Kuna at fifth singles and Tara Colao at sixth singles led the way to vic-

tory.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

**Old Westbury 2,
CSI 1**

OLD WESTBURY, L.I. — The hosts connected on the first shot in overtime to tally the game-winning goal just 1:39 into the extra session in the non-league affair.

Dolphins get back to work

Petosa, Moran have high hopes for their teams headed into new season

By DANIEL O'LEARY
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The start of a new season can be torture on a coach.

Trying to figure out the roles of players and teaching a crop the system can be tough. A furrowed brow can be found in basketball coach's office all across the land this time of year.

College of Staten Island's hoops coaches, Tony Petosa and Marguerite Moran, are no exceptions. They have

been through the torture plenty of times. A combined 30 seasons now.

But each new season also brings new promise.

For the men's team, which will have Brooklyn College, the No. 10 team in the nation, in their own conference. And so the search begins for the supporting cast beyond core players Ryan Hennessey, Dale Taranto, Christian Montervino and last season's CUNY Rookie of the Year, Jordan Young.

"That's our primary core," said Petosa, in his 20th season at CSI. "Our success this year is going to be based



College of Staten Island coach Tony Petosa demonstrates the fine art of free-throw shooting as his players look on during the first day of men's basketball tryouts at the school's Willowbrook gym.

SEE DOLPHINS, PAGE B 4

DOLPHINS FROM PAGE B 1

Dolphins get back to work

upon the kids we have here today, how fast they can pick things up and if they can stay eligible (academically)."

Tougher CUNY academic standards have made mid-season academic ineligibility a larger concern for the program than in the past, but this season the Dolphins may have enough depth to weather that storm.

Petosa cited returnees Emmanuel Frank (New Dorp), a sophomore guard, and big men Michael Pan, a 6-foot-5 Queens native and 6-7 St. Peter's product Chris Maccarone among those that could see time. Two off-island newcomers David Hughes and Everard Bisnath could make an impact as well. Michael Ledbetter, a 6-7 center who last played with the Dolphins in 2004, is also back.

"We have three or four other kids that could be surprise kids," said Petosa. "If they can pick up what we're doing, they might contribute this year. But I will say this, our first practice this year is much better than our first practice last year, and I think that has a little to do with some addition by subtraction."

Moran's squad lost a lot — five seniors — from last year's CUNY semifinalists, but they do get back heady point guard Mallory Ameneiros, who is expected to be fully recovered from knee surgery that robbed her of her 2008.

"I think the year of watching, kind of like an extra coach, could end up helping her become an even better player," said Moran.

High-scoring guards Kristen Panarello (Sea)

and Allie Shannahan (Villa) are also back in the mix for the Dolphins.

"I don't want to say we are rebuilding, because we have those pieces in place. We're not starting over, but we have a lot of young players," said Moran. "Maybe that will be a good thing for us, to have some depth, some young players coming off the bench with a lot of energy."

Among the talented youth are Villa's Sam Ekonomakos, Tottenville grad Olivia Tierno and Notre Dame Academy center Katelyn Hepworth.

"(Hepworth) gives us some much needed size," said Moran. "We have the same problem year-to-year, not having a lot of height, but we're going to play our pressure defense and play together."

College basketball: Dolphins get back to work

By Daniel O'Leary

October 20, 2009, 9:27AM



Hilton Flores

College of Staten Island men's basketball coach Tony Petosa leads his team through its first practice of the 2009-10 season at the school's Willowbrook gym.

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"(Hepworth) gives us some much needed size," said Moran. "We have the same problem year-to-year, not having a lot of height, but we're going to play our pressure defense and play together. We always feel like if we do that we will be competitive in the CUNY."

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Bowling for a cause at Rab's

By Michael Anderson

October 20, 2009, 10:26AM

The Staten Island United States Bowling Congress (USBC) has been raising funds this month in support of breast cancer awareness, but the organization's big events will take place this weekend.

The SIUSBC Association will hold its 7th Annual Bowling Against Breast Cancer Bowl-A-Thon on Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Rab's Country Lanes. The event will feature three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, soda and cake, music, raffles and prizes. Eyewitness News co-anchor Ken Rosado is scheduled to attend the event.

The bowl-a-thon has been a sellout for the last three years so spots are filling up quick. All money raised during the campaign is donated to the Staten Island Chapter of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides campaign and the USBC's Bowl for the Cure.

Last year, the organization raised over \$44,000 and in six years has collected over \$225,000.

"The bowling community really comes out and supports this cause." said Nazareth Laursen, SIUSBC Cares Committee Co-Chair.

Also, since many of the local high school and college bowlers have showed a willingness to contribute, the USBC has designed an event geared for that crowd.

That event will take place on Friday night from midnight to 2 a.m. at Rab's and festivities will include two hours of cosmic bowling and pizza and soda.

The entry fee for Friday night and Sunday's event is \$50 per bowler.

To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Laursen at 718-979-1600 or e-mail siusbccares@siusbc.org.

The **College of Staten Island** women's volleyball program will be holding its 2nd Annual Serving for a Cure event tonight at the Sports & Recreation Center, helping promote Breast Cancer Awareness with proceeds generated from the event to support the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

The Dolphins will host CUNYAC-rival York College at 7 p.m. in a game that could impact playoff positioning.

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Elizabeth DeHart, USBC SI Association, Linda Keen, American Cancer Society, and Nazareth Laursen, USBC SI Association pose for a shot at last year's fundraiser. The bowl-a-thon hauled in \$44,000 in 2008.

Volleyball Defeats Staten Island, 3-1

By: Kean Athletics

Posted: 10/20/09

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. (10/10/09) - Sophomore Tara Richey (Bayonne, N.J.) recorded a match-high 14 kills and added four service aces to lead the Kean University volleyball team to a 3-1 win over host **College of Staten Island** in non-conference action.

The Cougars (11-6) split the first two sets with the Dolphins (6-12), before closing out the four-set victory (25-17, 26-28, 25-20, 25-7).

In the win, sophomore Yesenia Velasquez (North Arlington, N.J.) finished with a match-high seven service aces, 12 assists and 12 digs, while junior Nicole Bolash (Clinton, N.J.) added eight kills and 11 digs.

Junior Colleen Masterson (Rahway, N.J.) dished out 17 assists and had six digs.

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Tennis Edges Staten Island, 5-4

By: Kean Athletics

Posted: 10/20/09

Staten Island, N.Y. (10/8/09) - The Kean University women's tennis team made the short trip across the bridge and edged host the **College of Staten Island**, 5-4, Thursday afternoon in non-conference action.

Playing short-handed, the Cougars were forced to forfeit both third doubles and sixth singles, giving the Dolphins a 2-0 lead before competition even started. After trading doubles matches, Kean had to buckle down in singles competition to come up with the win. Kean was successful picking up four wins in first, second, fourth and fifth singles competition. Junior Lisette LaForge (Roselle Park, N.J.) earned wins in first singles and first doubles paired with freshman Lauren Petrucelli (Wood-Ridge, N.J.). Petrucelli was also victorious in second singles with 6-0, 6-0 scores.

Singles competition:

1. Lisette LaForge (KEAN) def. Taylor Moran (CSI) 6-0, 6-2
2. Lauren Petrucelli (KEAN) def. Fabiana Iannuzzi (CSI) 6-0, 6-0
3. Qing Li (CSI) def. Alleyna Alleyne (KEAN) 6-3, 6-4
4. Jessica Oquendo (KEAN) def. Justine Kuna (CSI) 6-0, 6-0
5. Annie Ramos (KEAN) def. Tara Colao (CSI) 6-0, 6-1
6. Nancy Almazo (CSI) def. No Player (KEAN), by default

Doubles competition:

1. Lisette LaForge/Lauren Petrucelli (KEAN) def. Gabriella Villarruel/Fabiana Iannuzzi (CSI) 8-4
2. Qing Li/Nancy Almazo (CSI) def. Alleyna Alleyne/Jessica Oquendo (KEAN) 8-5
3. Taylor Moran/Tara Colao (CSI) def. Annie Ramos/No Player (KEAN), by default

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COLLEGE SOCCER

NJCU women set a

Thursday, October 22, 2009

school record for shots

in win over Staten Island

Sophomore forward Julia Caseres and freshman forward Ashley Cunha each netted a hat trick and sophomore midfielder Katlin Vargo contributed two goals as New Jersey City University sank the College of Staten Island, 11-0, in a non-conference game yesterday at the Robert L. McNulty Memorial Soccer Field.

NJCU set a new single-game school record for shots, with 61, eclipsing the mark of 57 against City College of New York on Sept. 8 of this season.

NJCU (11-7, 7-2 home) increased its single-season record for victories both overall and at home while guaranteeing its first winning season since 1994. The Gothic Knights lead NCAA Division III in total goals with 73.

On Senior Day, the Knights' lone senior, four-year starting defender and two-time All-New Jersey Athletic Conference recipient Jessica Irizarry was honored. She collected one goal and two assists on nine shots.

NJCU is still alive for an NJAC Tournament berth but must win its final two league games. That challenge starts Saturday at 3 p.m. against Rutgers University-Camden in Camden.

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Sea softball alums salute Kelly at reunion

By Charlie R DeBiase

October 22, 2009, 11:06AM



Members of St. Joseph by-the-Sea softball teams from past years got together to celebrate longtime coach Kathy Kelly at the school's inaugural alumni game.

The inaugural St. Joseph by-the-Sea alumnae softball game not only honored long-time coach **Kathy Kelly**, but brought out former players from as far back as the 1970s.

According to new varsity coach **Mike Ponsiglione**, everyone involved in the Sept. 26 event had a terrific time.

"It was a great turnout," said Ponsiglione, who said the parents of the present varsity and junior varsity teams donated food and desserts at the barbecue that followed the game. "(The turnout) was better than we expected, especially with the number of spectators in attendance. We're definitely going to make this an annual event."

"It was absolutely a success," added Sea assistant varsity coach and alumni game chairwoman **Carla Buonviaggio**. "We had around 60 people show up (between former players and spectators); people donated raffles and baskets which helped us a lot."

Buonviaggio said the fundraising efforts helped raise \$1,433, which will go toward the Monsignor Ansaldi Endowment Fund.

Ponsiglione said the even-years team, featuring the hard-throwing Buonviaggio, defeated the odd-years team 5-3. The former four-time Advance All Star tossed a couple of innings.

"The 'more mature' alumni asked me to pitch modified to them," laughed Buonviaggio, who obliged.

Catcher **Amanda D'Amato**, who graduated in 2008 and currently plays for the **College of Staten Island**, was behind the plate for both teams, since there weren't enough backstops present.

"She did an excellent job," said Ponsiglione, whose daughter **Danielle**, another former Viking, also plays at **CSI**. "Amanda is in shape to do the catching for both."

Although Kelly was aware she was being honored during the event, she didn't know she would be presented with an 11x17 frame with an article listing her many accomplishments, as well as a plaque.

Mike Ponsiglione, Buonviaggio, Sea principal **Rev. Michael Reilly** and **Roy Mackey**, Sea's director of development and alumni affairs, spoke at the ceremony.

"It was a real, feel-good day," said Ponsiglione. "Kathy deserved to be honored for all of her years of service (20 as varsity coach) and it was obvious she was genuinely touched by it."

Others attending the alumni game included: Odd years — **Deborah Rusolo** (1979), **Natalie Carone** ('97), **Angela Artale** ('85), **Carrie Marini-Mulham** (former varsity coach), **Lisa DeRienzo** ('83), **Amanda DeCarlo** ('01), **Brianne Previti** ('03), **Laura Walsh Moylan** ('85), **Nicolette Tedeschi** ('03), **Kelly Van Pelt** ('01), **Jaclyn Senzino** ('07), **Stefanie Forlenza** ('03), **Mary Francis McKibbon Bulone** ('85), **Jennifer Albrizio** ('81), **Denise Chiarulli Melious** ('97), **Rosaria Barone** ('05) and **Maria Consolmagno** ('03).

Even years — Buonviaggio, **Kristin Brennan** ('04), **Jillian Grzeczka** ('04), **Joan Mazzella** ('82), **D'Amato** ('08), **Joanne Walsh Lopes** ('82), **Lisa Walsh Arbus** ('80), **Michele Bowers** ('02), **Beth Tripani Andreo** ('88), **Regina Frein Rebovich** ('84), **Jacqueline Pickering** ('08), **Michelle Van Pelt** ('02), **Dana Glennerster** ('02), **Katie Roche** ('96), **Christina Semey** ('02), **Coleen Whelan Graham** ('86), **Janine Fortunato** ('02), **Debra Sorrentino Zito** ('88), **Kristen Whelan** ('08) and **Diana Consolmagno** ('00).

MARATHON FRIENDS

Jennifer Pavelec and **Linda Aanonsen**, two long-time friends, completed their first marathon together.

The Curtis alumnae, cheered on by Aanonsen's sister **Lori**, both competed and finished the Wineglass Marathon in Corning, N.Y.

Pavelec, a Westerleigh resident, finished in 5:00.51 and Aanonsen, from West Brighton, in 5:03.09.

LAESCA WINS AT 75

Vin Laresca, age 75, picked up a win Sunday in the James & Joanne Tabeeek Fall League. Laresca, a mainstay on the Island softball circuit for decades, went the distance as JJT defeated the Fatboys 7-4.

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Stories



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

The first Fall Festival, above, attracted a crowd of almost 10,000 last year.

CSI's Fall Festival to benefit breast cancer research

Event is scheduled for Saturday on Willowbrook school's Great Lawn

By DEBORAH YOUNG
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Fall Festival at the College of Staten Island — a grand celebration of fun, family and health — drew a crowd of nearly 10,000 last year.

The second annual festival, to be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Great Lawn of CSI's Willowbrook campus, promises a similar kickoff to the season and to National Breast Cancer Awareness Month — with food and vendors, face-painting, a pumpkin patch, inflatable rides, cartoon characters, musical entertainment, athletic demonstrations and tables chock-a-block with information on health, geared especially toward teaching about breast cancer.

All the proceeds will fund the college's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative, and its educational outreach program.

"We can't do anything without education. Prevention is a big word in breast cancer," said Dr. Donna Gerstle, director of the study,

Coming Sunday: Special report on breast cancer

Lives are lost to breast cancer far more often in this borough than in the rest of the city, but a small band of scientists at the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative is trying to unravel this Staten Island medical mystery. For a look at the work they are doing, be sure to read the Sunday Advance.

which seeks to understand why breast cancer mortality rates are so shockingly high in the borough. "These are community people coming to the fair. We want to give back to the community."

More than 100 pink-hued scarves knit by volunteers will be for sale, with proceeds going to further the research, she said.

Throughout the year, educators with the initiative go to health fairs and community meetings, distribute bookmarks and informational packets. They recently launched a program of speak-

ing with young women in the borough's high schools and colleges.

"The younger women learn to be in control of their bodies and understand their risks," said Lisa Holland, director of education for the initiative, "they can make better decisions about their health."

The \$8,000 raised at the festival last year helped fund this outreach — an essential part of the study that gets by a small budget of city and state money.

An annual fundraising baseball game at the college, the Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night, also raises funds for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

Started in memory of the mother of former CSI player Anthony Hillery, the game brought in \$5,000 in May.

The Fall Festival is sponsored by the college, Consolidated Edison and Free Lighting Corporation of Staten Island.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10 per family.

In the event of rain, activities will be moved to the Sports & Recreation Center, Building 1R. There will still be the pumpkin patch, the FDNY smoke truck and inflatable rides, as well as vendors and other activities.



College of Staten Island to host 2 displaced university students from earthquake-devastated L'Aquila, Italy

By Staten Island Advance

October 10, 2009, 4:34PM

The **College of Staten Island** has agreed to host two displaced university students from earthquake-devastated L'Aquila, Italy, at the behest of Rep. Michael McMahon.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, was recently named to the U.S. Department of State and National Italian American Foundation Public-Private Partnership Steering Committee.

The committee will make recommendations regarding the educational needs of students of the University of L'Aquila, which was almost entirely destroyed in the April earthquake that killed scores including 55 students.

More than 100 displaced students applied for scholarships to continue their studies in the U.S., and 28 are currently doing so.

McMahon asked Staten Island's three colleges to consider sponsoring English-speaking students and said **CSI** has agreed to accommodate two students.

Said McMahon: "The district I represent is home to more Italian-Americans than any other congressional district in the United States, and the devastation that followed the earthquake resonated firmly in households throughout Staten Island and Brooklyn. What better place to host the hard-working students of L'Aquila who have lost so much than New York's District 13.

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Traffic: A bleak future

By Staten Island Advance Editorial

October 12, 2009, 7:04AM

Traffic congestion on Staten Island couldn't get any worse than it is these days, right?

Wrong.

If you think it's bad now, just wait until all the (mostly young) people who are now lining up to take their driver's test get their licenses — and inevitably, their own cars.

And don't forget all the people who move here from other boroughs and other countries. They'll be out on the roads, too.

Traffic here, bad as it is now, is going to be an absolute nightmare in coming years, and there's not much anyone can do about it.

That's the only conclusion you can draw from an Advance analysis of Department of Motor Vehicles data, as reported in the Sunday Advance.

Driving schools' classes are packed with aspiring drivers and there's been a corresponding increase in the number of car registrations.

Officially, Staten Island has 487,400 people living in 174,000 households. But there are 263,600 vehicles registered in Richmond County — about 1.5 cars per household.

That represents a jump of 10 percent in registrations over a decade ago and the trend shows no signs of slowing down. Even with the worst recession since the Great Depression, the population of the borough continues to swell.

Some 13,200 new drivers got their licenses in the last year alone. Yes, the number includes some people who live in other New York counties who come to the more user-friendly Staten Island DMV office to get their licenses, but the growth in the rolls of licensed drivers here is still significant.

Experts are predicting a population growth of 35 percent over the next two decades, and, unless there's a massive investment in mass transit over that time, a high percentage of those people are going to have to drive to get around the borough.

Jonathan Peters, the **College of Staten Island's** resident transportation expert, said, "Picture Victory Boulevard with 35 percent more cars on it. Picture the Staten Island Expressway with 35 percent more cars."

He added, "This is one of the ones that haunts me. This is the reality we're heading toward, and we have to be prepared."

Professor Peters said that with the borough's current, sketchy mass transit system failing to meet people's transportation needs, the road net here simply won't be able to absorb the massive increase in traffic.

And still, the city encourages new residential development, including in areas such as the West Shore where local mass transit to take residents to stores and to visit relatives and friends is practically non-existent.

Make no mistake, there is no magic bullet to cure this looming problem, much as many people would like to believe a new expressway or wider streets might help. And the local improvements undertaken by the

Department of Transportation at the urging of borough officials will help in the short term, as will the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's recent expansion of such traffic-alleviating measures as park-and-rides. But these won't solve the fundamental problem: Too many cars in a finite amount of space.

Professor Peters forecasts a bleak future, traffic-wise, absent a "radically different" approach to getting people from one place to another around here.

Unfortunately, the long-running saga of the far-from-certain North and West shore rail lines, which should have been in place decades ago, suggests that whatever is done to meet this challenge will be too little and too late.



Staten Island Advance

Islanders join in gay march in Washington

Protesters demand Obama keep promise to allow same-sex marriages

Monday, October 12, 2009

By **DEBORAH YOUNG**

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Dozens of Staten Islanders joined thousands of supporters of equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community yesterday -- marching in Washington, D.C., from the White House to the Capitol, demanding President Barack Obama keep his promises to allow gays to serve openly in the military and allow same-sex marriages.

Rainbow flags and homemade signs dotted the crowds filling Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House as people chanted "Hey, Obama, let mama marry mama" and "We're out, we're proud, we won't back down."

Many children, families and senior citizens were among the crowd in what was dubbed the National Equality March. Handfuls of counter-protesters also stood along the sidewalk as the long line of marchers went by, sharing their disdain.

From Staten Island, more than 50 supporters of gay civil rights, arrived by bus, which left early in the morning from the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook.

"It's really amazing there are thousands of people right here. It's so powerful to be able to fight for my rights and everybody else's," said Jeremiah Jurkiewicz, 19, of Stapleton, the president of the college's gay straight alliance. "Some of us are even crying because it's so emotional. We won't give up until we have our equal rights."

Marchers were energized by Obama's blunt pledge to end the ban on gays serving openly in the military during a speech to the nation's largest gay rights group Saturday night. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said yesterday Congress must muster the resolve to change the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"I think it has to be done in the right way, which is to get a buy-in from the military, which I think is now possible," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

March organizer Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS Memorial Quilt and a protege of gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk, said he had initially discouraged a rally earlier in the year. But he and others began to worry Obama was backing away from his campaign promises.

"Since we've seen that so many times before, I didn't want it to happen again," he said. "We're not settling. There's no such thing as a fraction of equality."

Jim Smith, a longtime activist in the Staten Island gay community, marched yesterday, and compared the event to his memories of the earlier such demonstrations for equal rights for gays in Washington.

"It's exciting exhilarating and empowering, that's the spirit that prevails," he said. "The difference is that the

president in the White House is a little more receptive than in the past."

But state by state, struggles remain.

Many marchers were outraged after the passage of California's Proposition 8, which canceled the right of gays to get married in the state, and over perceived slights by the Obama administration.

Lt. Dan Choi, a West Point graduate, Arabic speaker and Iraq war veteran facing discharge under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for revealing in March that he is gay, said: "We have fought in battles to protect our country, and now we are fighting at home for equal and full protection under the law."

Rep. Barney Frank, an openly gay member of Congress, said the marchers should be lobbying their lawmakers. He said the demonstrations are simply "an emotional release" that do little to pressure Congress.

"The only thing they're going to be putting pressure on is the grass," the Massachusetts Democrat said Friday. -- ASSOCIATED PRESS material was used in this report.

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Staten Island Advance

CSI gets funding to turn out master teachers

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

By FAE BARANDON

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island will receive an \$839,000 National Science Foundation grant for its Teacher Education Honors Academy, Gov. David Paterson has announced.

The grant will fund scholarships for 29 students in the academy, whose mission is to produce excellent teachers of mathematics and science for deployment to high-need schools. The success of the academy, which began in 2006, was cited by the foundation in awarding the grant. The grant is named after the late Silicon Valley scientist Robert Noyce, who is credited with inventing the integrated-circuit computer chip.

The grant "acknowledges CSI's history of success in producing first-quality teachers for our school system," said CSI math Professor Jane Coffee, who co-authored the grant proposal with education faculty members Dr. Susan Sullivan and Dr. Irina Lyublinskaya.

Professor Coffee explained that Noyce funding is almost entirely for student scholarships, and that students in the program will receive \$11,000 a year to pay for tuition, fees, and expenses. She added that students must also maintain a 3.0 grade point average in the program and for each year they receive support. On top of that, they must commit to teaching two years in a high-need middle or high school.

Applicants must be a junior or a senior with at least a 3.2 GPA who will then be screened by the admissions committee. Those who qualify will have to sign a commitment letter to the two-stage program before joining the Teacher Academy.

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Where will your SAT scores take you?

By Staten Island Advance

October 18, 2009, 9:00AM

Here's a sampling of SAT scores needed to get into popular public and private colleges. All data is from US News and World Report. The scores are a combination of the reading and math sections only:

* Columbia University
1,360-1,550

* New York University
1,250-1,440

* Boston University
1,180-1,360

* Princeton University
1,390-1,580

* Rutgers University-New Brunswick
1,090-1,310

* Penn State
1,100-1,300

* Stony Brook University
1,090-1,270

* Pace University
980-1,170

* Wagner College
1,060-1,290

* St. John's University
970-1,190

* College of Staten Island
900-1,095

* Baruch College
1,030-1,250

Brooklyn College
930-1,160

SUNY-Purchase
1,010-1,210

SUNY-Binghamton
1,190-1,350

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Staten Island Advance

CSI to host 2 displaced Italian students

Sunday, October 18, 2009

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island has agreed to host two displaced university students from earthquake-devastated L'Aquila, Italy, at the behest of Rep. Michael McMahon.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, was recently named to the U.S. Department of State and National Italian American Foundation Public-Private Partnership Steering Committee.

The committee will make recommendations regarding the educational needs of students of the University of L'Aquila, which was almost entirely destroyed in the April earthquake that killed scores, including 55 students.

More than 100 displaced students applied for scholarships to continue their studies in the United States, and 28 are currently doing so.

McMahon asked Staten Island's three colleges to consider sponsoring English-speaking students and said CSI has agreed to accommodate two students.

Said McMahon: "The district I represent is home to more Italian-Americans than any other congressional district in the United States ... What better place to host the hard-working students of L'Aquila who have lost so much than New York's District 13?"

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Friends recall football player as 'a special, special kid'

Moore Catholic student was a gifted athlete and a great teammate

By DANIEL O'LEARY
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

For the rest of this season and for the rest of their lives, the teammates, coaches and friends of Moore Catholic football and baseball player Johnny Ray will be playing with a heavy heart.

Ray, a 16-year-old junior at Moore, was killed in a car accident in Midland Beach on Saturday evening. The mood of those involved with the Mavericks athletic program and the school alike, was predictably, shock.

"This is the single worst day of our world," said Moore Catholic football coach Greg Rocco. "He was the best athlete I've ever coached, and that's including my days at [Monsignor] Farrell and Staten Island Tech. He was just the best. He had that charisma."

"I don't even know what to say," said Moore baseball coach Nick Doscher, who had Ray as his shortstop last season. "We just can't believe it. Your heart goes out to the family. What do you even say? This was a kid that lit up a room. And just like that, he's gone."

"He was just a really, really good kid," said Moore Catholic athletic director Rich Postiglione. "He was very personable and he was a talented kid."

Postiglione said that school will be open as usual, though "all activities" including sports events, have been postponed until further notice.

"But obviously no one is thinking about that right now," Postiglione said.

Ray was a junior receiver for the Mavericks, who won Saturday afternoon to improve to 7-0. Ray did not have a catch and played sparingly in Saturday's lopsided Homecoming win over Snyder.

Ray had 210 receiving yards and three TD catches this season, but had really made his mark as a kick returner.

Rocco said at practices, Ray was known for doing a trick where he'd catch six or seven balls, holding on to all of them simultaneously without dropping one.

His shining moment of the season was on Oct. 3 when Ray accounted for 184 all-purpose yards, including an 80-yard kick return for a TD in a 16-14 win over Long Island Lutheran. He also made two catches for 62 yards, a receiving TD and two rushes for 24 yards. That game, Rocco called "his best game." The coach also remarked: "I don't know where we'd be without him this year."

In the spring, Ray was Moore's shortstop and lead-off hitter. He batted .410 for the Mavs, with eight RBI, 11 runs and four steals.

"I still can't believe it," said Tom Todaro, now at Caldwell College, who was a captain of both Moore's football and baseball teams last season, Ray's first on varsity. "He was a team player, cared about the team and his teammates. In baseball, especially, he had all five tools. After next year, he would have went somewhere big to play in college."



Friends and teammates of Moore High School athlete Johnny Ray gather around a memorial to him on a tree at Father Capodanno Boulevard near Slater Boulevard.

Ray was already being recruited by Rutgers football, according to Rocco, and other schools for both sports.

"He's one of the most athletic kids I ever coached. He was unlimited, so much ability and he was probably our best player as a sophomore," said Doscher. "He did things at shortstop last year and we marveled at them. We always say 'you either have it or you don't' and Johnny Ray had it. Just when he walked out there he looked like a player."

"He just sent me a text message the other day telling me he wanted to find a school where he could try to play both," said Rocco. "[Saturday] after homecoming, the kids were doing some crazy dance and Johnny was leading the dance. Next thing I heard about him was that he was dead."

"It's cruel. It's senseless. It makes you question your faith. It's just not fair, but it's something we are all going to have to live with. He was a special, special kid."



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, BILL LIPINSKY
Johnny Ray played in his last football game for Moore Catholic on Saturday. Later that night, he died in a car accident.

Star high school athlete killed in Midland Beach car accident

By Staten Island Advance

October 26, 2009, 9:37AM



Johnny Ray, 16, died in a crash on Capodanno Boulevard, near Slater Boulevard, Saturday night. Last night Ray's friends and teammates held a memorial at the location.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Sixteen-year-old high school sports star **Johnny Ray** was killed in a car crash Saturday night in Midland Beach.

Taking his parents' Chevy Suburban, the unlicensed varsity football and baseball player took the keys to his family's 2004 Chevrolet truck after his parents left to go to a concert just before 7:30 p.m.

"We were out at a concert at CSI [the College of Staten Island], and he was home with his friend," said Lori Morales, Ray's mother. "And after we left, he took the keys.... He took the truck and left. He's never driven it, never."

The rain-slicked roads proved deadly for Ray, who was heading north on **Capodanno Boulevard near Slater Boulevard**, when he veered off the road and slammed into a utility pole.

Arrangements are pending. Check SILive.com for details once they become available.

Read the story about the accident in today's Advance.

And read sports reporter Daniel O'Leary's story **recalling some of Ray's accomplishments on the field.**

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Staten Island Advance

Star athlete loses life in car crash

16-year-old, driving without a license, loses control of family car during rainstorm

Monday, October 26, 2009

By MARK STEIN and JOHN ANNESE

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A gruesome motor accident on a rain-soaked stretch of Midland Beach road killed a 16-year-old high school sports star who was driving his parents' Chevy Suburban without a license Saturday night, and injured his 16-year-old passenger.

Johnny Ray, a varsity football and baseball player in his junior year at Moore Catholic High School in Graniteville, took the keys to his family's 2004 Chevrolet truck after his parents left to go to a concert just before 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

"We were out at a concert at CSI [the College of Staten Island], and he was home with his friend," said Lori Morales, Ray's mother. "And after we left, he took the keys.... He took the truck and left. He's never driven it, never."

The decision proved fatal for Ray, who had no license to drive.

He got caught in a rainstorm that flooded roads across Staten Island. He was driving on Capodanno Boulevard just before 8 p.m., heading north near Slater Boulevard, when he veered off the road and slammed into a utility pole.

"It was a flooded intersection, and he hydroplaned," Mrs. Morales said.

Ray was pronounced dead at the scene, while his friend, who was identified by police as Aung Ye, ended up in Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze, in stable condition. He was to remain there again last night, according to a hospital official.

Sobbing as she sat on the steps of her Stapleton home, Ray's mother, Lori Morales, said she didn't know where he was heading at the time of the crash.

She described Ray as a young athlete whose future in sports was spread out before him -- just this past Monday, he received recruiting letters from Rutgers University, asking for footage of his junior year football games.

"He made everything look effortless. He was a pleasure to watch," said Ray's father, Raul Morales. "It's very difficult accepting this loss, because I just thought that he was going to be something special."

'LEARN FROM THIS'

And Mrs. Morales made a plea serve as a warning for teens across the Island.

"I want the kids out there to use this as a learning experience. Don't do this to yourselves. Take my son's

accident and learn from this."

Anthony Altobelli, 47, who lives across the street from the site of the accident on Capodanno Boulevard, stepped outside into the heavy rain at about 8 p.m. to take his garbage out when he heard what he described was "this tremendous noise of impact."

He called 911 and rushed to the vehicle to find Ray had no pulse and was unresponsive. Altobelli said the passenger was alert but in shock and had a bruise above his eye.

"I didn't sleep last night. It could just imagine what the mother and father are going through," he said. "I wish I was able to do a hell of a lot more."

Altobelli said the crash temporarily wiped out the intersection's traffic lights.

Nearly 100 students, staff and parents gathered yesterday morning in the gym at Moore Catholic to grieve in the wake of the fatal accident. They stood quietly in small groups. Most of them held blank faces as others cried.

Stunned as he sat outside his office, Moore Athletic Director Rich Postiglione said: "Johnny Ray lit up the room when he walked in and that's a God-given thing -- not many people have that. He was a young man who had a tremendous amount to look forward to."

Postiglione continued to praise the wide receiver and shortstop that was promoted to the varsity level of the football and baseball teams as a sophomore.

"He had everything going for him. He was smart, good-looking, intelligent," Postiglione said.

The athletic director, along with Ray's football coach Greg Rocco, said Rutgers University had interest in recruiting Ray after high school.

"He was the type of influence that can't be measured," Rocco said. "As a person, an athlete, a brother."

Postiglione said school will be in session today and counselors will be available to assist to students and staff.

TRIBUTES AND A VIGIL

With wreckage from the vehicle still on the sidewalk and nearby grass field, personal tributes were being left at the crash site. At least four bouquets of flowers were placed next to a tree that had a note for people to write their feelings on by late yesterday afternoon. "We will always keep you in our heads," the writer Raymond said.

Also, last night at 8 o'clock, at least 60 of Ray's young peers visited the scene of the crash to hold vigil.

Andie Lynn, 15, visited the site with her mother shortly after noon yesterday and placed flowers in front of the tree.

She said she was good friends with Ray for at least three years.

"He was the greatest kid ever," Ms. Lynn said, choking back tears. "This is just a tragedy."

The oldest of three siblings, Ray poured every effort into excelling at athletics, his parents recalled.

"He lived for sports. That's why he was so good at it, because he put his all into it," his mother, Mrs. Morales said.

He had aspirations of playing in either the NFL or the MLB, his parents said.

Ray had planned to travel with the team to Pennsylvania for next weekend's game, and Mrs. Morales said his teammates shouldn't be deterred by yesterday's tragedy.

"They should go," she said, "and they should play, and they should do it in memory of my baby."

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SUNY students speak out against Gov's budget cuts



By ALLISON ROSELLE
Legislative Gazette Staff Writer
Tue, Oct 27, 2009

Students and faculty flooded the lobby in front of the bookstore at the University at Albany last Wednesday as New York Public Interest Research Group urged the Legislature to refrain from enacting more cuts to the State University of New York.

The State University of New York could be hit hard by Gov. David A. Paterson's proposed \$500 million deficit reduction plan for this year's budget. Paterson has proposed a \$90 million cut to the state university.

"As a member of the SUNY community, I think these cuts are outrageous," said Jaqi Cohen, NYPIRG's higher education project manager. "Our university system has yet to recover from the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of cuts that were implemented last year, making this round of cuts more unbearable."

Students and NYPIRG members wore Band-Aids on their arms and gathered around the small podium-like stand and held signs that read "no more cuts."

NYPIRG has coordinated statewide events in reaction to these proposed cuts. Students throughout the state are using Band-Aids, crutches and slings to demonstrate an injury theme, according to NYPIRG Program Coordinator Fran Clark.

Demonstrations have occurred at schools including Brooklyn College, Buffalo State College, Hunter College, Nassau Community College, Queens College, Queensborough Community College, and New Paltz, Purchase and Old Westbury.

Some City University of New York students have organized "no more cuts" demonstrations at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College and the College of Staten Island. Students and faculty unions are scheduled to rally at Hunter College this week.

This year, SUNY students experienced a \$620 annual tuition increase to help eliminate the budget gap. The governor's latest proposals include plans to reduce Tuition Assistance Program aid by \$120 per student, cut funding for opportunity programs and cut funding for SUNY community colleges by \$24 million, according to NYPIRG.

"The governor wants to cut my financial aid and every student's financial aid by \$120 as a part of a huge cut to TAP," said Emily Lee, chapter member of NYPIRG and a senior journalism major at University at Albany. "Personally, I really need that \$120."

"I am currently taking 18 credits to graduate on time," Lee added, "But with the proposed cut to TAP, I will have to find a job that will cut into my already hectic schedule. It will be mentally and physically exhausting."

NYPIRG has called on the Legislature to help reverse Paterson's order and roll back the cuts. Students are urging Senator Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, and Assemblyman John McEneny, D-Albany, to propose a budget deficit reduction plan that will protect students from further tuition hikes, defend financial aid and sustain the values of higher education.

"Instead of inflicting permanent injury on students, New York state should be investing in SUNY," said Willow Burns, NYPIRG higher education project leader and a sociology major at UAlbany. "With adequate resources, SUNY can help the state recover from the current recession."

Students say they are counting on legislators to understand that SUNY students are still reeling from last year's cuts, said Burns.

"When they return to Albany, Sen. Breslin and Assemblyman McEneny must fight to roll back this \$90 million cut, protect students from another unfair tuition hike and stop the governor's assault on SUNY," Burns added.

McEneny said there are several issues to consider such as spending for TAP, large classes and SUNY's reliance on adjunct professors, among other things.

"We'll do what we can, but we can't make any promises," said McEneny. "You can't have it both ways. You can't cut the budget without cutting services, and if you want to keep it at that level, you have to find sources."

Increased class sizes and a loss of majors are possibilities that scare students.

Programs such as Educational Opportunity Program and Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program were among some the programs reviewed last year when SUNY experienced a previous budget cut, the students said.

"Last year, the CSTEP program and EOP program didn't get cut, but the possibility was definitely there," said Burns. "This year, there has been talk of certain majors – some of the less popular majors being cut from the program — but SUNY hasn't said anything for sure.

"Any cut to EOP is really bad," Burns added. "They do an excellent service for students at this school and it is desperately needed here."

The United University Professions, which represents faculty and staff at 29 SUNY campuses, is behind the students.

"There is no reasonable justification to place such an undue burden on one state agency," said UUP President Phillip Smith. "In a sense, we have lost sight of the role SUNY was intended to play in the graduation of a wide range of productive students who can contribute to the state's overall economy."

Cohen said it is necessary for students to get involved and help fight the cuts because they are the ones who are most deeply affected.

"Now is the time to say enough is enough," said Cohen. "And to [ask] New York state legislators to take a stand and help restore funding."

Education Supplement

A Columbia Skyscraper Clouds Views for the University's Astronomy Students

By [Michael P. Ventura](#)

Tuesday, October 27th 2009 at 3:43pm



Scott Vincent

Despite all the bright lights and tall buildings here in the center of the universe, [Rutherford Observatory](#), on the roof of Columbia University's [Pupin Hall](#), has for decades offered students, researchers, and members of the public plenty of outer space.

Astronomy majors learning about the motions of celestial bodies, for example, could see all eight "recognized" planets (sorry, Pluto). Members of the public attending a free lecture on, say, "Black Holes for Dummies" could use the astronomy department's reflecting telescopes (which use mirrors instead of lenses) for a post-talk stargaze. Researchers could capture images of the moon to check for changes on its surface or monitor the brightness of stars.

But now, Columbia's new Northwest Corner building, under construction adjacent to Pupin Hall at 120th Street and Broadway, has obstructed much of that view, according to the department. Mercury and Venus now disappear in the west behind the glass and steel structure that will house faculty offices, classrooms, and scientific research facilities when it opens next year. Worse yet, light shining through the transparent façade 24 hours a day has polluted the night sky, blinding the rooftop stargazers and distorting research images.

"We have no more sunsets," says [Josh Schroeder](#), a third-year Ph.D., as he points out how the western neighbor looms over Pupin's roof. While the department could probably live without sunsets, he says, the light next door bears down "like a spotlight."

The centerpiece of Columbia's observatory is its wooden dome, with a Columbia powder blue-painted interior, that was built atop a brickwork foundation in the late 1920s. In the center of the dome is a reflecting telescope with a 14-inch aperture that's currently experiencing mechanical problems: The

motor that allows it to follow celestial bodies as they cross the sky is out of order, and the telescope must be turned manually. It's the third in a series of telescopes to have this problem, dating back to a decades-old refracting telescope that was finally sold to a museum in [South Carolina](#) several years ago.

Despite the light pollution that prevents New Yorkers from seeing much more than the moon with the naked eye, most local universities, including Columbia, New York University, and the City University system, have astronomy courses and programs, and even observatories. CUNY maintains observatories at [York College](#) in Queens and at the [College of Staten Island](#), but they're used, according to [Professor Ariyeh Maller](#) of the New York City College of Technology in [Brooklyn](#), more for showing "how it was done than for what you'll be doing going forward."

Most high-powered research telescopes are located far away from here, where there's better weather and darker skies. Many are in such places as Arizona (where Columbia shares an observatory with four other universities), [Hawaii](#), [Chile](#), and in outer space itself.

"Virtually no one lives close to where the telescopes are," Maller says. Professional astronomers and astrophysicists based at universities in New York City instead use data captured by those telescopes for analysis and research. Last week's [Tri-State Astronomy Conference](#) at CUNY's Graduate Center was a forum for those universities' departments to compare notes.

At Columbia, [Cameron Hummels](#), an astronomy Ph.D. student and public outreach director for the department, is hoping the roughly 200 undergraduates, 6,000 annual public visitors, and four federally funded research projects under way at Pupin Hall will get their view back.

"Astronomers need the sky in the same way that chemists need chemicals or geologists need rocks," he says. "If we have this bright wall next to us, it's impossible for our eyes to ever adjust to the dark conditions to be able to see some of these faint objects that are still visible from New York."

Hummels says he was told the constant light was required to comply with fire code emergency mandates for interior construction. He isn't sure whether the lights will be turned off once the building is completed, but even then, astronomers would still have to deal with professors burning the midnight oil.

The university says it's working with the department on a resolution. In a prepared statement, [David Hirsh](#), executive vice president for research, said the new building was "planned based on extensive, detailed input from Columbia's science departments, a process that has spanned more than five years. It has long been known that the new building would affect a small percentage of the westernmost sky views from the historic Rutherford Observatory. There will be continuing discussions about moving this telescope to another location."

Hummels confirms that the administration recently contacted him to schedule a meeting. The light problem tops his agenda, but he also wants to discuss possible new locations for the telescopes.

"Students come here, they take an astronomy course, they want to be able to see the sky, and who blames them?" Hummels says. "The sky is awesome."

IN WILLOWBROOK



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/DEREK ALVIZ

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation hosted its annual walk-a-thon last weekend on the campus of the College of Staten Island.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DEPRIMO

Christopher Bannon, 17 months, of South Beach on the East Shore, was on the West Shore earlier this month for the College of Staten Island's Fall Festival. While there, Christopher met "Scooter the Holy Cow," the official mascot of the Staten Island Yankees. The event served as a kickoff to the season and for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. All proceeds were to benefit the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.



Verizon Wireless Launches State's First 'UHopeLine' Program at City University of New York

--- Wireless phone recycling program places permanent collection points on eight CUNY campuses in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Staten Island to join next year. --- Raises awareness of dating violence and protects the environment--- Company to donate \$1,000 to women's safety programs on each campus

QUEENS, N. Y., Oct 29, 2009 /PRNewswire-USNewswire via COMTEX/

City University of New York (CUNY) and Verizon Wireless officials joined the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence at Queens College in Flushing today to mark the close of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and announce the introduction of UHopeLine, an extension of the company's exclusive HopeLine(R) wireless phone recycling program, that will create permanent collection points on eight CUNY college campuses.

Recognizing the silent epidemic of dating abuse, UHopeLine is designed to increase awareness of dating violence, provide aid to domestic violence survivors and encourage college students to help the environment by recycling their no-longer-used wireless devices.

Championed by the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, CUNY is the first university in New York State and only the second in the country, to host the UHopeLine program. In addition to Queens College, the program will place permanent cell phone recycling collection bins at Bronx Community and Lehman colleges in the Bronx; Medgar Evers and Kingsborough Community colleges in Brooklyn; and at Baruch and Borough of Manhattan Community and John Jay colleges in Manhattan. A permanent UHopeLine collection site will be established at the **College of Staten Island** by early next year.

"Through its unique Women and Work program, Queens College has been a leader in providing life-changing opportunities to survivors of domestic violence," says Joseph Bertolino, vice president of student affairs. "In fact, Verizon Wireless supported Women and Work at its inception with a technology grant. We're delighted to be partnering with Verizon Wireless once again. UHopeLine will bring greater awareness of dating and domestic violence and give our students a tangible way to help."

According to a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene study released last year on intimate partner violence in New York City, women in their 20's experience the highest rate of intimate partner homicides, hospitalizations and emergency room visits when compared to other age groups.

"Through this initiative CUNY and Verizon Wireless are demonstrating their commitment to breaking the cycle of violence and helping victims obtain easier access to the services they need," said Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez. "This initiative is a great example of how the private and public sectors can work together to increase awareness about this serious issue and have a positive impact on victims of violence and their children."

UhopeLine accepts wireless devices and accessories in any condition, from any wireless service provider, and then refurbishes or recycles them in an environmentally-sound way. Proceeds of the UHopeLine program benefit local domestic violence survivors in the form of wireless phones with service and cash grants to domestic violence advocacy groups working to end domestic violence.

In recognition of each college's commitment to women's issues, Verizon Wireless will make a \$1,000 donation to women's education and safety programs on each campus.

"The generosity of New Yorkers and consumers nationwide has enabled Verizon Wireless to collect more than 6.5 million no longer used phones and donate nearly \$7 million in grants and over 80,000 wireless phones with service

to domestic violence survivors," said Pat Devlin, president of the company's New York Metro Region. "UHopeLine is a natural extension of the HopeLine program, and helps raise awareness among young women at a time in their lives when they are especially vulnerable to controlling relationships. We thank CUNY and the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence for leading the State in this important effort."

The UHopeLine program in New York has collection bins at the following CUNY locations:

- Queens College Student Union, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, Queens
- Bronx Community College Meister Hall Patio, 2155 University Ave., Bronx
- Lehman College Student Life Building, 250 Bedford Park Blvd W, Bronx
- Medgar Evers College School of Business, Student Services Bldg., 1637 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn
- Kingsborough Community College Bookstore, 2001 Oriental Blvd, Brooklyn
- Baruch College Office of Student Life, 55 Lexington at 24th St., Manhattan
- Borough of Manhattan Community College, 99 Chambers St., Manhattan
- John Jay College, Women's Center, North Hall, 899 Tenth Ave., Manhattan

In a related announcement, Verizon Wireless and Rutgers University today announced the expansion of UHopeLine to its Newark, Camden, Cook and Livingston campuses in New Jersey. Rutgers became the first university in the nation to host the program last October when Verizon Wireless established UHopeLine collection points at student centers in the New Brunswick area. More than 500 used phones were collected during the first year of the program. See release at <http://news.vzw.com/news/2009/10/pr2009-10-26d.html>.

As part of the company's ongoing HopeLine phone recycling program, wireless devices and accessories also are accepted at all Verizon Wireless Communications Stores in New York and across the nation. For store locations and to learn how to donate a phone downloading a postage-paid mailing label, visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline.

About Verizon Wireless

Verizon Wireless operates the nation's most reliable and largest wireless voice and 3G data network, serving 89 million customers. Headquartered in Basking Ridge, N.J., with 85,000 employees nationwide, Verizon Wireless is a joint venture of Verizon Communications (NYSE: VZ) and Vodafone (NYSE and LSE: VOD). For more information, visit www.verizonwireless.com. To preview and request broadcast-quality video footage and high-resolution stills of Verizon Wireless operations, log on to the Verizon Wireless Multimedia Library at www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia.

ABOUT CUNY

The City University of New York is the nation's largest urban public university, comprised of 23 institutions: 11 senior colleges, six community colleges, the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, the Graduate School and University Center, the City University School of Law at Queens College, the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, and the CUNY School of Professional Studies. Serving more than 243,000 degree-credit students and 273,000 continuing and professional education students, the University confers 35,000 degrees each year -- more than 1.1 million associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees since 1967. CUNY plays a crucial role in the life and economy of the city and state. As of 2007, 54 percent of undergraduates and 46 percent of all college students in New York City were attending CUNY. College Now, CUNY's academic enrichment program for 46,000 high school students, is offered at CUNY campuses and at more than 343 high schools. Online baccalaureate degrees are offered by the School of Professional Studies.

THE NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) formulates policies and programs, monitors the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, and works with diverse communities to increase awareness of domestic violence. OCDV works closely with community leaders, health care providers, City agencies, and representatives from the criminal justice system to hold batterers accountable and to create solutions that are critical to

preventing domestic violence in New York City. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence or call 311.

SOURCE Verizon Wireless

<http://www.verizonwireless.com>

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Students & Alumni



Staten Island Advance

PS 18 programs suffer without popular director

Many teens also stop attending night activities at the school after firing of Beacon director

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

By DEBORAH YOUNG

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Infuriated by the mysterious firing just over a month ago of the director of the program, many teens have stopped showing up at the once-bustling nighttime activities at PS 18.

Parents also say they are keeping their younger kids home from the after-school program at the West Brighton elementary school out of anger and confusion over the decision to terminate Kevin Harris -- the charismatic neighborhood leader who headed the Beacon after-school program at PS 18 for nearly two decades, and who oversaw its recreational, cultural and academic scheduling.

Amid escalating cries in the community to reinstate Harris in the role he came to define over the past 17 years, the not-for-profit United Activities Unlimited this week did bring him back on board -- but not in his old position and not at the school.

Not good enough, say community members, who plan another protest Friday at the school in support of Harris. Their outrage, they say, has only been fueled by reports that the man hired to replace Harris as director of the PS 18 Beacon program -- somebody who had worked in the Bronx and Manhattan but never on Staten Island -- quit after one day on day on the job, leaving the center fundamentally rudderless.

"I wouldn't put my kids in there now; how can I know if these kids are safe?" wondered PTA President Pamela Brown, who pulled out her fifth-grade twins from the after-school program they had been attending for years, adding that dozens of other parents have done the same. "We don't have Mr. Harris."

In respect of Harris -- the West Brighton native, former **College of Staten Island** basketball star and Advance Sportsman of the Year -- Ms. Brown said: "We need this man back in the building. The community needs him."

GYM HAD BEEN CROWDED

Ms. Brown's son, who is 16, and many of his friends stopped going to PS 18 for the program, which runs until 10 p.m., she said. Under Harris' stewardship, the gym would be packed with youth, who were engaged, active and in awe of the director, who had won their trust and respect.

Multiple attempts by a reporter to reach UAU executive director Louis DeLuca to get insight on the dismissal and subsequent reinstatement of Harris, as well as reaction to the community's anger, have proven unsuccessful.

When asked last month about why Harris was let go, DeLuca called the situation a personnel matter, and not for public discussion.

Harris -- who supporters say is reluctant to bring more attention to the controversy -- did not respond to a request for an interview.

In his new role with UAU, Harris this week began working as a community outreach coordinator at Morris Intermediate School, Brighton Heights, PS 44, Mariners Harbor, Susan Wagner, New Dorp and Port Richmond high schools. He is also assisting with evening programs at PS 57, Clifton; Paulo Intermediate School, Huguenot; PS 58, New Springville, and PS 44.

It is a job that Harris only took to put food on the table, asserts Jaysen Sullivan, one of the founders of the not-for-profit West Brighton-based Brothers Who Care, who have been behind the drive to get Harris back at PS 18.

"Being that it's a community-based organization, we think as a community we deserve some answers," he said. "His being reinstated lets us know he was fired without cause in the first place. They only did this to try and keep us quiet. They're playing chess here, trying to stay ahead of us. We want him back at PS 18."

United Activities Unlimited provides after-school services through an agreement with the city Department of Youth and Community Development, and currently has 12 contracts in Staten Island schools, at a total value of \$3.6 million, according to Ryan Dodge, a spokesman for the agency.

The Beacon program at PS 18 was awarded \$841,441 to operate this fiscal year.

Responding to numerous claims from parents as well as people who work closely with United Activities Unlimited about the lack of a program director, Dodge assured that the PS 18 Beacon program does indeed have a new director.

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County GOP can't back crossover politicians

By Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

October 13, 2009, 1:06PM

By DANIEL CASTORINA, BULLS HEAD

Dear fellow Republicans: I'm a sophomore at the College of Staten Island, I'm also on the Richmond County Republican Committee. As you already know, living in a state that is very liberal is often hard because of the state's liberal agenda on policy.

Fortunately, our county is predominantly right of center, It is easier to live in a district with like minded people. Unfortunately Some of our Republican politicians in Staten Island are not so like minded.

I take issue with two politicians who are running for re-election this November — Councilman James Oddo and Borough President James Molinaro.

Councilman Oddo will be running on four political party lines this November. One of which is the Working families party (basically, the new Liberal Party). BP Molinaro is running for re-election for his third term!

How do we Republicans expect to take on the Democrats in 2010 when we have misguided Republicans running on a liberal party line and one who has no respect for term limits — key issues for voters.

As Republicans, we are supposed to be for small government. The Richmond County Republican Committee needs to stop supporting politicians who do not represent the views of our party.

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Liberian immigrant ID'd as Port Richmond crash victim

By Staten Island Advance

October 16, 2009, 1:41PM



Duo Diggs, 28, of Castleton Corners, died in a late-night crash at Heberton Avenue and Richmond Terrace.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A Liberian immigrant who grew up in the Seamen's Society foster care program -- then went on to work as an advocate on public policy for foster care -- was killed in a car crash in Port Richmond last night.

Duo K. Diggs, 28, of Castleton Corners, died when the 1996 Mercedes Benz he was driving on Heberton Avenue in Port Richmond **struck a parked backhoe**.

Diggs was headed northbound on Heberton, near Richmond Terrace, and was killed upon impact at approximately 11:30 p.m., police said. Emergency officials transported Diggs to Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton.

After growing up in the foster care program of the Seamen's Society for Children and Families, he was hired to work as an advocate on public policy for foster care.

"Because he had gone through the system, he was able to help other kids we had in foster care," said Nancy Vomero, president and CEO. "He was really able to connect with them and bond with them because he had a similar experience. He really did a wonderful job with them."

Although, Diggs left the agency a few years ago, he was still a familiar face.

"Everyone here knew Duo," said Ms. Vomero. "Every time he was in the neighborhood, he came in to say hello. I just remember him always with a smile on his face."

Diggs wound up in the Seamen's Society's foster care program after he and his brothers left Liberia as a young boy.

He was a frequent recipient of Society scholarships, which he applied toward his education at the **College of Staten Island**. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Diggs was a 1999 graduate of Port Richmond High School, where he was a football player.

-- Reported by Stephanie Slepian

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2009 Nation Student Writing Contest Finalists

posted by **THE NATION** on 10/23/2009 @ 1:54pm

The two winners will be announced on Wednesday, October 28, and will be published in a special youth issue of *The Nation* in early November. All of the finalists will be published at **TheNation.com** at the same time.

College:

Ophelia Hu, Amherst College

Jeanette Blalock-Davis, University of Minnesota

Jim Miller, Henderson State University

Michael Cohen, College of Staten Island

Jacob Stokes, University of Missouri

High-School:

Christine Chang, Monta Vista HS, Cupertino, CA

Eric Siguenza, San Fernando HS, Sun Valley, CA

Aleena Durrani, Winston Churchill HS, Potomac, MD

Deborah Ghim, Buffalo Grove HS, Arlington Heights, IL

Christopher Criswell, Austin HS, Austin, TX

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

FOOD

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WEDNESDAY
 OCTOBER 7, 2009



ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

Zuppa di Clams in White Sauce is among the signature items at Lacey's Bridge Tavern in Elm Park, a restaurant participating in the Taste of SINY event on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Restaurateur organizes fund-raiser

Food showcase Sunday
 benefits alumni association
 and borough eateries

By PAMELA SILVESTRI
 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

James McBratney swore that he was going to go back to college at the time he opened his restaurant.

"I took exams in January of 1989 and then put my final exams on hold. I didn't enroll again until 2003. It took me two additional years to get my degree together," McBratney said. He is the owner of Jimmy Max in Westerleigh.

"The goal was to get my degree before my son was enrolled in college," he added with a laugh. "And I just made it."

And now, as a grateful graduate of the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, McBratney wants to give back. So he's taken the role as chairperson of "Taste of SINY," a restaurant showcase happening Sunday at the College of Staten Island, Center for the Arts Atrium at 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook. Tickets are \$40 per guest and the proceeds benefit the CSI Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Reservations can be made via e-mail at alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu or by calling 718-982-2290.

COLLABORATION OF BUSINESSES

"This is going to be an annual thing. The proceeds go to the endowment for scholarships — there are a lot of kids out there who want to go to college who don't



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/SAN SOMMA-HAMMILL

James McBratney owner of Jimmy Max in Westerleigh.

have the resources," McBratney said.

Some of the restaurants involved include Bocelli's of Grasmere, Casa Milla of Port Richmond, Afternoone's, Burmeister's Chow Gourmet and Jody's of West Brighton, Bayou of Rosebank, Killmeyer's of Charleston, Historic Old Bermuda Inn of Rossville, Da Noi of both Travis and Fort Wadsworth, South Fin Grill of South Beach, Espana Restaurant of Annadale, Bridge Tavern of Elm Park, Hilton Garden Inn/Lorenzo's of Bloomfield, Nucci's North and South (West Brighton and Richmond Valley respectively), Canlon's Restaurant and Taste of Honey in Travis.

Bakers include those from Alfonso's of Castleton Corners, Cake Chef of Meiers Corners and Superior Chocolates of Bloomfield. Wine and beer are also available at the event.

Pamela Silvestri is Advance Food Editor. She can be reached at silvestri@siadvance.com.

College degrees open doors

Those who work in food service have the potential to rise further up in the industry ranks with higher education. James McBratney offers encouragement. He says, "It broadened my mind. It opened doors for me." Here are other reasons why going back to school is worthwhile for restaurant types.

You've reached your physical limit.

Arthritic knees, carpal tunnel and missing digits (no kidding), fallen arches, varicose veins and, well, pain in places you didn't know you had places, might spark an interest in a desk job.

It's something to fall back on.

If something happens to the restaurant, be sure to have skills and education to work competently in another industry. Without the college degree, McBratney says, "If something were to happen to the restaurant, my fallback position would have been bartending."

Keep expanding the mind.

You'll have more talking points with customers. You'll be able to speak on far more topics than you would have had previously.

Live the college life.

McBratney found that having student associations increased his network. Night classes generally have older students, he points out, who also make for good contacts and colleagues.



Doctor feels at home in private practice

By [Barton Horowitz](#)

October 28, 2009, 5:54PM



Advance photo/Barton Horowitz "For me, returning home to Staten Island to live and build a practice is probably the most rewarding experience," says Dr. Ron O. Chay, whose medical office will soon be opening in Eltingville.

ELTINGVILLE -- Are you old enough to remember milk deliveries from the former Weissglass Gold Seal Dairy left by your door? How about a slice of pizza and a Coke for a quarter, 75 cents or even \$2? Things change, and it remains debatable as to whether some changes are for the better.

For instance, how do you feel about corporate retail chains with out-of-state headquarters displacing local businesses on Staten Island, or medical groups replacing the once-familiar single-physician practice.

When it comes to the medical field, it's possible to buck the trend, said Dr. Ron O. Chay, who soon will be opening Kidney & Hypertension Medicine P.C., a private one-physician practice in Eltingville.

His decision to go it alone is reminiscent of an earlier time when most doctors went the solo route.

"A solo practice," Dr. Chay said, "is now unusual as most physicians are employed by a medical facility or work within larger group practices."

Dr. Chay grew up with an appreciation of community and all that Staten Island has to offer.

He pursued his undergraduate degree in Willowbrook, earning a bachelor's degree in biology from the College of Staten Island (CSI), and met the love of his life just steps from his family's home in Annadale where he was reared.

There was little question he would return to the Island following his medical education.

Now a board-certified nephrologist (kidney disease), internist and hypertension specialist, Dr. Chay is taking his devotion to the Island a step further with the launching of his new practice.

The office, located at 4143 Richmond Ave. (suite 1), will open its doors for the very first time on Nov. 11.

"For me, returning home to Staten Island to live and build a practice is probably the most rewarding experience — treating the people that I know," Dr. Chay said. "My parents still live in Annadale, and I met my wife, Jamie, on the same block where I grew up."

After graduating from CSI in 1995, Dr., Chay continued his education at St. George's University School of Medicine, Granada, where he earned his doctorate in medicine.

This was followed by a residency and fellowship at Stony Brook (L.I.) University School of Medicine, and a two-year-stint at Staten Island University Hospital, which concluded last year.

Passionate about his specialties, Dr. Chay said that "an estimated 1 in 9 U.S. adults suffer from kidney disease. This is an extraordinary number and is clearly underrepresented in the media."

Kidney disease is endemic among diabetics and African Americans, and there is a need to educate the public about the latest advances in his field, he added.

"Most people don't even know what's a nephrologist is," Dr. Chay said.

Nowadays, a simple blood test, known as "an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)," can be used to determine a patient's level of kidney function, he said.

For more information about Dr. Chay's practice, call 718-967-0100 or log onto www.sikidney.com.

BIZ BUZZ

Lowe's was joined on Tuesday by the office of Borough President James Molinaro for the groundbreaking of its second Staten Island location. The new home-center at 661 Veterans Road West, Charleston, is expected to open in 2010. "... We welcome Lowe's to the South Shore of Staten Island," Molinaro said. "During these trying economic times, this new business will bring up to 175 jobs to Staten Island." Lowe's opened its first Island store in 2003 in Mariners Harbor.

If you've been thinking about adopting a dog or cat, you can join the folks at Camp Bow Wow Staten Island on Saturday for an "Adoption Spooktacular & Howl-o-ween Parade," from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Animals taking part in the event, at 4707 Arthur Kill Rd., are provided courtesy of In Our Hands Rescue and Heaven Can Wait. The gathering will take place rain or shine. Proof of identification is required; an adoption fee applies. For additional information, call Bow Wow owners Fiori and Diane LaFemina at 718-984-9663.

Anthony (Tony) Whalen of Appleseed Realty GMAC, West Brighton, says he had a terrific time at the St. Peter's Boys High School reunion held earlier this month. The gathering celebrated the Class of 1964. "It feels like yesterday," Tony said.



October 30, 2009

Candidate questionnaires: Crime, taxes top concerns in City of Poughkeepsie

Editor's note: The Poughkeepsie Journal will run a series of candidate profiles before the Nov. 3 election. There are two open council seats.

City of Poughkeepsie

Office sought: Common Council, 1st Ward

Name: Krista Gobins.

Age: 25

Party: Democratic

Education: A.A. from Dutchess Community College, B.A. in political science from Stony Brook University

Experience: Member of Citizens Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence, vice president of Dutchess County Young Democrats. Youth experience: Past co-chair of Dutchess County High School Model United Nations. Previously worked as TA, RA and residential director of BOCES Vassar Summer Scholars.

Why do you want to be elected?: In the 1st Ward, our streets feel unsafe, out-of-town landlords are not complying with city regulations and there has been a lack of initiative to create programs and a center for the youth in our ward. To overcome these issues as a community, we need a strong voice at city council meetings speaking out our concerns. This is something we do not have. I believe that I have the passion and dedication to be that voice for our ward.

Office sought: Common Council, 1st Ward

Name: Thomas Parise

Age: 57

Party: Republican. Endorsed by Conservative, Independence and Working Families parties.

Education: Associate degree from Dutchess Community College

Experience: Served two terms on council, minority leader for one term

Why do you want to be elected?: My experience will help serve 1st Ward residents by keeping taxes low while continuing to improve the quality of life in and around the community. I am committed to fighting for smart waterfront development and keeping our parks safe and clean for all to enjoy. I

have always reached out to senior citizens living in the community, making sure they are informed and made aware of all that goes on in the city by making periodical visits and will continue to enhance senior events. I will continue to encourage community police patrols.

Office sought: Common Council, 2nd Ward

Name: Ralph Coates

Age: 28

Party: Democratic, Republican, Independence, Working Families, Conservative parties

Education: Dutchess Community College, Nyack College.

Experience: Dutchess County Youth Board, member of Association of Equality and Excellence in Education, Dutchess County School Counselors Association, Brother 2 Brother, Marist College Upward Bound Program

Why do you want to be elected?: I care that our local schools do not enjoy the academic excellence they could. I worry that our streets are dirtier, less safe and crime is increasing. I believe Poughkeepsie is a premier community with superior city and safety services, and our first priority is to ensure our standing through positive elected leadership. I have taken great pride in being involved with the schools and the community and will continue to take an active role in keeping Poughkeepsie strong.

Office sought: Common Council, 2nd Ward

Name: Joe Rich

Age: 63

Party: People First

Education: B.A. from SUNY Oswego; M.A. from Pace University

Experience: Incumbent council member; chair, finance committee. Previous experience: Zoning Board of Appeals; retired high school teacher; president, Arlington Teachers Association; chairman, Cherry Hill II Condominium Board; AARP tax aide volunteer

Why do you want to be elected?: Violent crime must be addressed. Stimulus grants of \$1.68 million for five officers and \$400,000 for police overtime-equipment will help. Bars closing now at 4 a.m., they need to close at 2 a.m. Youth programs must expand via grants and budget reallocation. The mayor wants a third attorney in the 2010 budget. The \$110,000 should go to youth programs. In 2009 we reduced the mayor's budget. For 2010, the mayor supported my advocacy of a 0 percent tax increase.

Office sought: Common Council, 3rd Ward

Name: Anita Cillo

Age: 68

Party: Republican. Endorsed by Conservative and Independence parties.

Education: Mount Carmel Elementary School, New Paltz High School. Nursing classes at Saint

Francis Hospital.

Experience: Retired from IBM as an executive assistant to a vice president after 25 years of service. Commissioner of Poughkeepsie Housing Authority. Vice chair of Taylor Avenue Neighborhood Association.

Why do you want to be elected?: I have decided to run for council to help our mayor put our city and its residents first. The 3rd Ward needs a strong council member to help the needs of the people. I feel I can fulfill the requirements for the people of the 3rd Ward and diligently help bring our city forward, fighting crime, bringing in new jobs, programs for our youth and enforce the building codes.

Office sought: Common Council, 3rd Ward

Name: Robert Mallory Jr.

Age: 48

Party: Democratic

Education: Ithaca College

Experience: Incumbent councilman. Twenty-six years of community service. Chairman of city Public Safety-Public Works Committee. Member of Marist Campus Coalition Committee and Dutchess County Criminal Justice Committee.

Why do you want to be elected?: Would like to: Facilitate efforts for an apprenticeship program for our young adults. City ordinances pertaining to convenience stores and city events. Signing of Intermunicipal Fallkill Creek Watershed Agreement. Resolution having city departments provide written quarterly reports. Help create a memorial for Dutchess County firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Office Sought: Common Council, 4th Ward

Name: Lee David Klein

Age: 54

Education: B.A., University of Maryland, 1977; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1982

Experience: A 23-year city resident, 13 years in the 4th Ward; former Zoning Board of Appeals member; Poughkeepsie City Court judge, 1996-2004. Attorney with offices in the city for 23 years.

Why do you want to be elected?: These are difficult times for New York's economy, but Poughkeepsie has a lot going for it: waterfront, Walkway, colleges, IBM - all in close proximity, only 70 miles from New York City. There is great potential, but with the council as currently constituted, these opportunities are at risk. I have the skills and experience, having worked in a bipartisan environment on the zoning board and having spent nine years as a City Court judge, to understand these issues and help the city move forward with a team approach.

Office sought: Common Council, 4th Ward

Name: Nathan Shook

Age: 29

Party: Democratic

Education: Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Lourdes; Marist College, B.A. in history; Brooklyn Law School, J.D.

Experience: I have worked for the state attorney general, New York City Council, NYC Law Department, state Department of Public Service and am a practicing attorney.

Why do you want to be elected?: As former staff to a New York City Council member, I know what it means to provide excellent constituent service - taking citizen concerns seriously and making sure they are addressed. Among my priorities and goals are keeping our city safe by continuing to support our dedicated police force; safeguarding and promoting the city's history and character; and protecting our environment by taking advantage of smart, green technology.

Office sought: Common Council, 5th Ward

Name: Yvonne Flowers

Age: 43

Party: Independence

Education: Graduated from Dutchess Community College, A.A.S accounting

Experience: Employed at DCC for the past 20 years, working with student and college finance. Vice president of Lent Street Block Association for four years.

Why do you want to be elected?: There are drastic changes occurring in our neighborhoods that are causing a negative impact on our community. I decided to run for council to do my part in fighting for a resolution to some of our current problems. The 5th Ward needs a strong community advocate and the city is looking for strong leadership. I feel that I can fulfill the requirements expected from our city residents and work with others to help move Poughkeepsie to a brighter future.

Office sought: Common Council, 5th Ward

Name: Penny Lewis

Age: 81

Town: City of Poughkeepsie

Party: Democratic

Education: Master's in social work from Fordham, bachelor's in social science from Empire State College, associate from Dutchess Community College. Attended Temple University for business education.

Experience: Councilwoman for six years, member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority, Sister 2 Sister network, former member DCC board of trustees

Why do you want to be elected?: I believe that I have served the city with honesty and integrity and I will continue to do so. I would like to continue serving for the growth and health of our community.

Office sought: Common Council, 6th Ward

Name: Mary Solomon

Age: 73

Party: Democratic

Education: B.A. College of St. Rose,[0xa0]M.S. from Syracuse University[0xa0]

Experience: Two-term council member, former school board president, former Poughkeepsie Housing Authority commissioner, former national and local American Red Cross and Dutchess Outreach volunteer.

Why do you want to be elected?: I want to be elected so that I may: Work with police and community to end drug sales and other crimes; protect and expand our tax base to ease the burden on us taxpayers; work with the administration and council to attract new businesses; continue to work on code violations to make our ward more livable.

Office sought: Common Council, 6th Ward

Name: Steven Horning

Age: 54

Party: Republican

Education: High school, some college

Experience: Sales representative and manager, successful business owner, former councilman. Husband, father and grandfather. City resident and homeowner for 36 years.

Why do you want to be elected?: I've been disappointed in the way my opponent and the council have hampered the mayor's efforts. Little progress has been made over the last two terms that Councilwoman Solomon has been representing this ward. If the city is to move forward, we have to aggressively address the serious issues of gun violence, drugs, gang violence and irresponsible landlords. Quality-of-life issues and better youth relations are priorities. It's time for change and new ideas.

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Office sought: Common Council 7th Ward

Name: Gwen C. Johnson

Age: 54

Party: Democratic, Working Families and People First

Education: St. Mary's Academy, College of Staten Island, licensed real estate agent, income tax specialist

Experience: Two-term councilwoman, community liaison to Assemblyman Frank Skartados, liaison to city Board of Education, chairwoman of social and community issues committee

Why do you want to be elected?: In seeking my third term, and as community liaison to the

Assemblyman Frank Skartados, I've worked to help bring over a million dollars to our school district and assisted with the funding of several nonprofit organizations in our community. I've improved many streets and parks, funded youth recreational, senior outreach and beautification projects in my ward. I have volunteered with our youth mentoring program, Project Thunder. I would like to continue creating positive change.

Office sought: Common Council, 7th Ward

Name: Sharon Tornatore

Age: 63

Party: Republican endorsement, also endorsed by Independence and Conservative parties

Education: High school, various trainings related to children's and adult's needs

Experience: City resident for 35 years. Thirty years with county Department of Social Services, 23 with child welfare unit. More than eight years on city school board, two as president. Involved with budgets, planning, negotiations, building issues, capital projects. Worked with Boy Scouts of America, PTA, Taxpayers' Association and raised funds for various schools.

Why do you want to be elected?: Continue waterfront development, create new jobs, bring revenues for Poughkeepsie. Provide recreational and educational programs for our youth. Work with law enforcement to address their needs and the needs of the community. Crime needs to be addressed. Hold absentee landlords accountable for repairs and needs of their tenants. I will do whatever I can to make this happen. Work hard for our seniors, they have needs that need to be addressed. Support the continuing revitalization of Main Street, new job and revenues.

Office sought: Poughkeepsie Common Council, 8th Ward

Name: Paul Herman

Age: 2/3

Party: Republican, also endorsed by Independence and Conservative parties

Education: Graduate of Poughkeepsie city schools, two years college. Graduate of Dutchess County police academy, City of Newburgh K-9 Academy.

Experience: Lifelong 8th Ward resident, 19 years as a police officer. Elected five times to represent Town of Poughkeepsie PBA.

Why do you want to be elected?: I am running for council to address concerns that have affected my neighbors and the city where I was raised, but have not been addressed. That includes neglected potholes, storm drains that need cleaning, trees that need trimming, services drives that are failing and keeping our property taxes under control. I want to work with the mayor and council to transcend party politics and move Poughkeepsie forward. For too long, politics has slowed our progression.

Name: Dennis Weinell

Office sought: 8th Ward Common Council seat

Age: 53

Party: Democratic and Working Families

Education: B.A. with honors from SUNY Oswego, math and computer science. Graduate work in engineering, Syracuse University.

Experience: Software engineer at IBM Corp. for 31 years. Elected twice to Common Council. Appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, chairman of Public Works and Economic Development committees. Council majority leader.

Why do you want to be elected?: I have the experience and knowledge to best represent my neighbors in the 8th Ward. I am pursuing the council position for the right reasons. Quality-of-life issues, fiscal responsibility and responding to the needs of my constituents are things I take seriously. I have pledged that the principles of integrity and trust would be the foundation on which I represent the 8th Ward residents. I have a proven record of solid accomplishments.
