

CSI in the News

EW TV 2010



Table of Contents

<i>Arts</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Faculty & Staff</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Sports</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Stories</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Students & Alumni</i>	<i>115</i>

Arts



Staten Island Ballet principal Anna Liceia will dance Sunday in the company's International Choreographers Festival. Admission is free.

Chinese troupe on Island Ballet bill

Dance China NY will be the
guests Sunday at
International
Choreographers Festival

By **MICHAEL FRESSOLA**
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Dance China NY, an ensemble that specializes in traditional dance, will be the guests Sunday at the Staten Island Ballet's New York International Choreographers Festival, an annual late-summer program at the College of Staten Island.

The company was a last-minute addition to the program, according to **Ellen Tharp**, director of the 18-year-old Staten Island Ballet.

She went shopping for choreographers and/or companies to include under her auspices some time ago. She found possibilities at the Battery Dance Festival in Lower Manhattan earlier this summer.

But when she spoke with company representatives, there were scheduling conflicts and/or prohibitive costs. "Much as you might like to do it," she said last week, "it is expensive to fly people from India."

A member of her board of directors proposed Dance China NY, a 37-year-old company headquartered at the New York Chinese Cultural Center in Manhattan. It is often referred to as the best source of instruction in traditional Chinese dance in the country.

The ensemble had room for the Island festival in its schedule, fortunately. On Sunday, it will perform "Lion Dance with Monkey King," "Handkerchief," "Rib-bon Dance" and "Hubei Fan," a dance from the Hubei province. Hand-held fans are flicked with distinctive flair in this part of China.

In the 10 years that she has been assembling the festival, Ms. Tharp has tapped a near-endless resource of non-American dancers and choreographers. Most are transplants. New York offers them work, opportunities to study and membership in an international dance community.

The South African company Juxtapower performed at the 2003 International Choreographers festival. Among the other past highlights: Contemporary/modern choreographer and filmmaker **Gabri Christa**; traditional Scottish dance (with a live bagpiper), and a Japanese-inspired solo, "Watashi No Omoide" ("Memories of an Old Woman"), choreographed by Mexican-born company member **Benjamin Briones**.

In Ms. Tharp's own 17-member company, two members were born/trained in Brazil. There's a Japanese national, a Latvian, a Romanian and two Russians.

Festival performances will be Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. at the College of Staten Island's Williamson Theater, Willowbrook campus.

Weekend Preview Sept 16-19

Submitted by Seth Rogovoy (/user/7) on September 15, 2010 - 3:48pm

GE-INSPIRED SCULPTURE at FERRIN GALLERY

Christa Assad's solo exhibition, *Vestigial Tales*, opens at **Ferrin Gallery** in Pittsfield, Mass., with a preview on Thursday, September 16, and a public reception on Saturday, September 25. The origin of this show began when Assad visited Pittsfield, Mass., during the summer of 2009. Inspired by the rapidly changing city, she sought out a single object to interpret for her upcoming solo show. Her search produced images from the Smithsonian's archives of a transformer manufactured by General Electric in Pittsfield.

Seeking additional information, she discovered how the transformer it symbolized the transitions taking place in the region and by extension, the world. The image of the large transformer from the 1950s became the starting point for her show of sculptural forms based on vestigial buildings and objects.



Vestigial Tales, a series of sculptural forms based on objects and architecture, is Assad's first solo show at the gallery. Designed and produced in her San Francisco studio, Assad's work pays homage to American industry in transition. Assad explains, "Whether architectural, biological, or mechanical in origin, vestigial objects and their history of use both perplex and attract me."

For Assad, an artist whose first career aspirations were aerospace engineering, the "transformer" is symbolic of the transition taking place from creativity in industry to creative industries. The electrical transformer was invented in Pittsfield by William Stanley and produced by General Electric. These objects literally "transformed" high voltage current to low voltage thus delivering useable electricity.



With Pittsfield and the Berkshires transitioning into a broader based economy - specifically, the creative economy, the concept for Assad's show also represents a transformation in her own career. Starting her studies in aerospace engineering, she soon realized her capacity for three-dimensional design was coupled with an equal interest in building and transitioned into the more physical realm of making art. She has spent the last 20 years working in the studio primarily as a utilitarian potter; her solo show, *Vestigial Tales* is the first to explore conceptually based ceramic sculpture.

Assad's original *Transformer Teapot*, produced in spring 2010 and exhibited by Ferrin Gallery in "ReObjectification," was acquired by the Kamm Teapot Foundation.

A resident of San Francisco, California, Assad is a teacher, traveler and full-time ceramicist. With an MFA from Indiana University, Assad's work is in the permanent collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Ceramic Research Center at Arizona State University Museum, and the Penn State Fulbright Scholar Collection, and numerous private collections.

In conjunction with Assad's show at Ferrin Gallery, her visit includes a full schedule of research, talks, workshops and demonstrations taking place at Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield, Mass.; IS183 Art School, Stockbridge, Mass.; Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington, Mass., and Harvard Ceramics, Cambridge, Mass.

CHRISTA ASSAD: *Vestigial Tales*

Solo show of sculptural objects

DATES:

Exhibition: September 16 – October 16

Meet the Artist and Preview: 3rd Thursday, September 16, 6-8

Reception: Saturday, September 25 from 4-6pm

Sofa Chicago: Solo November 5 – 8, 2010

Ferrin Gallery

437 North Street



Pittsfield, Mass

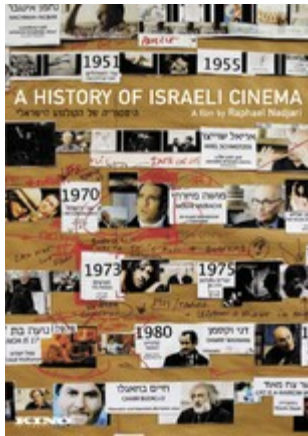
413.442.1622

www.FerrinGallery.com

HOURS:

11 – 5:00 Wednesday – Saturday and by appointment

BIFF SCREENS 'A HISTORY OF ISRAELI CINEMA'



The **Berkshire International Film Festival's** REEL FRIENDS Film Society will present the second half of the two part series, ***A History of Israeli Cinema***, directed by Raphael Nadjari, as part of its monthly series at the Triplex in Great Barrington, Mass., on September 19 at 11 a.m. Leonard Quart, professor emeritus of cinema studies at the **College of Staten Island** and at the CUNY Graduate Center, and a contributing editor at *Cineaste*, will be present to introduce the film and to host a Q&A afterwards

The first half of the film spanned the years 1932 to 1978, starting with the earliest films made by European Jews in Palestine leading up to and following the creation of the modern State of Israel. The second part covers the years 1978 to 2007, and examines the wave of films dealing with political issues and the trend towards a more personal approach to cinema. Through interviews with film professionals, critics, and intellectuals — including Amos Gitai, Joseph Cedar, Avi Mograbi, Yehuda Ne'eman, Menachem Golan, Moshe Ivgy and Zeev Revach — and extensive use of film clips, the documentary invites its audience to share in the process of discovery.

Quart describes Nadjari's work as a "penetrating personal take on Israel's film history, rather than a conventional historical compilation. The film spills over with intellectually suggestive ideas that provide a window into a cinema that demands to be further studied and seen."

A History of Israeli Cinema is open to the public at a matinee price and free for REEL FRIENDS

HAMELL ON TRIAL at OUTSPOKEN!

Righteous Babe recording artist **Hamell On Trial** performs in **OUTSPOKEN!**, a monthly performance series and open mic held the 3rd Thursday of every month in Pittsfield, Mass., on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 8, in the **Micro Theater** at 311 North St. (Greylock Building). Hamell on Trial is a one-man punk band.



Hamell On Trial's ninth release, a double-disc set titled *Rant & Roll*, launches Hamell into new territory, capturing not only an award-winning, hour-long performance, but the Kerouac-esque story of social commentary through years on the road

Born in Syracuse, N.Y., Ed Hamell started many a band before grasping the amazing appeal of autonomy: the solo musician's ability to write a song and perform it the same evening. After freeing himself from the spiritual and financial burdens of a full band, he found himself with a bunch of new songs and a gig at a benefit concert. "I had never played solo before and never really listened to acoustic music," he recalls. "Every musician in town was going to be there, so, knowing that I was going to be scrutinized, and also to differentiate myself from the James Taylors of the world, I decided to call it Hamell on Trial, figuring it would be a one-time deal. After the show, I was offered a record deal from a local label, something I had never come close to in my band years, so even an idiot like me realized I was on to something, and the name stuck."

Micro Theater - 311 North St. - Greylock Bldg., nestled upstairs among the ArtOnNo studios. Entrance for theater is around the corner on Union St. through the Orange door, right next door to Mary's Carrot Cake

ZZ PACKER READS at SIMON'S ROCK



The Bard College at Simon's Rock Poetry and Fiction Series will open with a reading by **ZZ Packer** on Thursday, Sept 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Blodgett House. Packer's short story collection, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* is a *New York Times* Notable Book, a PEN/Faulkner finalist, and a selection by John Updike for the *Today Show Book Club*. Her stories have been read on NPR's *Selected Shorts* and published in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Story*, *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope* and *The Best American Short Stories*, 2000 and 2004 editions.

ZZ (short for Zuwena) Packer's nonfiction has been featured in the the Washington Post Magazine, New York Times Magazine, the New York Times Book Review, the American Prospect, Essence, O, the Believer and Salon. She is a contributor to the Huffington Post and has appeared frequently as a commentator on MSNBC and NPR's Talk of the Nation.

Packer is the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. She was recently named one of America's Best Young novelists by *Granta* Magazine and one of America's Young Innovators by *Smithsonian* Magazine. In June 2010, she was chosen by the *New Yorker* as one of its "20 Under 40" — young fiction writers whom the magazine's editors believe "are, or will be, key to their generation."

NORMAN ROCKWELL's *RUNAWAY* MODELS RETURN

Norman Rockwell Museum welcomes home Dick Clemens and Eddie Locke, the original models for Norman Rockwell's classic 1958 painting *The Runaway*, for an afternoon of family activities to be presented at the museum on Saturday, September 18, from noon to 4. Clemens and Locke will talk about what it was like to pose for Rockwell, and share their memories of living in Stockbridge in the late 1950s, where the artist was a neighbor.

Special gallery talks about *The Runaway* and other iconic works will be provided, as well as a print signing with the two models. Visitors will also have the opportunity to try their own hand at posing for the picture, in a special *Runaway*-inspired lunch counter created by Lt. Thomas McNulty. The afternoon is free with regular museum admission.



Norman Rockwell Museum is located on 36 park-like acres in Stockbridge, Mass., Rockwell's hometown for the last 25 years of his life. The Museum is open year-round.

From May through October, hours are 10 to 5 daily; from November through April, hours are 10 to 4 Monday through Friday, and 10 to 5 on weekends and holidays. Rockwell's studio is open May through October, 10 to 5. 1.877.861.2299.

BACH AND BEYOND MOVES to STOCKBRIDGE

Organist **Charles Olegar**'s monthly **Bach and Beyond** organ concerts embark upon their fall season on Saturday, September 18, at 5 p.m., at St. Paul's Church in Stockbridge, Mass., across from the Red Lion Inn. Open to all without charge, Olegar's September mix of organ and piano music with spoken commentary features both of J.S. Bach's organ pieces bearing the title "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor," the more youthful work so well-known as to become iconic, and the second, identified as the "Dorian," being among the composer's grandest yet more obscure.

Prior to the pair of Bach toccata and fugues, the program opens with two organ toccatas by Bach predecessors Jan Pieter Sweelinck and Johann Jakob Froberger, after which Olegar moves to the piano for the G-sharp Minor Prelude and Fugue from the Well Tempered Clavier, all amid his spoken commentary.

In bringing Bach and Beyond to Stockbridge, Charles Olegar is continuing a mission begun in 2004, when he launched the series at St. James' Episcopal Church in Great Barrington: "Virtually upon arriving in the Berkshires, I discovered how strong an audience there is in this region for Bach's music," he relates. "Berkshire Bach Society was drawing very well indeed, as it still is, but I could not see where organ music – that of Bach, or that of others - was a regular, standing aspect of the region's musical activity. St. James supported my idea, seeing it as community outreach, and soon Bach & Beyond developed a regular following."

But St. James' ability to serve as a venue for any sort of activity, including its own worship services, came to an abrupt halt in mid-summer, 2008, when the church was closed upon the discovery of serious structural problems. As circumstances forced other organizations housed at the church to find alternatives, St. James moved its weekly Episcopal services to the banquet hall of Crissey Farms, as studies were being performed on the one hundred fifty-year-old structure at the corner of Main and Taconic, and the congregation struggled to discern its future.

Episcopal Bishop Gordon Scruton's strong advocacy of cooperative activities between congregations throughout his Western Mass. diocese led Olegar to sense that the time was right for reviving Bach and Beyond, moving the series up Route 7 to Stockbridge, where St. Paul's rector, Fr. Tom Damrosch, was open to hosting the programs. During July and August a trial balloon was sent up via three Bach and Beyond concerts, whose draw proved quite a bit better than expected, leading to establishing the picturesque Victorian Era church directly across from the Red Lion Inn as Bach and Beyond's new home.

Event: Bach & Beyond Organ Concert

Performer: Charles Olegar, organ and piano

Saturday, September 18, 2010, 5 p.m.

St. Paul's Church,

29 Main St.

Stockbridge, Mass.

Town center, across from Red Lion Inn

www.stpaulsstockbridge.com

Admission: free (free-will donations)

OILS AND CERAMICS at BENNINGTON ARTS GUILD

The **Bennington Arts Guild** presents artists **Lydia Johnston** and **Ray Bub** in the guest gallery, September 18 to October 11. On exhibit are Johnston's luminous oil paintings and Bub's ceramic art. An opening reception takes place Saturday, September 18, 5-8 pm. Light refreshments will be served



Lydia Johnston is an oil painter. Much of her inspiration comes from the passing seasons and the meadows surrounding her home. Her landscapes are impressionistic, full of rich vibrant colors, and a beautiful sense of light. Her goal is to capture the mood of the moment, to create a sense of the place without providing all the details, drawing you back continually to find something new.

"My goal is to create a scene you want to step into. When you look at one of my paintings, I want you to sink into it and be transported.

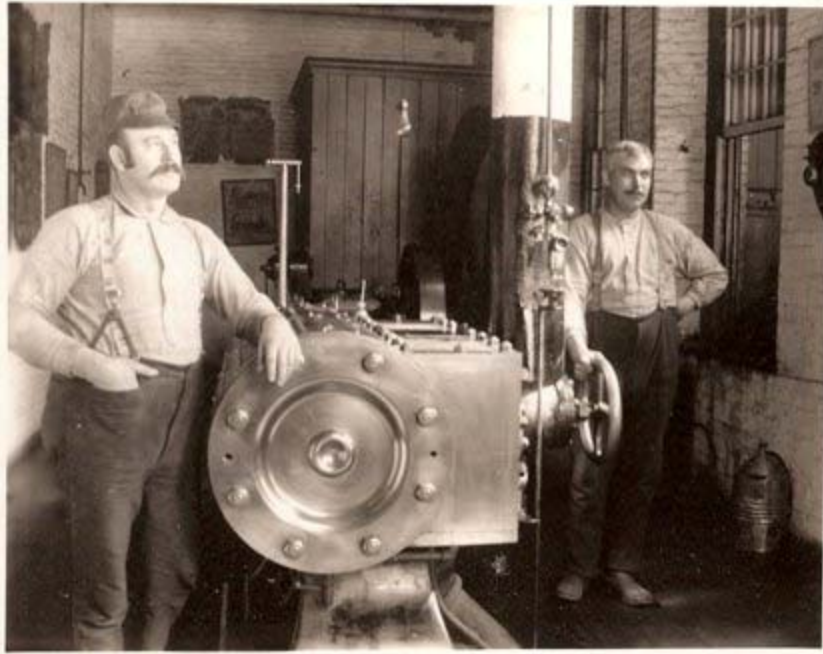
Ray Bub is a ceramic artist who makes functional pottery and one-of-a-kind reassembled ring tea pots. He also teaches ceramics from beginning to advanced levels in an ongoing series of private adult classes, and in the Williams College January Winter Study Program. He works and teaches in Pownal, Vt., in the home-studio he shares with his wife and business partner, Susan Nykiel.



"I principally use fire-hardened earth materials, 'ceramic art,' to make statements about what I see as valuable truths."

The Bennington Arts Guild Gallery is located at 103 South St. at the Four Corners intersection of Downtown Bennington. It is open daily except Tuesdays and Wednesdays, call 802-442-7838 for hours

HOUSATONIC PAPER TRAIL EVENTS CELEBRATE LOCAL INDUSTRY



The launch of the Housatonic Paper Trail, a multi-site celebration of the history and impact of the region's paper industry, is underway in Pittsfield. The Paper Trail is a program of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with Pittsfield's Office of Cultural Development, Berkshire Museum and Crane & Co.

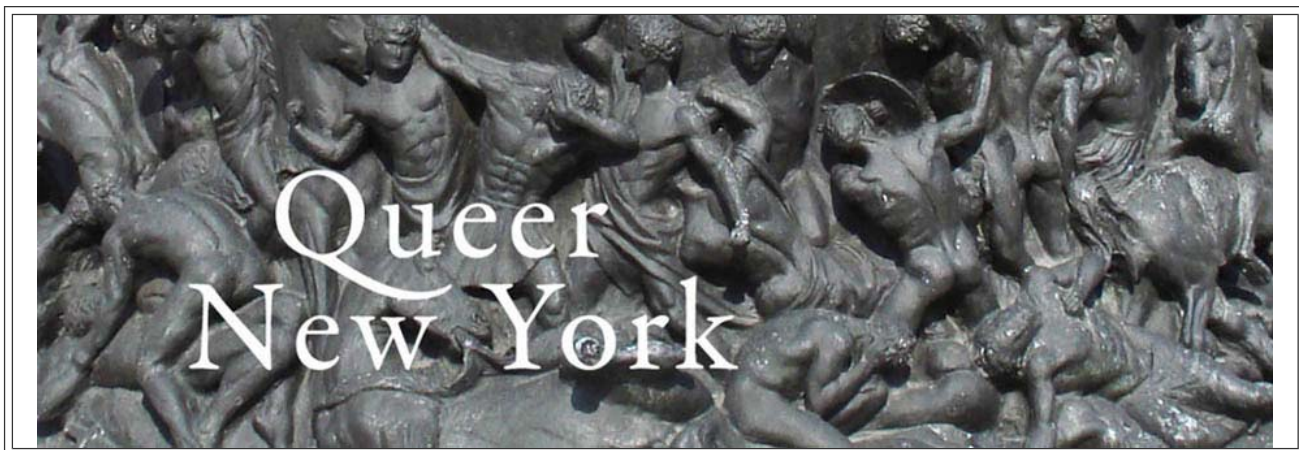
The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts is hosting *Paper Work*, a group show of contemporary regional artists who work on or with paper; an animated

video by Alice, Anna and John Myers; and clips from *Paper Town*, a documentary about the paper mills of Lee, Mass. The exhibition runs from Sept 16 to Oct 2, Wednesday-Saturday, noon -5.

Other exhibits include the Storefront Artist Project's exhibit of photographs by Bill Wright of men and women who work in local paper mills, and historic artifacts and Henry Klimowicz's *Paper and Light* cardboard installation at the Berkshire Museum.

Mills along the Upper Housatonic River at one time produced much of the paper and paper products used in the nation. The region's contribution to the industry spans more than 200 years: from 1801, when Zenas Crane built his first mill in Dalton; through the 1860s, when the Upper Housatonic powered 65 mills; to the present day, in which two local mills, Crane & Co. and Onyx Specialty Papers, continue the legacy.

All events are free and open to the public



TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010

a cornucopia of free events in new york city

One of the many great things about New York City is the number of free outdoor events that take place throughout the summer. Here is a very long (and incomplete!) list of some of what is available.

I'll be updating as more schedules are released. Please confirm dates and times before heading out. Resource links at the end.

ALL BOROUGHES

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC IN THE PARKS

July 13-14 NY Philharmonic Central Park Great Lawn 8:00pm
 July 15 Cunningham Park Queens 8:00pm
 July 16 Prospect Park Brooklyn 8:00pm
 July 17 CUNY Center for the Arts Staten Island 8:00pm
 July 19 Hostos Center for the Arts Bronx 7:30pm

METROPOLITAN OPERA RECITALS IN THE PARKS

July 12 Central Park SummerStage 8:00pm
 July 15 Crotona Park Bronx 8:00pm
 July 20 Brooklyn Bridge Park 7:00pm
 July 22 Tappen Park Staten Island 7:00pm
 July 27 Queensbridge Park Queens 7:00pm
 July 29 Jackie Robinson Park Manhattan 7:00pm

METROPOLITAN OPERA SUMMER HD FESTIVAL

Outdoors in the Lincoln Center Plaza

Aug 28 Tosca 8:00pm
 Aug 29 The Magic Flute 8:00pm
 Aug 30 Der Rosenkavalier 7:15pm
 Aug 31 Doctor Atomic 7:45pm
 Sept 1 Le Contes d'Hoffman 7:45pm
 Sept 2 La Bohème 8:00pm
 Sept 3 Hansel and Gretel 8:00pm
 Sept 4 Turandot 8:00pm
 Sept 5 Aida 8:00pm
 Sept 6 Carmen 7:45pm

ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S SUBWAY SERIES

All Mozart Program, City Harvest Food Drive, and the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck!

Free tickets reserved online at <http://oslmusic.org/subwayseries/php>

June 3 WNYC Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, Manhattan 7:30pm
 June 4 Flushing Town Hall, Queens 7:30pm
 June 5 Brooklyn Museum 7:00pm

Faculty & Staff

Sometimes, two docs are better than one

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 9:25 AM



Marjorie Hack



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Dr. Cynara Coomer, a breast surgeon, and Dr. Jonathan Deitch, a vascular surgeon, are married and work at Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

ALL SHORES

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — New York City is home to just one-tenth of 1 percent of the Earth's population, but it often feels like the crossroads of the world.

Case in point: It was here that Dr. Cynara Coomer, a breast surgeon at Staten Island University Hospital, met and then married Dr. Jonathan Deitch, a vascular surgeon who was working at the same hospital. It wasn't an easy match to make: Dr. Coomer was born in Zimbabwe; Dr. Deitch was born in Brooklyn and grew up on Todt Hill.

Their journeys to, and back to, Staten Island took decidedly different courses.

Dr. Coomer, the only breast surgeon currently working on Staten Island, lived as a young girl in South Africa.

"The smell in Africa is so unique," she said. "It's almost the smell of a wood fireplace burning. It's the bush



Stevens alumnus killed by teenagers

Ruchika Sharma

Issue date: 9/3/10 **Section:** [Campus News](#)

On June 25, 2010, a Stevens alumnus was brutally attacked by three teenagers at around 11 p.m. and later succumbed to his injuries the morning of June 28. The 49-year-old Indian professor, Divyendu Sinha, was walking with his family in his hometown when three 17-year-olds randomly came out of a car and targeted him and his two sons. The police received a call at 11:30 pm, and when they arrived Sinha was found on the ground outside his house. Dr. Sinha was severely injured and was later taken to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick where he died in the early morning. His sons sustained minor injuries and his wife was uninjured.

The three juveniles involved in the case were originally charged with conspiring to commit an aggravated assault and aggravated assault and were later charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder following Sinha's death. Two teenagers were also later arrested in connection with the murder. The teenagers will all be tried as juveniles.

The attack did not appear to be racially motivated but was rather an act of random violence. According to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office, the assailants had minutes earlier attempted to attack a Caucasian motorist who was able to escape. However, according to County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan bias crime charges will not be ruled out. The case has spawned outrage amongst Indian populations across the United States. A town meeting was held later that week where Indian-American members of the community met township officials to state that there has been increasing instances of such crimes against them.

Prakash Waghmare, a friend of Sinha for 10 years, said Sinha was "a very gentle person" and was deeply saddened and surprised by his death. Sinha graduated from IIT Kharagpur and later came to the US. He studied computer science at Stevens Institute of Technology and earned his Master's and Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1984 and 1987. He also taught at Stevens for a short period of time before accepting a job offer at the **College of Staten Island**. He later moved on to work in the industry in places like Robotic Vision Systems, Eastman Kodak, KoamTac, and Siemens.

Sinha was a researcher who made many theoretical and applied contributions in fields such as image processing, robotics, computer networking, and graph theory. He was also the author of numerous technical papers and several books. He will be remembered as a passionate teacher who was helpful to his students and was committed to helping them reach their highest potential.



NAACP to welcome chapter president at awards lunch

Published: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 6:12 AM



Maureen Donnelly

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Hazel N. Dukes, president of the New York State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will be the guest speaker at the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon, featuring the 23rd annual William A. Morris Humanitarian Awards. The event is Saturday, Sept. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Staaten, West Brighton. Tickets for adults are \$100 and include a 1-year membership (worth \$30) and subscription to Crisis Magazine. For youth under 18, tickets are \$50, which includes a 1-year membership. Ticket reservations should be made payable to the S.I. Branch of the NAACP and sent to Carla Laban, 131 Woodruff Lane, Staten Island, 10310. Deadline for tickets is Sept. 15. For more information, call Ms. Laban at 718-720-8189.

Celebrating the 101st year of the NAACP, and the 85th year of the Staten Island branch, the William A. Morris Humanitarian Awards will be bestowed on individuals who have "demonstrated commitment to the fundamental principles of the NAACP to combat racial discrimination and to personify humanitarian characteristics."

Two youth awards will also be presented.

Hazel N. Dukes is president of the Hazel N. Dukes & Associates Consultant Firm, specializing in the areas of public policy, health and diversity. Her leadership in the state chapter of the NAACP has been defined by her role linking business, government and social causes.

Recipients of the Humanitarian Awards are:

Diane Arneth, executive director of Community Health Action of Staten Island, where under her leadership the agency provides education, services and advocacy to vulnerable and underserved people;

Anthony Barnes, football coach at Nazareth High School in Brooklyn and his older brother Samuel, a music producer with Track Masters, who have mentored and developed youth through the Hurricanes football program;

Dr. Allan F. Hewitt, a retired obstetrician and gynecologist with a private Castleton Corners practice, who was director of the OB/GYN Clinic at New Brighton Family Health Center and a consultant at the Mariners

Harbor Family Health Center

Rev. Maggie Howard, pastor of Stapleton UAME Church, who has established ministries within the church to help address community ills and help prevent attitudes that foster violent or poverty-driven behaviors;

Minnie North of West Brighton, a veteran of the Women's Army Corps and chairwoman of the Central Family Life Center, Stapleton, who both worked professionally and volunteers to support children and their families;

Charles C. Thomas, assistant professor of the Performing and Creative Arts Department at the College of Staten Island, who developed the Staten Island Repertory Ensemble, The College Dance Ensemble and the annual Kwanza celebration.

Receiving the Youth Awards are

Abdul Hafiz of Clifton, student organization president of Susan Wagner High School and president of the NAACP Staten Island Youth Council, who has embarked on community service oriented trips to Peru, the Czech Republic and Brazil;

Jasmine R. Washington of Meiers Corners, a student at Port Richmond High School where she is enrolled in a program that encourages minority enrollment in the fields of science and mathematics and where she is captain of the girls tennis team. She is also a HIV/AIDS peer educator with Community Health Action.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Dana Rampulla of Castleton Corners earns bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins

Published: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 6:14 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Dana M. Rampulla of Castleton Corners has graduated from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

She received a bachelor's degree in engineering with a concentration in structural mechanics and minors in civil engineering and entrepreneurship and management.

Miss Rampulla has accepted a position with the Turner Construction Company in Baltimore as a project engineer.

While at Johns Hopkins, she was on the dean's list; she also studied abroad in Sydney, Australia, during her junior year. Miss Rampulla served as student ambassador for the IES Study Abroad program.

She was the co-chair of the Senior Class Gift Committee, a member of the Whiting School of Engineering Curriculum Committee, member of the Student Alumni Society and was inducted into the Johns Hopkins chapter of the Order of the Engineer.

She is a 2006 graduate of Staten Island Technical High School.

Miss Rampulla recently completed two-month cross-country bicycle trek with the 4K for Cancer, a non-profit organization devoted to raising funds, spreading awareness and fostering hope in the fight against cancer.

She is the daughter of Lawrence and Valerie Rampulla.

Daniel Aiese graduates from St. John's

Daniel Aiese of Bay Terrace graduated from St. John's University, Grymes Hill.

He received a bachelor's degree in communication arts. During his junior year, he also attended classes at the Institute of Audio Research, receiving a degree in Audio Research and Digital Recording.

While attending St. John's University, Aiese was a member of the Chi Theta Omega Fraternity and also worked on campus as an Office Assistant for the College of Professional Studies and as a Library Aide for the Loretto Memorial Library. This past summer, Daniel worked for Rivercrest Reality, as an office assistant.

Aiese is a 2006 graduate of St. Joseph by the Sea High School and a former varsity track member. He has continued to participate in and contribute to local races and fund raising events.

He is currently an intern in the Manhattan office of gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo. He is also attending Brooklyn College for his master's degree in Political Science/International Affairs.

He is the son of Karl and Lorraine Aiese, Bay Terrace.

CSI names director of communications

Kenneth T. Bach of New Paltz, N.Y., has been named director of communications and marketing at the College of Staten Island (CSI).

Bach was selected after a nationwide search to fill the position.

Prior to this, Bach had been serving as CSI's acting director of communications and marketing for the past three years, where he led a strategic, integrated multimedia marketing communications program, developed new web communications vehicles and annual multimedia advertising campaigns, video production venues and managed the college's media relations.

From 2001 to his current appointment, Bach served the college as director of public relations.

His previous professional experience includes serving as executive officer for Liza Minnelli, Inc., where he acted as company manager, production manager, stage manager and executive assistant during national and international tours.

Bach has also worked as company manager for Summerset Productions, Inc., producing and co-directing stage plays and managing technical, venue, and production personnel. From 1989-1995, he worked as Box Office and Front of House Manager for CSI's Center for the Arts.

Bach earned a bachelor's degree with double major in English literature and media communications from St. John's University, Grymes Hill.

SIEDC hires new program manager

Steve Grillo of Willowbrook has been hired as a new program manager by The Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC).

Grillo will be responsible for the management of SIEDC's Brownfield Redevelopment Program, the Real Estate Program and the Green Zone initiative.

Grillo recently concluded a two-year appointment with the United States National Park Service where he was the unit level manager for historic leasing and business management.

He graduated from the Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex, then went on to the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg Va., graduating with a bachelor's degree in geography.

Grillo holds a master's degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College, Manhattan where he submitted studies on Improvements to the Urban Design of Staten Island Waterfront Parks, Uses of Public and Semi-Public Spaces in Rossville, and a Plan for Light Rail Development on Staten Island's North Shore.

He has interned with the New York City Department of City Planning and with the Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission in Woodbridge, Va., where he worked in GIS analysis.

Grillo has a significant interest in the natural and historic spaces throughout the island as well as future transportation, environmental, and cultural developments.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

@Valencia: Poetry Slam champ Patricia Smith to appear at Valencia Winter Park campus Thursday

College, Higher education, Luis Zaraqoza, Valencia Community College — posted by Luis Zaraqoza on September, 15 2010 6:19 PM

Patricia Smith – champion several times at the famous national Poetry Slam – will read from her works from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, in the student lounge at **Valencia Community College's Winter Park campus**.

The event is free and open to the public.



Poet Patricia Smith / photo via Valencia Community College

The campus is at 850 W. Morse Blvd.

Smith, an English professor at CUNY/College of Staten Island, has appeared in the HBO series "Def Poetry Jam" and in the film "Slamnation."

The link attached to Smith's name above is to Poets.org, a great site to sift through for biographical information on established poets. The site has some neat features such as audio clips of readings and animated poems.

For information, contact Nichole McPherson at 407-582-3121 or nmcperson@valenciaccc.edu.

Smith's appearance is the first in the new season of Visions and Voices, the college's distinguished artist series.

Below is some video from YouTube of Smith reading from "Blood Dazzler," her fifth book of poetry. The work focuses on the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Carol Muske-Dukes

Poet Laureate of California, Professor, University of Southern California

Posted: September 15, 2010 02:13 AM

An Apology for Women's Literature

Co-written Cate Marvin and Carol Muske-Dukes (Cate Marvin - Poet and Assoc. Prof., College of Staten Island and Co-Director, VIDA)

The recent attention given to what can only be described as an outburst by two very talented lady writers, Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Weiner respectively, with regard to the glowing review of Jonathan Franzen's *Freedom* in the New York Times Book Review (a book we're both sure to add to our Christmas shopping lists) admittedly made us uncomfortable.

Picoult and Weiner claimed, via respective tweets, as you no doubt already know, that the NYTBR predominantly reviews white male writers. Media outrage ensued.

As female writers, we're not really accustomed to receiving this kind of attention. We'd only just recovered from a bout of nerves caused by Anis Shivani's recent "Top 15" list published on The Huffington Post, in which we were, for the first time, prominently represented and what a relief it was to discover he'd placed us among the "Most Overrated Writers"!

As such, we've been deeply grateful to be provided with the term "chick lit": we can either try to fit our work into this category; or, if we have a particularly masochistic bent, us more literary gals can let chick-lit make us feel like the ugliest girl in the ninth grade. With braces. Why be "literary" when you can wear the textual equivalent of a padded bra? Why be so serious? It's just so . . . offputting.

Yes, some of us write books. Well, a lot of us have done so, and for that we're sorry. We're sorry for all that time we spent writing our books (which aren't any good, we admit), when we could have been beautifying gardens, cooking exquisite dinners, and raising our offspring.

Sisters, let's be honest. We write books. But our "books" are not, if you look at all the prizes awarded to our better-halves and the fact that so many more works by men are reviewed in major journals . . . well, they aren't what the establishment deems noteworthy. Sisters, we're sorry to be the bearers of bad news, but we're also sure you saw it coming. As the somewhat lackluster novelist Flannery O'Connor (who was also a woman!) reminded us, "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it." Since when were you encouraged to write your novel? Your book of poems? Your memoir? (Being encouraged by other women writers doesn't count.)

As far as "artistic" pursuits, there is always needlepoint (an exacting task, to be sure) and knitting, and many other crafts that are more appropriate outlets for our energy and time. Many women in the past have found solace in keeping a private journal.

Please know that these are only recommendations. Indeed, we hope that you'll forgive us for imploring you to consider the various limitations of literature (if we can call it that) written by women (if, in fact, you ever considered the topic in the first place).

In fact, we regret having ever made an imposition upon your time by bringing up this topic in the first place. We hope you'll forgive us.

Sorry,

Cate Marvin & Carol Muske-Dukes



Staten Island Women in Leadership Forum slated for Oct. 23

Published: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 7:17 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Education and community involvement will be the focus of the Women in Leadership Forum of the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus on Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Richmondtown Public Library.

Panelists Ida Graber, Patricia Lockhart, Kristin McHugh, Grace Murphy, Loretta Prisco and Denise Reichard will talk about their lives as educators and civic leaders.

Longtime educator Lilian Popp, an Advance Woman of Achievement and founder and president of the Coalition of Staten Island Women's Organizations, will receive the Elizabeth A. Connelly Leadership Award.

Ms. Popp was chairwoman of academic studies at McKee High School before becoming principal of William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx. She has taught at Wagner College, St. John's University and Richmond Community College, now the **College of Staten Island**. She was also a member and chairwoman of the Staten Island Community School Board.

The forum is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

A History of Israeli Film comes to the Berkshires

By Judy Polan

Published: Thursday, September 16, 2010 12:04 PM EDT

The Reel Friends Society of the Berkshire International Film Festival (BIFF) recently presented the first half of the two-part documentary "A History of Israeli Cinema," and will screen the second half at the Triplex Theater in Great Barrington on Sunday, Sept. 19. The showing of this Israeli film builds on interest generated by the inclusion of numerous Jewishly-themed films at the June 2010 festival.

Directed by well-known French/Israeli director Raphael Nadjari ("Avanim," "Tehilim," "I Am Josh Polonski's Brother"), the movie spans the history of Israeli cinema from 1932 to 2005. A review in The Forward called it "a kinetic and engaging documentary that invites the audience to share in a process of discovery."

Part I of "A History of Israeli Cinema" encompasses the earliest films made by European Jews in Palestine during the period of the British Mandate, leading up to and following the creation of the modern State of Israel. Part II covers the years from 1978 to 2005, examining, according to BIFF's publicity director Rachel Bronstein, "the wave of films dealing with political issues, and the evolving trend towards a more personal approach to cinema." The films unfold through extensive use of clips and interviews with critics, directors and leading intellectuals - including Amos Gitai, Joseph Cedar, Avi Mograbi, Yehuda Ne'eman, Menachem Golan, Moshe Ivgy and Zeev Revach.

Leonard Quart - Berkshire Eagle columnist, contributing editor at Cineaste magazine, and Professor Emeritus of Cinema Studies at the College of Staten Island and at the CUNY Graduate Center - is Q & A host for both segments of the film. He says that the second part of the documentary "examines the wave of films dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and includes films dealing with often ignored groups like the ultra-Orthodox, women, gays, and Georgian immigrants, and directors like Gitai, Cedar, and Dover Kosashvili. Many of these films criticize Israeli society," he notes, "but they are rarely didactic. They pose the question of, in a nation where social and political reality is inescapable, what is the function of cinema as a national narrative?"

Quart describes director Nadjari's work as a "penetrating personal take on Israel's film history, rather than a conventional historical compilation. The film spills over with intellectually suggestive ideas that provide a window into a cinema that demands to be further studied and seen." In his view, the second half of the film is more striking than the first, "because the films get better, and directors of the top rank emerge. Throughout the film the talk of the critics, academics, and filmmakers is incisive and provocative - no platitudes or banalities."

A small but enthusiastic crowd turned out for the first screening. Quart led the group in a lively discussion afterwards, noting that "There were questions about the representation of the bourekas - the commercial, comic films about the new immigrants' adjustment to Israel. People wondered how large an audience would have attended these films in their heyday, and where financial backing came from. Also, they wanted to know more about the role of Zionist ideology in this early work, and the definition of the 'new man' as hero."

"A History of Israeli Cinema" is a nearly four-hour documentary that had its world premiere at the 59th International Berlin Film Festival last winter. According to a review by A. J. Goldmann of The Forward, "Astonishingly, the sold-out audience was deterred neither by the running time, nor that the film dealt with cinematic artifacts largely unknown outside Israel."

Goldmann asserts that what makes the film so effective is "the engagement that Nadjari achieves through an almost Talmudic dialectical process - the way that the confluence of voices and visual quotations often refer to and reflect each other. In the film, Nadjari eschews narration and remains hidden behind his sources."

The director says that from the outset, he wanted his film to be analytical, not only descriptive or historical. "The film is not a showcase. To me, the Israeli cinema is like an invitation to think about the function of cinema," Nadjari comments. "Should cinema continue to raise all the questions of man, of woman, social, ethical, ethnical, religious, non-religious? It's amazing to see the high quality of debate in a cinema, which is much more interesting because it is kind of the way

our imagination works, and is sometimes not quite conscious." He sees the function of Israeli cinema as encompassing philosophy, entertainment and nation-building.

Nadjari observes that as he began to pull the film together, its format evolved differently from what he had originally envisioned. "It became the story of our gaze, our look on things ... the viewer shares in the development of the unique Israeli consciousness."

Part II of "A History of Israeli Cinema" will be screened at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19 at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington. The film is open to the public at regular matinee price, and free for Reel Friends. For more information, visit [www. biffma.org](http://www.biffma.org)

Award-winning musician and arts writer Judy Polan (www.judypolan.com) is a contributing editor for Style 1900 magazine, design writer for Modernism, and frequent contributor to the Jewish Ledger.



Kaufman Says 'Something Rotten' in Commodity Markets: Video

Thu, 09/16/2010 - 20:07 EDT story from [Bloomberg](#) in <http://gdata.youtube.com/schemas/2007#video>



Sept. 16 (Bloomberg) -- Frederick Kaufman, a professor at [College of Staten Island](#), Alexia Howard, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Dennis DeLaughter, the owner of Progressive Farm Marketing Inc., and Alex Wittenberg, a partner at Oliver Wyman, talk about agricultural futures and commodity markets. They speak with Pimm Fox on Bloomberg Television's "Taking Stock." (This is an excerpt. Source: Bloomberg)



There's a new Staten Island high school superintendent in town

Published: Friday, September 17, 2010, 7:10 AM

Amy Padnani

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island got a new high school superintendent yesterday, as Linda Waite, who'd held the post for a brief three years, parted and began serving in a different role within the city Department of Education.

Aimee Horowitz, the former principal of the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies, succeeded Ms. Waite, who headed to District 22 in Brooklyn for her first day as superintendent of elementary and middle schools. Officials from the city Department of Education, which appointed Ms. Horowitz, called the application process competitive, but said Ms. Horowitz stood out among other candidates.



Aimee Horowitz: Officials "are confident that her talent and expertise will mean great things for all of Staten Island's high schools."

"Ms. Horowitz is a strong school leader who has achieved tremendous success at **CSI** High School, a school she helped to create," said Ann Forte, a DOE spokeswoman. "We are confident that her talent and expertise will mean great things for all of Staten Island's high schools."

The Staten Island high schools superintendent also covers some high schools in Brooklyn.

According to the DOE, Ms. Horowitz began her career in city schools as a social studies teacher at Edward R. Murrow High School, where she worked from 1995 to 1999. She then served as an

assistant principal of social studies at the school for seven years. In 2006, she became the founding principal of CSI High School.

Ms. Horowitz earned her bachelor's degree in economics and rhetoric and public address from Brooklyn College. She then got a law degree from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, and an advanced certificate in supervision and administration from the College of Staten Island.

After earning an "A" for her school last year, Ms. Horowitz was rewarded with a \$7,000 bonus.

Many parents said they had gotten to know Ms. Horowitz well, and that they looked forward to working with her.

"I'm very happy for her," said Michele Faljean, who heads the high school president's council for Staten Island. "I think it will work out great. She's very parent-oriented."

"We've worked very collaboratively and cooperatively together in the past," said Andrea Lella, a special education advocate who heads the Citywide Council on High Schools. "I'm looking forward to continuing and expanding that."

Joseph Canale, who was formerly an assistant principal CSI High School, will take Ms. Horowitz' place as interim acting principal.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Dig deep into beat of hand drums at 'Bangarang: Drum Beats of the Caribbean' at Medgar Evers College

Jared McCallister

Originally Published: Sunday, September 19th 2010, 4:00 AM

Updated: Sunday, September 19th 2010, 3:18 PM

'Bangarang: Drum Beats of the Caribbean,' lectures, workshops, performances, a film and a "drum circle" celebrating the tradition of African hand-drumming will be held in [Brooklyn](#) on Saturday at Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Ave. (between Crown and [Montgomery](#) Sts.)

Keynote speaker will be [L'Antoinette Stines](#) of the [University of the West Indies](#) as well as internationally renowned drummer and percussionist [Neil Clarke](#), who will be moderating panels at the event presented by the Hamptonians New York organization.

The event begins with a panel discussion on "Framing the Paradigm of Hand Drum" at 2 p.m. The panel features [Calvin Holder](#), director of African Studies at the [College of Staten Island](#), [Martha Moreno Vega](#) of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute/CCCADI and others.

A second panel, "Connecting the People to the Customs," starts at 3 p.m. and will examine a number of Caribbean customs - including Kumina ([Jamaica](#)), Voodoo ([Haiti](#)), Santeria ([Cuba](#)), Shango ([Trinidad and Tobago](#)), Saracca ([Grenada](#)) and Shanto ([Guyana](#)).

"Drum & Sing" and "Drum and Dance" workshops follow at 3:30 p.m. and 4:05 p.m. respectively. A film on a hand-drum tradition in Grenada, a concert and a drum circle will follow later.

For more information, call [Maxine Alexander](#) (718) 927-6817 or send email to maxineeee@aol.com.

Artists' Haiti expressions sought

Visual, performing, literary, musical and cinematographic artists are being sought to take part in a pair of exhibitions focusing on the spirituality, esthetics and

reconstruction of Haiti.

The [Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts](#) (MoCADA) and the [Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute](#) (CCCADI) invite artists to submit works for the exhibitions: "Standing with [Papa Legba](#): Vodou at the Crossroads" and "Re-Imagining Haiti: Le Projek Noveau (The New Project)."

"Standing with Papa Legba: Vodou at the Crossroads" will focus on the Haitian Vodou deity Papa Legba - the judicial power responsible for opening and closing doors between physical and spiritual realms. This exhibit runs from Jan. 6 to May 13 at the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, 408 W. 58th St. (between [Columbus](#) and 10th Aves.)

The "Re-Imagining Haiti: Le Projek Noveau (The New Project)" exhibition will be shown at MoCADA, 80 Hanson Place (between S. Portland Ave. and S. Elliot Place), from Jan. 13 to May 5. This show will examine the historical and socio-political events preceding the Jan. 12 earthquake, progress made since the disaster and also explore positive political, cultural, architectural and socioeconomic solutions for Haiti.

College of Saint Elizabeth Remembers Hurricane Katrina with Poetry Reading by Patricia Smith

Posted by [Fran Sullivan](#) on September 21, 2010



The fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina will be commemorated at the College of Saint Elizabeth on Wednesday, October 6, 2010, with the appearance of poet Patricia Smith whose recent collection, *Blood Dazzler*, chronicles the human, emotional, and physical toll exacted by that catastrophe. The book was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award and was one of the National Public Radio's (NPR) Top Books of 2008. Smith will read from this latest book along with her other works and will follow with a book signing. The event, which will take place at 7 p.m. in the Dolan Performance Hall in Annunciation Center on campus, is free and open to the public.

Smith's appearance is sponsored by the CSE Poets and Writers Fund and the Lectures and Concerts Committee. For more information, call 973-290-4413.

In a review, South Carolina poet laureate Marjory Wentworth wrote, "*Blood Dazzler* is the narrative of a shameful tragedy, but it is lyrical and beautiful, like a hymn we want to sing over and over until it lives in our collective memory."

Smith's previous book, *Teahouse of the Almighty*, was a National Poetry Series selection and winner of the first Hurston/Wright Award in Poetry. Her other poetry books are *Close to Death*, *Life According to Motown*, and *Big Towns, Big Talk*. Her work has been published in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *TriQuarterly*, and other literary journals/anthologies, and performed around the world, including Carnegie Hall and the Sorbonne in Paris.

Smith is a winner of four National Poetry Slam individual championships, the most in the competition's history. She has been featured on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*. She currently teaches in the Stonecoast Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Southern Maine and is a professor of creative writing at the City University of New York/College of Staten Island.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey, the College of Saint Elizabeth enrolls more than 2,100 full- and part-time students in 25 undergraduate, 10 graduate and one doctoral degree programs. For information on other activities or programs, visit the College of Saint Elizabeth web site at www.cse.edu.

Old Bridge teens to face murder charges as adults

Judge transfers case to Superior Court; three suspects released on bail

BY LAUREN CIRAULO

Staff Writer

Five Old Bridge teens charged in the fatal assault of a township man will be tried as adults.

The suspects, all Old Bridge High School students who were arrested shortly after the death of township resident Divyendu Sinha, 49, will face murder charges as adults in state Superior Court as a result of an order filed by Family Court Judge Jane Cantor on Sept. 17.

“As a community, this has been devastating all around,” Old Bridge Mayor Jim Phillips said. “Six families have been destroyed by one act of senseless violence.”

With the judge’s order, the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office released the identities of the five defendants — Cash Johnson, Steven Contreras and Christopher Conway, all 17, Christian Tinli, who has turned 18 since his arrest, and Julian Daley, 16. They have also been charged with two counts of aggravated assault for allegedly attacking Sinha’s sons, ages 16 and 12, who were walking with Sinha and his wife at the time of the assault. The children reportedly sustained minor injuries; the wife was not injured.

According to the prosecutor’s office, Sinha, a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island, and his family were out walking near their home on Fela Drive around 11:40 p.m. June 25 when they were attacked. Sinha died three days later at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick from injuries sustained in the assault.

Police arrested the five Old Bridge teens over the next several days.

Authorities also alleged that the five juveniles instigated a motor vehicle chase with a male Caucasian motorist less than five minutes before the assault. The driver of the other motor vehicle was able to escape the chase, which occurred on Prests Mill Road in Old Bridge, police said. However, the teens allegedly threw objects at his car, which was damaged.

Cantor set bail in varying amounts for the suspects last week, and three have since been bailed out. Conway was bailed out for \$450,000, Daley for \$400,000, and Johnson for \$300,000. Tinli and Contreras remained at the Middlesex County Youth Detention Center in lieu of \$450,000 and \$350,000 bail, respectively, on Tuesday.

Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Kuberiet requested that Cantor place stipulations on the five suspects upon their release, including a provision that they cannot have any contact with the victim’s family or with each other; cannot access the crime scene, the victim’s family’s home or the entire Oakwood development; and cannot attend school or any school function in Old Bridge. They must also remain under house arrest between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

“I can’t say much on the matter, but I am glad that the judge, in setting the bail agreement, included stipulations regarding the school system,” said Superintendent of Schools Simon Bosco. “This prevents us from having to figure out how to deal with that inevitable issue, and since it is a criminal case, we would have had an issue implementing such conditions. I’m very thankful.”

The five teenagers all attended Old Bridge High School, where some were academically commendable and engaged in extracurricular activities.

“We’re talking about a kid who was going to be the big man on campus his senior year of high school, well on his way in the usual rite of passage to college,” said Tinli’s attorney, Amilcar Perez.

Tinli worked part time at the Grease Monkey on Route 18, was on the varsity track team and the football team, maintained a “B” average in school and was in the process of prepping to take the SATs, Perez said. He also was very active at his church, Heirs International Ministries in North Brunswick, where he occasionally played piano during services. Tinli was born in New Brunswick, but his parents emigrated from Sierra Leone 28 years ago.

“His father works for General Motors and his mother worked for a nursing home,” Perez said. “They were living the American dream.”

Perez said Tinli had a clean juvenile record before the incident, as did the four other teens.

“He’s never been in trouble. He’s a good student and an all-around good kid,” attorney William Fetky said of his client, Johnson.

Johnson worked part time at Pathmark and was arrested in connection with Sinha’s beating as he was bagging groceries the following morning.

Fetky asserted that Johnson did not participate in the assault, noting that his client has only been charged as an accomplice.

“It’s my position that this was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people,” Fetky said. “If there’s a pecking order, then he’s last in the ranks. As you know, he also has the lowest bail.”

Daley was a varsity football player who was one of the 350 recruits from across the country on Tom Lemming’s All-American watch list. He also was a varsity basketball player.

Daley’s attorney, Mitchell Ansell, said his client also had a clean record.

Contreras’ attorney, Len Carlson, and Conway’s attorney, Charles Uliano, could not be reached by the time of publication.

An investigation by Detective Greg Morris of the Old Bridge Police Department and Investigator Paul Miller of the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office is still ongoing.

But the murder of Sinha still leaves an open wound in the Old Bridge South Asian community.

“I have been in contact with Mrs. Sinha, and she is primarily concerned for the safety of her children,” Phillips said. “In her heart, she wants to see justice for her husband. But at the same time, she knows it won’t fix everything.”

Many members of the Indian community contend that Sinha’s murder was the result of racial bias, and have expressed concern over less extreme incidents of prejudice in the township.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said that although it appeared that Sinha was attacked randomly, especially given the alleged assault on the Caucasian motorist, a decision about whether to file bias charges will be made after the investigation is complete.

Members of the Indian community organized a candlelight vigil and memorial service for Sinha in July that was attended by state, county, local and school officials, as well as friends, family and other citizens.

Residents are again being mobilized in the name of Sinha for an event that will educate the community on bias incidents and how best to work with local law enforcement to enhance safety and security of all residents. Suresh Kumar, who helped organize the educational forum, has established a neighborhood watch program under the newly created Citizens of Old Bridge (COBNJ), which already has gained 150 members.

The forum and discussion will take place from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the George Bush Senior Citizen Center in the township's municipal complex. Refreshments will be provided.

Also Featured on: silive.com

Five Teens to be Tried as Adults in Sinha Murder

By SUNITA SOHRABJI

STAFF REPORTER

indiawest.com September 23, 2010 05:11:00 PM

The five teens accused of fatally beating Prof. Divyendu Sinha have been charged with murder and will be tried as adults, announced the Middlesex, New Jersey County Prosecutor's office Sept. 17.

The five suspects were also charged with assaulting Sinha's two teenage sons, Ravi and Ashish, who attempted to defend their father as he was being attacked on the evening of June 25, near his Old Bridge, New Jersey home.

Sinha was transported to a local hospital, where he died from head injuries June 28. The 49-year-old computer scientist worked as a consultant for the IT company Siemens and as a part-time professor at the **College of Staten Island**.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan identified the five suspects for the first time. They are Cash Johnson, 17, Steven Contreras, 17, Christian Tinli, 18, Christopher Conway, 17, and Julian Daley, 16. All were scheduled to appear in Superior Court this week, but a date had not been set at press time.

All are residents of Old Bridge, and are being held at the Middlesex County Jail. Bail has been ordered at \$450,000 for Tinli and Conway; at \$400,000 for Daley; \$350,000 for Contreras; and \$300,000 for Johnson. Each defendant must post the full amount of bail before being released, and – if posted – cannot have contact with the victim's family or each other.

Jim O'Neill, spokesman for the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, told India-West that no motive had yet been established for the brutal beating.

O'Neill said he could not comment on whether hate crime enhancements would be added to the murder charges. In the three months since the attack, the local Indian American community has put steady pressure on the prosecutor's office to charge the five juveniles with a hate crime.

The PAN IIT has also taken up Sinha's case by writing a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

Hoboken, New Jersey city councilman Ravi Bhalla, an attorney, told India-West that the teens each faced a sentence of 20 to 30 years if convicted of murder as adults. If the accused are found guilty of "bias motivation," as a hate crime is known by statute in New Jersey, it could add an additional five years to their sentence, he said.

Several community organizations, along with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the

Department of Justice, will jointly host a community forum Sept. 25 in Old Bridge. The forum will equip local residents with information about how to identify a possible hate crime and how to report it to police.

The forum also aims to connect community members with local law enforcement officials, said Navneet Bhalla, a policy consultant with the organization South Asian Americans Leading Together, one of the groups organizing the discussion.

"We don't know yet whether the case of Divyendu Sinha was a hate crime, but we heard from the community that there needs to be more awareness," Bhalla told India-West.

Participants will be taught how to report a possible hate crime and how to work with local law enforcement in such cases.

The forum — also organized by the Citizens of Old Bridge; the South Asian Bar Association of New Jersey; the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Manavi; the Sikh Coalition; and the Indian American Defense League — will be held at the George Bush Senior Citizen Center, starting at 10:15 a.m.

New Stoneham Theatre exhibit offers a glimpse into membership clubs

By Kristin Erikson/Correspondent

Stoneham Sun

Posted Sep 24, 2010 @ 11:42 AM

Stoneham — Photographer Beatrix Reinhardt is opening the door to an often-unseen world in her latest exhibition at the Griffin Museum of Photography's Atelier Gallery at Stoneham Theatre.

Titled "Member's Only," Reinhardt's photo series gives viewers exclusive access into membership clubs, from those in the United States to others as far away as Australia and China. The exhibit, on display until Nov. 7, is currently running parallel to the Stoneham Theatre's performance of "Perfect Harmony," a musical that exposes the cutthroat competition of glee clubs and the even more cutthroat competition of high school.

"To me, clubs are the nexus of homogeny and heterogeny," said Reinhardt, who currently resides in Queens, N.Y. "It is that space where 'like' comes together and 'unlike' stays apart. It is not only due to the nature of union that the club is defined and takes on a meaning, but also due to the nature of exclusion. All these notions have visual manifestations, which became the focus of this body of work."

Reinhardt began the "Member's Only" series in 2003, during her six-month artist-in-residency at The Australian National University in Canberra. During her studies, she noticed that almost all of her Australian colleagues were members of clubs.

Reinhardt became intrigued by the concept of these organizations, particularly how they include and exclude and how that is visually defined in their interior spaces.

"Clubs appeared to be institutions of great significance within the social landscape," Reinhardt said. "People are very protective of them."

Throughout the years, Reinhardt spent her free time traveling to different countries to capture the interiors of clubs on camera. She flew to Beijing to photograph Club 13, a punk club, and the ChangAn Club, a prestigious organization for business executives and entrepreneurs. In Spain, Reinhardt took snapshots of a gun club and a billiards club. Closer to home, she photographed a curling club in St. Paul, Minn., and a gun and hunting club in Fulton, N.Y.

Reinhardt's favorite photo is of a vending machine situated between two statues at the Hellenic Club in Canberra, Australia.

"There's a notion of humor in this photograph," Reinhardt said. "These spaces are places for 'organized happiness' in a way."

Reinhardt's "Member's Only" photographs were taken with a medium-format camera and available light. They do not include people in them.

"Most of my photographs are un-peopled but replete with human presence, visible in form of the social relations conveyed by the organization of space," Reinhardt said. "The absence of living beings in my work ... is rather motivated by allowing an unencumbered view of a social landscape, revealing information about the people who interact in these spaces, creating real and imagined narratives for the viewer. I see these photographs more as intimate portraits of the individuals who occupy/occupied these spaces."

Reinhardt's history

Reinhardt grew up in former East Germany, where she said she was "forced to join clubs since the day she was born." She was a member of the Free German Youth, the official socialist youth movement of the German Democratic Republic and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

"I have never been a big enthusiast of 'organized togetherness,'" Reinhardt said. "I actually have a phobia of 'organized happiness.' For me to belong to organizations or clubs is very unappealing."

Reinhardt completed her undergraduate degree in New German Literature in Berlin. She later studied at the New School for Social Research in New York, graduating with a master's degree in media studies. While in graduate school she learned English, but found herself picking up the camera during her first six months of studies to communicate more effectively with others.

"After I received my first master's degree, I decided it was time to go back to school, yet again, to study social documentary photography," Reinhardt said.

Reinhardt studied photography at the New School and continued at Illinois State University. Since completing a Master of Fine Arts degree, Reinhardt has been living and working in different parts of the world. She is currently a photographer and assistant professor at the **College of Staten Island**/CUNY in New York.

Her earlier works encompass a wide range of subjects, from capturing the lives of homeless individuals in New York on camera to photographing a trailer park in Wildwood, N.J. Now, she is working on photographing a gas pipeline in the Ukraine and an open-air gym in Kiev, Russia.

“The camera for me is a tool to enter communities that I do not know or have preconceived notions about,” Reinhardt said. “It lets me see what these spaces are all about.”

To learn more about Beatrix Reinhardt, visit www.beatrixreinhardt.com.

The Griffin Museum’s Atelier Gallery at the Stoneham Theatre is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1-6 p.m., and one hour before each theater performance. For information, call 781-729-1158 or visit www.griffinmuseum.org.

Copyright 2010 Danvers Herald. Some rights reserved

Point Person: Cate Marvin on gender and literary criticism

04:28 PM CDT on Friday, September 24, 2010

Best-selling authors [Jodi Picoult](#) and Jennifer Weiner recently stirred a literary tempest by questioning whether [Jonathan Franzen's](#) new critically acclaimed novel, *Freedom*, would be getting the same accolades if he were a woman. But the issue of gender bias in literature has been the focus of attention for more than a year for VIDA, a group of women writers dedicated to exploring "critical and cultural perceptions of writing by women." VIDA co-founder Cate Marvin, a 40-year-old poet and associate professor in creative writing at the [College of Staten Island, City University of New York](#), discusses the group's project to measure gender ratios in literary criticism, as well as how this issue has an impact on both writers and readers.

Why is this issue so important?

When writers get an award or get reviewed or have their work published in a major literary venue, it furthers their reputation and it furthers their career. Essentially, these types of recognitions actually further the production of literature. The fact that men are getting more means it's furthering the production of literature written by men and that women can't write as much.

Why is it important to actually measure the representation of women's writing in literary criticism, anthologies and "best of" lists?

Typically, women writers have had these conversations amongst ourselves very privately, as if they are something we couldn't say out loud. So, rather than just have these subterranean conversations, we decided to find out what we are really talking about here. Way before the Franzen thing, we first called out *Publishers Weekly's* "Best of 2009" list. The top 10 were men, and 70 men and 30 women were in the top 100. We asked *Publishers Weekly* what was happening. They were sort of like, whoops, we know it's politically incorrect to have an all-male list, but there it is! Then what followed were a number of other "best of" lists that were also heavily male.

Are the people making these lists predominantly men, or are women contributing to this situation?

Both. But we want people to understand it's not a blame game. Ultimately, what I want to get to is not just the fact that editors are predominantly male or that editors believe people are more interested in what men write. There's also the notion that women and men can read men's books, but men are not as interested in women's books. If you go on Good Reads [a reader-driven website] and see a list of favorite books, they're largely by female writers. So sometimes I feel like there's almost a disconnect between the editors of these review publications and their readership.

How much do you think the genre of "chick lit" has worked against women writers?

There probably are some writers whose work is categorized as "chick lit," and while that might do great commercial things for their work, it also might devalue the literary quality. My sense is a lot of this categorization occurs for commercial reasons. It's interesting to see how books get categorized. I have a friend who has a novel coming out, and I was really surprised to see it is being marketed as young adult fiction. I know it's happened to other women, too. Her book is probably going to sell a lot more, but I went to the [Iowa](#) Writers' Workshop with this particular writer, and she's one of the best I know. I don't know why her book is being categorized like that.

Franzen is being praised for his treatment of "domestic" issues, which is traditionally what women writers do so well. Do you think their accomplishments may be getting short shrift because it's assumed they're just writing about what they know?

There's the assumption with some women's writing – that they're just writing about themselves, and it's dismissed because people feel it doesn't come from the imagination. First of all, what's wrong with writing about your own experience? All writers draw from their own experience in a sense. But also any writer, especially any writer who's good, is going to mercilessly manipulate things. In order to make it an authentic narrative, you have to leave it to the realm of imagination.

It's obvious why this is an important discussion for writers, but why is this an important discussion for readers?

It speaks to problems in the larger culture. It speaks to how women are regarded in a particular profession that is considered intellectual. And it also speaks to how seriously content is taken, and that there is a hierarchy in terms of content, so that a novel set inside a home is not as significant as, say, one set on a battlefield. Why is that the case? Can we look inside ourselves and ask why?

This Q&A was conducted, condensed and edited by Nancy Kruh, a Nashville-based freelancer who writes the weekly Balance of Opinion for Viewpoints. Her e-mail address is nancykruh@att.net. Cate Marvin may be contacted through catemarvin.com.

Cate Marvin: It's time for literary critics to give women writers their due

12:00 AM CDT on Sunday, September 26, 2010

This Q&A was conducted, condensed and edited by Nancy Kruh, a Nashville-based freelancer who writes the weekly Balance of Opinion for the Viewpoints page. Her e-mail address is nancykruh@att.net. Cate Marvin may be contacted through catemarvin.com.

Best-selling authors [Jodi Picoult](#) and Jennifer Weiner recently stirred a literary tempest by questioning whether [Jonathan Franzen's](#) new critically acclaimed novel, *Freedom*, would be getting the same accolades if he were a woman. But the issue of gender bias in literature has been the focus of attention for more than a year for VIDA, a group of women writers dedicated to exploring "critical and cultural perceptions of writing by women." VIDA co-founder Cate Marvin, a 40-year-old poet and associate professor in creative writing at the [College of Staten Island, City University of New York](#), discusses the group's project to measure gender ratios in literary criticism, as well as how this issue has an impact on both writers and readers.

Why is this issue so important?

When writers get an award or get reviewed or have their work published in a major literary venue, it furthers their reputation and it furthers their career. Essentially, these types of recognitions actually further the production of literature. The fact that men are getting more means it's furthering the production of literature written by men and that women can't write as much.

Why is it important to actually measure the representation of women's writing in literary criticism, anthologies and "best of" lists?

Typically, women writers have had these conversations amongst ourselves very privately, as if they are something we couldn't say out loud. So, rather than just have these subterranean conversations, we decided to find out what we are really talking about here. Way before the Franzen thing, we first called out *Publishers Weekly's* "Best of 2009" list. The top 10 were men, and 70 men and 30 women were in the top 100. We asked *Publishers Weekly* what was happening. They were sort of like, whoops, we know it's politically incorrect to have an all-male list, but there it is! Then what followed were a number of other "best of" lists that were also heavily male.

Are the people making these lists predominantly men, or are women contributing to this situation?

Both. But we want people to understand it's not a blame game. Ultimately, what I want to get to is not just the fact that editors are predominantly male or that editors believe people are more interested in what men write. There's also the notion that women and men can read men's books, but men are not as

interested in women's books. If you go on Good Reads [a reader-driven website] and see a list of favorite books, they're largely by female writers. So sometimes I feel like there's almost a disconnect between the editors of these review publications and their readership.

How much do you think the genre of "chick lit" has worked against women writers?

There probably are some writers whose work is categorized as "chick lit," and while that might do great commercial things for their work, it also might devalue the literary quality. My sense is a lot of this categorization occurs for commercial reasons. It's interesting to see how books get categorized. I have a friend who has a novel coming out, and I was really surprised to see it is being marketed as young adult fiction. I know it's happened to other women, too. Her book is probably going to sell a lot more, but I went to the [Iowa](#) Writers' Workshop with this particular writer, and she's one of the best I know. I don't know why her book is being categorized like that.

Franzen is being praised for his treatment of "domestic" issues, which is traditionally what women writers do so well. Do you think their accomplishments may be getting short shrift because it's assumed they're just writing about what they know?

There's the assumption with some women's writing – that they're just writing about themselves, and it's dismissed because people feel it doesn't come from the imagination. First of all, what's wrong with writing about your own experience? All writers draw from their own experience in a sense. But also any writer, especially any writer who's good, is going to mercilessly manipulate things. In order to make it an authentic narrative, you have to leave it to the realm of imagination.

It's obvious why this is an important discussion for writers, but why is this an important discussion for readers?

It speaks to problems in the larger culture. It speaks to how women are regarded in a particular profession that is considered intellectual. And it also speaks to how seriously content is taken, and that there is a hierarchy in terms of content, so that a novel set inside a home is not as significant as, say, one set on a battlefield. Why is that the case? Can we look inside ourselves and ask why?

This Q&A was conducted, condensed and edited by Nancy Kruh, a Nashville-based freelancer who writes the weekly Balance of Opinion for the Viewpoints page. Her e-mail address is nancykruh@att.net. Cate Marvin may be contacted through catemarvin.com.



New Staten Island career center puts people in position for success

Published: Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 7:03 AM



Maura Yates



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

The new office for the Staten Island Career Center and NYC Business Solutions Center will have its grand opening Thursday.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Crisp in a business suit, Gehan Shanmuganathan, a 40-year-old Ph.D. candidate and college professor, came for advice while he's researching franchise opportunities.

Jason Gatling, 35, a Californian now living in Stapleton, was surfing the web, hoping for "any job I can find," preferably working in a kitchen.

And Michael Behar, the owner of two North Shore clothing stores, recently hired a manager and two sales associates pre-screened from a pool of qualified candidates.

This is the new Workforce 1.

It's having a grand opening celebration Thursday, but the directors gave the Advance a peek yesterday.

Relocated from Bay Street, the new office for the Staten Island Career Center and NYC Business Solutions Center opened in June at 120 Stuyvesant Pl. in St. George, where job-seekers can find one-on-one career

advice, help in preparing a résumé, and access to computers.

Inside the clean, bright and professional new office, employers can find pre-screened job candidates who have the skills they're looking for, which can save time and energy otherwise spent wading through a heap of job applications for candidates who aren't the right fit.

Owners of businesses of all sizes, and all stages, can take courses on developing business plans and marketing strategies, seek pro-bono legal assistance and, if they've been turned down for a bank loan, apply to non-traditional, non-profit lenders.

All the services are completely free through the program administered by the city's Department of Small Business Services.

SBS Commissioner Robert Walsh wants to spread the word to businesses across the Island about the resources available. Most important, he wants the public to know that this is a far cry from job centers of years ago. Those he likened to "a maze of bureaucracy," and "more like a police state than a place where you could get assistance and help."

"We want it to feel like a comfortable place," said Workforce 1 Director Keith Rasmussen. The services are open to everyone, regardless of income or employment status -- people from homeless shelters or who just earned a GED can sit alongside people who got laid off from Wall Street, or who already have jobs and are looking for another to supplement their income.

A university professor in his native Sri Lanka, Shanmuganathan was working as a cashier at a gas station convenience store. By chance, he met a member of the Workforce 1 staff who told him about the services available. Matched up with the [College of Staten Island](#), he is now teaching marketing and business management and working on a doctorate in business administration.

When Behar was looking to hire staff for his two Oz clothing stores, in Stapleton and Mariners Harbor, he placed an ad on Craigslist. "There were good people there, but I really had to filter through the good and the bad," he said. Working with the Business Solutions Center "made it a lot easier to identify the type of candidates I was looking for." While one of his three hires didn't work out, "two out of three, that's not bad," he said, adding he just called the center to find some more employees for his sales floors and stock rooms.

"Small businesses are overwhelmed with résumés," said NYC Business Solutions Director Biguita Hernandez.

"When a business comes to us, they're going to find good people," Walsh said.

It was only the second day of Gatling's job search yesterday, as he searched for openings online. "There's a lot of opportunity here, I think," he said. "Hopefully I'll find something."

So far this year, 6,069 customers have been served, and 1,758 were placed in jobs.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



September 30, 2010

by Myron Kaplan

***Color Purple* Author Smears Israel With False Colors**

Well-known author/poet Alice Walker (1983 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction for *The Color Purple*), also something of a fringe activist, vilified Israel and Jews in interviews during an April 2010 promotional tour for her new book, *Overcoming Speechlessness: A Poet Encounters the Horror in Rwanda, Eastern Congo and Palestine/Israel*, which deals with Walker's 2008-09 travels to Africa and "Palestine/Israel" (mainly the Gaza Strip). In interviews (from San Francisco and New York), listeners hear about Walker's personal experiences and knowledge of white Southerners' treatment of African-Americans – which she describes as involving much brutality. Subsequently in the interviews, Walker mistakenly equates this treatment with Israeli behavior toward Palestinian Arabs.

This report deals with Walker's San Francisco events: KQED's April 19 [Forum](#) radio program (available on-line) and *City Arts & Lectures* April 20 theater presentation (not available on-line, [heard July 11](#) on over 170 public radio stations around the country). Both the radio broadcast and the theater presentation were funded by Jewish philanthropic foundations (see below). [KQED](#) is an affiliate of National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Walker's characterizations of Israel are described by author Phyllis Chesler (psychotherapist, and professor emerita of psychology and women's studies at the [College of Staten Island-CUNY](#)) in a June 2010 article, [Alice Walker: Stop Telling Lies About Israel](#).

Walker Equates Israeli Settlers to Germans (the *City Arts* presentation of April 20)

The two San Francisco interviews were conducted by Forum host Michael Krasny (lecturer on Jewish themes, professor of English at San Francisco State University). Expressing anti-Israel sentiments or worse, Walker, whose Pulitzer Prize winning fictional work depicted the story of a young black woman fighting her way through Southern racist white culture, condemned Israeli settlers ("settlers in Israel ... are just as German as they are Jewish") while ignoring the intolerance of Palestinians who refuse to live with Jewish communities in Palestinian territory although Arabs enjoying full civil rights live in Arab communities within Israel.

Walker's Germany/Israel comparison is disturbing on at least two grounds: 1) It reveals Walker's ignorance of the ideologies and behaviors of both parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in which the Arab side in particular long has been influenced by Nazi themes (see, for example, *Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World*, by Jeffrey Herf, Yale University Press), and 2) Walker's more general identification of Israel with colonialism. The

Zionist movement, which eventually drove the colonial British out of Mandatory Palestine, established the most economically successful, politically democratic and socially diverse state of all post-colonial countries. It represented an indigenous people, the Jews, rebuilding a sovereign state on a minority of its ancient homeland. Walker appears oblivious to the fact that Arab emigration from what became Israel – a smaller phenomenon than the expulsion of Jews from Arab states, of which she also seems unaware – resulted from the Arabs' violent rejection of the U.N.'s 1947 partition plan calling for one Jewish state and another Arab state. (Jordan, an Arab state created unilaterally by Great Britain and from which Jews were banned, in violation of the League of Nations' Palestine Mandate, occupies 77 percent of the territory originally allocated to Mandatory Palestine.)

Following remarks about the black civil rights struggle in America and the horrors in Rwanda and eastern Congo, Krasny asks Walker, "Is there a sense in your mind of a connection between the colonialism and the horrors in Africa and the bombings and the victims that you witnessed from those bombings in Gaza?":

Yes. I see it as the same colonialism. I see it as the same. In fact, I think that one of the things we forget about the settlers in Israel, is that they are just as German as they are Jewish. And so that the German influence that caused so much damage in Rwanda is in some of the behavior of the German Jews in Israel. And that's the part which we need to look at more.

Krasny, himself a member of the San Francisco area Jewish community, had no compunction in reinforcing Walker's erroneous and slanderous anti-Jewish, anti-Israel thesis: "Yes...German Jews – the echoes – there used to be a lot of feeling that German Jews were perhaps most balefully influenced as a result of the Holocaust – the Shoah – and so forth."

Walker Equates Israel to Former Germany

Walker further says:

I feel that the Israel that many Jews dreamed of having – that one is gone. That's demolished. I think it's time for people to accept that. Because what you have now is something that is so frightening. Israel is as frightening to many of us as Germany used to be.

Walker is apparently unaware that Israel, a thriving modern state, is a Western-style democracy in sharp contrast with most Middle East societies including the Palestinian Arabs. That Israel must remain militarily strong in order to survive the repeated attacks and violence ignited by its neighbors' often expressed obsession to destroy the Jewish state makes it no more "frightening" than American military strength during the Cold War against Soviet communism nor currently in the face of international Islamic extremist movements, makes this country "frightening." In essence, consciously or subconsciously, Walker pursues an anti-Zionist, ultimately anti-Semitic goal: to deprive the Jewish state and people of the universal right to self-defense recognized in the U.N. Charter.

Krasny asks for a clarification of Walker's comparison of Israel to Germany: "Because it's such a military state, you mean?":

Oh, because it's a military state, it's an arrogant state. It's a state that does really atrocious things to people. And, you know, the world sees this. It's not as if it's hidden. It's hidden to so many Americans because we are Americans and they can just hide this from us. But most of the planet really is not kept in our kind of unawareness about the realities of what is happening.

Here, Walker insists on an absurdity: the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is "hidden" to Americans. In fact, this conflict is intensively covered by the media. There is "greatly disproportionate attention given to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in comparison with other, more deadly, wars around the globe" according to a [Miami Herald](#) review (Jan. 20, 2009) of Professor Virgil Hawkins' book, *Stealth Conflicts: How the World's Worst Violence is Ignored*. [Amazon's](#) review of the book states: "*Stealth Conflicts* opens a nasty can of political worms, revealing that 90 percent of the world's conflict-related deaths occur not in the media-focused Middle East, but in war-torn Africa." Apparently, Walker would rather falsely smear Israel than call attention to actual, widespread atrocities in Africa. Such obsessive, misplaced focus suggests bias.

Walker's *Forum* Broadcast

In a confused reaction to a caller's question, "What of the hundreds of thousands of Jews who've been forced to leave Arab countries?," Walker said:

Well, I'm not versed on that at the moment. My attention has been really on Israel and Palestine. That's where I've actually stood. In the future I would like to go and witness some of this. But I would like to stay with this until we actually see our way clear to some thoughtfulness on the issue.

The poet/author, insisting that "[T]he people (Palestinian Arabs) who have been forced out of there also belong there – it was their home and it was not the right thing to do to take away their villages ..." evidently has no need to acknowledge that

in the wake of Israel's War of Independence in 1948, caused by Arab rejection of the U.N's partition compromise, widespread attacks on Palestinian Jews by Palestinian Arab "irregulars" and then outright invasion by five Arab states, the overwhelming majority of Palestinian refugees were not expelled by the Israelis. But a much larger number of refugees, Jewish refugees who had resided in Arab countries for many generations, were forced to flee their native lands. (From a CAMERA [report](#)).

Host Krasny went on to read a *Forum* listener's e-mail message: "One can have all the sympathy in the world for the people of Israel and Palestine and the hardships on both sides, but to say the people (Gazans) are starving, however, is a gross exaggeration. Basic humanitarian supplies cross the Gaza border every day ..."

(Walker interrupted, laughing hysterically as if in total disbelief.)

Krasny continued reading: "The West Bank has a rapidly growing economy (Walker again laughs). Starvation is not a problem. Neither side will ever willingly agree to a one-state solution. A one-state solution is equivalent to the destruction of Israel. I read the PA has a draft constitution and Hamas has a charter to exterminate Israel and the Jews believe they mean them. They mean it."

Walker, completely at odds with the listener's points, replied:

[T] he people are actually starving. It's the kind of slow starvation. When I was in Gaza a year ago I talked to psychiatrists who were treating children who can't really think properly because with the bombs falling even when there's a supposed cease-fire and the lack of food because the Israelis will let in one – like one week they will let in a whole lot of melons ...

But while some conditions are difficult for Gazans resulting from the behavior of Gaza's Hamas rulers, Gazans are not starving. In fact, "[G]rocery stores are stocked wall-to-wall with everything from fresh Israeli yogurts and hummus to Cocoa Puffs smuggled in from Egypt. Pharmacies look as well-supplied as a typical Rite Aid in the United States." ([Washington Post](#), June 3, 2010). More recent news reports indicate smuggling through the Gaza-Egypt frontier tunnels has reversed direction, with plentiful goods in demand moving from the Strip into Egypt. Moreover, while Walker claims to have spoken with Gaza psychiatrists, she evidently failed to speak to Israeli psychiatrists who treat Israeli children suffering mentally from rockets shot from Gaza. Literally thousands of rockets and mortar shells have been launched at non-combatant targets in Israeli villages and towns from Gaza since Israel withdrew from the Strip in 2005. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder reportedly are common among Israeli adults and children. Walker's selective sympathy suggests hypocrisy.

Alice Walker's Warped Perceptions of the Arab/Israeli Conflict

Walker's warped perceptions of the Arab/Israeli conflict are exemplified when (in the Forum broadcast) in reply to her point that "women on both sides" can take the lead in ending the conflict, host Krasny points out "the difficulty, though, in Palestine with respect to male hegemony and patriarchy and those kinds of problems." Walker, playing the part of an apologist for the Palestinian Arabs, immediately reacts to Krasny's point by launching into a defamation of Israel: "The misogyny and the woman-hating and the abuse of woman and children was so much more in Israel than I ever dreamed." But Walker's mendacity notwithstanding, mistreatment of women in Israeli society is on a par with that of other Western nations, which is to say, it is at a significantly lower level than that of the Arab/Islamic world including Palestinian society. The appalling treatment of women in many Arab and Islamic societies, including Palestinian communities has been much discussed. For example, Gaza women are generally denied inheritance rights ([Jerusalem Post article](#) by Rachelle Kliger, March 7, 2010). Abuse of [women in Palestinian society](#) is rife and – [some Islamic societies oppress women](#) in general. Walker, known as an advocate for oppressed women everywhere, is silent here regarding common patriarchal practices across the Arab/Islamic world such as the taking of several wives, and beating them at will and so-called "[honor killings](#)" of thousands of women in the name of family honor.

Walker demonized Israel in reply to Krasny's point (in the *City Arts* presentation) that a one-state solution (favored by Walker) could mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state:

We don't have a Christian state and we're fine. I mean, I think that it's more important, really, to have a country that accepts and loves all of its people and at some point you have to grow up and understand that just because you have this idea that all of it should be yours – that in some ways that is like a child's vision – when you have to, you know, kill other people, abuse other

people, drive them from their homes, bomb their hospitals, kill their children
– what kind of country are you even trying to have?

Here, the problem is not only Walker's demonization of Israel but also ignorance: Israel is a state, unlikely virtually any other in the Middle East, in which all citizens enjoy civil equality regardless of gender, religion or race. Israel hardly has a policy that "all of it [the land] should be yours." The Zionist movement generations ago dropped its claims to that large portion of Mandatory Palestine east of the Jordan River. Israeli governments for two decades have been trying to negotiate "land-for-peace" compromises based on a "two-state solution" with Palestinian Arab leadership, only to be met with either duplicity or outright rejection and violence in 1993, 2000, 2001 and 2008. In effect, Walker's position is that the legitimate self-defense of a democratic, Western state virtually under siege is not legitimate if it's a Jewish state surrounded by hostile movements and countries, many of whom claim either that their official state religion is Islam or that their national laws originate in Islam.

Useful Idiots or Willful Collaborators?

Why would Jewish philanthropic foundations – like those who funded Alice Walker's presentations in San Francisco – support communications media events unfairly denigrating Israel and Jews without at least requiring offsetting, factual presentations? Are these philanthropies merely "useful idiots" or do they knowingly participate?

Funding Walker's April 19/20 Condemnations of Israel

The San Francisco area Jewish family foundation, Louise And Claude Rosenberg Jr Family Foundation, is the major funder of KQED's *Forum* broadcasts. These foundations of Jewish origin are the main funders of *City Arts* presentations: Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Mimi and Peter Hass Fund, Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation. There's no indication in either the *Forum* or *City Arts* on-line archives of any presentation, before or after the Walker appearances, that would present a more nuanced or balanced view of the conflict.

Jewish Organizations and Anti-Israel Propaganda

It is not unusual for organizations founded by Jews to fund or otherwise promote unfair condemnation of Israeli policies. For example, [Sojourners](#), a quasi-Christian group, which regularly condemns legitimate Israeli self-defense policies, has received generous funds from George Soros's Open Society Institute (OSI). In an [article](#) in the *New York Review of Books*, Mr. Soros, a Holocaust survivor, wrote that the U.S. should pressure Israel to "negotiate" with Hamas, which is a recognized terrorist organization that vows to destroy Israel.

Columnist Carolyn Glick wrote (July 31, 2009) about the Jewish organization, J Street, in a *Jerusalem Post* article, *The Lonely Israeli Left: J Street*. The organization, she argued, was a "creation of ... anti-Israel activist George Soros - [which] was established ahead of the 2008 elections to lobby the White House and Congress to foment breaches in the US-Israel strategic relationship."

The organization [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) is essentially dedicated to voicing condemnation of Israeli policies. The [New Israel Fund](#) funds several organizations hostile to Israel's existence as a Jewish state (JTA, Michael J. Jordan, August 14, 2008).

Motivated by her warped perceptions of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, author Alice Walker – often spurred on by her media indulgers – is among those aiding the growing effort to isolate Israel and de-legitimize it as a Jewish state. The list includes elements of the communications media, the United Nations, academia, mainline churches and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) – and even some Jewish philanthropic foundations and other Jewish organizations.

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

(From an Alice Walker favorite book, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)

South Asian community seeks security, strength

Importance of reporting suspicious activity to police stressed at forum

BY LAUREN CIRAULO

Staff Writer

While the fatal assault of a Old Bridge man sent shockwaves through the township this summer, it particularly resonated within the South Asian community due to the potential bias nature of the incident.

In the wake of the death of Divyendu Sinha, 49, members of the South Asian community have become increasingly vocal in their concerns about bias crimes, with many stepping up to lead and take part in educational forums and watchdog groups.

On Saturday, more than 100 local South Asians, as well as township officials and government agency representatives, gathered at the George Bush Senior Center to attend their latest collective effort, "Working Together to Secure and Strengthen Communities," a forum for the discussion of issues related to bias and hate crimes.

"As a community of color, South Asians are often targeted for hate crimes and harassment based upon their race, ethnicity and religion. Within the South Asian community in Old Bridge, in recent weeks, there have been increased concerns surrounding bias," said Navneet Bhalla, New Jersey policy and outreach coordinator for South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). "This forum was an opportunity for community members to collectively identify actions that individuals, organizations and the government can take to protect the community."

Though encouraging, the progress made in addressing bias issues over the past few months is unfortunately rooted in tragedy.

Sinha, a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island, was attacked as he walked near his Fela Drive home with members of his family around 11:40 p.m. on June 25. Sinha's two sons, ages 12 and 16, reportedly sustained minor injuries during the attack, but his wife was not hurt. Sinha died three days later due to injuries sustained in the assault.

Police have charged five teenagers — Cash Johnson, Steven Contreras and Christopher Conway, all 17, Christian Tinli, who recently turned 18, and Julian Daley, 16 — with murder and all will be tried as adults. All five pleaded not guilty to the charges on Sept. 24.

Authorities have not labeled the assault as a bias crime, and Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan has said it appeared that Sinha was randomly targeted. He said a decision regarding possible bias charges will be made when the investigation is complete.

Regardless, the incident has left its mark on members of the South Asian community, who demanded justice for Sinha. Members of the community organized a candlelight vigil and memorial service for Sinha in July that was attended by state, county, local and school officials, as well as friends, family and other citizens. The event was not only a tribute for Sinha, but a forum where many expressed their concerns about bias incidents. Many revealed their own experiences with racially driven incidents and addressed issues within the township public school system.

Efforts to inform and protect the South Asian community continued with Saturday's event. Suresh Kumar, who helped organize the forum, worked throughout the summer to establish a 40-person strong neighborhood watch program under the newly created Citizens of Old Bridge (COBNJ), which already has gained 150 members. The group, calling itself the "Old Bridge Guardians," will patrol and report suspicious activity to the police.

Saturday's two-and-a-half-hour forum opened barriers between residents and governmental officials.

"This event is a great example of what a small group of determined people can achieve working in collaboration with other groups," Kumar said.

In addition to COBNJ and SAALT, representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service attended the forum. The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Old Bridge Mayor Jim Phillips, several Old Bridge officials and police officers and various South Asian groups have also pledged their support. According to Bhalla, the focus of the event was to "discuss issues surrounding bias and hate crimes and to collectively identify methods to ensure the community's safety."

Participants received guidance on what to do if they become a victim of a bias crime, and were given information on their rights within New Jersey's statutes, as well as a list of resources for assistance.

The importance of reporting bias incidents was emphasized.

"There are many reasons why someone may not want to report an incident, and while I cannot speak for everyone, there are many who don't go to the police out of fear or shame, or even because of personal or language barriers," Bhalla said.

Following the informative session, participants were split into groups for workshops, during which they identified and provided recommendations to local officials in terms of addressing bias crimes.

"We didn't want just the narrative, but wanted it to be interactive as well. Members of the community gave excellent input on what actions agencies need to take and what part citizens can play," Bhalla said. "They addressed things that were happening in the community, and definitely gave us some feedback and perspective."

However, Bhalla said that discussions regarding the specifics of the Sinha case were avoided.

For more information about South Asian Americans Leading Together, visit www.saalt.org.

Teens plead not guilty to murder of O.B. man

Grand jury to hear charges within next six weeks

BY JENNIFER AMATO

Staff Writer

OLD BRIDGE — Five teens accused of attacking an Old Bridge man in June all pleaded not guilty to charges of murder in Superior Court, New Brunswick, on Friday.

Cash Johnson, Steven Contreras and Christopher Conway, all 17, Christian Tinli, who recently turned 18, and Julian Daley, 16, are accused of initiating an attack against Divyendu Sinha as he was walking near his Fela Drive home with his wife and two sons around 11:40 p.m. June 25. Sinha, 49, a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island, died three days later from injuries sustained in the assault. Sinha's two sons — one is in high school and the other is 10 years old — reportedly sustained minor injuries during the attack, but his wife was not hurt.

The Old Bridge teenagers will be tried as adults in state Superior Court, according to Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Christopher Kuberiet. The case is expected to go to a grand jury within six weeks, he said.

Conway, Daley and Johnson are free on bail of \$450,000, \$400,000 and \$300,000, respectively. As requested by Kuberiet, the suspects cannot have any contact with the victim's family or with each other; cannot access the crime scene, the victim's family's home or the entire Oakwood development; and cannot attend school or any school function in Old Bridge. They must also remain under house arrest between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Tinli and Contreras have remained held at the Middlesex County Youth Detention Center in lieu of \$450,000 and \$350,000 bail, respectively. Kuberiet said it is up to the discretion of Family Court Judge Jane Cantor as to whether they are transferred to the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center.

In addition to the murder allegations, the same five juveniles are accused of instigating a motor vehicle chase with a male Caucasian motorist less than five minutes before the assault on Sinha. The driver of the other motor vehicle was able to escape the chase, which occurred on Prests Mill Road in Old Bridge, police said. However, the teens allegedly threw objects at his car, which was damaged.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan has said that although it appeared that Sinha was attacked randomly, especially given the alleged assault on the Caucasian motorist, the decision of whether to file bias charges will be made after the investigation is complete.

Sports



Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 31, 2010

Published: Wednesday, September 01, 2010, 9:09 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Men's basketball

The CYO Men's Unlimited League is looking for an A division team to play Tuesday nights starting Sept. 21. Call or text Pat Linn at 917-846-0113.

Youth intramural hoops

St. Teresa's intramural basketball program has registration tonight from 7:30-8:30 in the parish gym (Slosson Avenue and Victory Boulevard). The league is for boys and girls in kindergarten through eighth grade. Parishioners and non-parishioners welcome. Games are played on Friday nights and Saturdays. The cost is \$130 for one child, \$180 for two and \$230 for three. All players trying out for CYO teams must register. Call Greg Percoco at 917-572-9424.

Cross country coach

St Joseph Hill is looking for a cross country coach. Contact athletic director Janice Philipps at jphilipps417@yahoo.com or call 718 447-1374 ext. 9158.

CSI alumni game

The College of Staten Island baseball alumni game is Sept. 24 at CSI with a 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

Tennis tournaments

Registration continues for the Senior Vets men's and women's singles tennis tournaments to be held Sept. 25. Contact Nick Farkouh at 718-987-1905.

Referee classes

Girls' high school basketball officiating classes are being held every Monday and Saturday from Sept. 13 to Oct. 30 at the Egbert Intermediate School in Midland Beach. Call Pat DeForte at 718- 637- 1829.



CSI volleyball loses season opener

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 10:22 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

PATCHOGUE, L.I. — The **College of Staten Island** women's volleyball team lost to St. Joseph's of Long Island 25-4, 25-8, 25-12 in its season opener.

Joanna Tepedino had five kills and two digs. Danielle Ponsiglione had four assists. Kaitlyn Flynn and Vasiliki Sterguila had three digs each.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

CSI softball player Ashley Mullarkey running for a good cause

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 9:52 AM



Staten Island Advance



Ashley Mullarkey ran her first half marathon two weeks ago in the Bronx. The **CSI** softball players is running and raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

By KELLIE CARNEVALE

WILLOWBROOK -- While most young adults spent their summer lounging at the beach or sitting poolside, **College of Staten Island** sophomore Ashley Mullarkey, a member of the school's softball team, spent her summer getting in the kind of shape needed to run a marathon.

And at the same time, she was raising money for cancer patients.

In June, the Clifton resident joined Team In Training (TNT), a local group that helps people get in shape, trains them for marathons, half marathons, triathlons, hiking events or 100-mile bike races while raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

LLS' mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma while also improving the quality of life for the patients and their families.

Why the movement and why the passion for Ms. Mullarkey?

In sixth grade, Ashley had Patricia Jezycki, the Borough Expansion Coordinator for TNT, as a teacher. When

Mrs. Jezcki's husband was diagnosed with leukemia, Ashley and her family donated funds to help find a cure. When Ashley's grandfather was also diagnosed with lymphoma, she decided there had to be more that she could do to help. It was then that Mullarkey looked into TNT. There was just one problem: She could barely run a mile when she first started.

"Two months into training, and now I'm running 13 miles," she claims after adopting TNT into her lifestyle. "Training for a marathon isn't something you can cram for. It takes a lot of hard work. The coaches are very helpful and they give you steps and advice on how to get yourself in better shape."

The 26.2-mile marathon that Ms. Mullarkey is training for is at the end of October in Dublin, Ireland. Thus far, she has raised \$1,540 of her goal of \$5,400, or 29 percent of what she needs. Seventy-five percent of what she raises will go to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Ms. Mullarkey, 19, is the youngest on her Staten Island-based team where the oldest competitor is 61. The team is approximately 25 strong and they get together twice a week to practice.

Mrs. Jezycki says Ashley's participation in the TNT is inspiring. The day before a race in the Bronx, Ashley was supposed to be off from training and resting. Instead, the former New Dorp High School basketball and softball player, walked up and down the boardwalk handing out flyers for the program.

"Ashley is always cheering on her teammates," says Mrs. Jezcki. "Her spirit is the contagious kind we need for a program like this. She's like the energizer bunny!"

Ms. Mullarkey ran her first half marathon two weeks ago in the Bronx. She finished 11th in her age bracket.

"I'm an athlete, but I never actually just ran," Ms. Mullarkey said. "Running gives you a new kind of confidence, a definite boost. It makes me feel like I'm doing something out of the ordinary. The fact that I can help raise money for a good cause while I do this makes it even better."

If you would like to help Ashley reach her goal by donating, go to her fundraising page at **<http://pages.teamintraining.org/nyc/dublin10/amullarkey>**.

-- Kellie Carnevale is the assistant sports information director at the **College of Staten Island**.



CSI soccer loses season opener to NYU-Poly, 3-1

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 9:16 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The **College of Staten Island** men's soccer squad lost its season opener yesterday, falling 3-1 to host NYU-Polytechnic at Aviator Field in Brooklyn.

CSI goalie Ahmed El-Ghareib made 10 saves. The Dolphins were outshot 22-12 by the Blue Jays (1-0), who struck first on Adam Lakawitz's header with 19 seconds to play in the first half.

With four minutes gone in the second half, Giovanni Ormachi's 15-yard strike made it 2-0. NYUP's third goal came from Mohamed Ndou in the 68th minute.

CSI scored in the 80th minute when Ibrahim Mubarcic scored on an assist from midfielder Dong Luu.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



College of Staten Island harriers sound optimistic

Published: Saturday, September 04, 2010, 11:45 AM



George Kochman

There's a spirit of optimism as the College of Staten Island prepares to open the cross country season a week from tomorrow in the Baruch Invitational at Van Cortlandt Park.

"We're in a much better position than we were last year when I first took over," said second-year head coach Robert Russo-Vikos, who thinks the Dolphin women can be in the top half of the conference.

There is experience with senior Lisa Lamanna (Susan Wagner), sophomore Bibi Ghafari (Curtis), and Caitlin O'Neill (Port Richmond). Junior Shantel Peters and Queensborough transfer Jacqueline Jamaledine round out the likely top five.

The CSI men lack depth, but seniors Matthew Greger (Tottenville) and Dean Kunjrazia "have been training well over the summer," said Russo-Vikos.

Juniors Agron Shabani and Joseph Figueroa should be among the top five.

Ex-St. Joseph Hill coach Christine Pagano has joined the coaching staff.

"Having Christine will add to the program in terms of training and morale," said Russo-Vikos.

2010 CSI Cross Country Schedule (Men and Women)

Sept. 12 — Baruch Invitational @VCP; Sept. 19 - Queensborough Inv. @VCP; Sept. 26 - Hunter Devel. Meet @VCP ;Oct. 10 - Brooklyn Invitational @VCP; Oct. 17 - York Invitational @VCP ;Oct. 24 - CSI Invit.@VCP ;Oct. 31 - CUNY Championship @VCP

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

College sports round up

Published: September 5, 2010

After a scoreless first half, the University of Scranton scored four times in the final 39 minutes to post a 4-0 victory Saturday over SUNY-Potsdam in men's soccer at Fitzpatrick Field. Michael Drew, Patrick Daley, Bryan Spiegelhoff and Bill McGuinness all scored for the Royals, who outshot SUNY-Potsdam, 48-6. Brandom Dombrowski had four saves to earn the shutout.

Keystone 2

College of Staten Island 1

At Madison, N.J., Scott Bensinger scored two goals as Keystone won the opening game of the Drew University Labor Day Tournament. Justin Turano and Dyer Moore both had assists for the Giants. Keystone's next tournament game will be today at 4 p.m. against Drew University.

DeSales 5

Baptist Bible 0

At Clarks Summit, DeSales broke open a 1-0 game with four second-half goals. Derek Long had two goals for the Bulldogs. Ian McGovern made 12 saves for Baptist Bible.

Penn State Schuylkill 3

Penn State Scranton 2

At Scranton, Penn State Schuylkill rebounded from an 2-0 halftime deficit with three second-half goals to get the victory. Giovanni Montoya had a goal and an assist and Mark Eastman also scored for Penn State Scranton.

Women's soccer

Kaitlyn Hresko headed in a 40-yard cross off the foot of Lacey Habicht to cap a 2-1 overtime victory as Marywood rallied to top host Hartwick College at the Erinn K. Brozman Cup in Oneonta, N.Y. Siobhan Blancaflor scored with 10 minutes left in regulation on another Habicht assist to knot the game at 1-1. Meghan Coyle had five saves for Marywood.

Plattsburgh 1

Scranton 0

At Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Kayla Rabideau scored 3:08 into the second overtime as Plattsburgh won the Skidmore Invitational. Caitlin Byrne made five saves for Scranton.

Ursinus 1

Baptist Bible 0

At Collegeville, Baptist Bible was outshot, 34-6, as Ursinus picked up the victory. Alex Shivers scored the goal for Ursinus. Cierra Byron made 12 saves for Baptist Bible.

Iowa Central 3

Lackawanna 1

At Rosemont, Minn., Stephanie Gale scored two goals to lead Iowa Central Community College to the victory in the Minnesota Kickoff Classic. Kaitlyn Murray also scored for Iowa. Brittany Surace had the goal for Lackawanna on an assist for Kayla Joseph.

Lackawanna 2

Dakota 0

At Rosemount, Minn., Kayla Joseph two goals to lead Lackawanna College to the victory in the Minnesota Kickoff Classic on Friday. Dannielle Barletti and Arielle Parry each had assists and Anna Ridings made 20 saves for the shutout.

Field hockey

Kaitlyn Tirney tapped in a shot from 10 yards out with less than six minutes remaining to lift the University of Scranton to a 1-0 victory over Wilkes at Fitzpatrick Field. The Royals held a 21-3 shot advantage and posted its first win over Wilkes since Oct. 20, 2005.

Moravian 3

Marywood 1

At Bethlehem, Moravian scored two goals in two minutes in the second half to post the victory. Becky Renaldo had a goal and an assist for Moravian. Julie Dougherty scored the goal for the Pacers.

Women's tennis

Caili Nizamis, Ashley Karli, Beth Schneider and Lindsay Burke were all two-time winners as Marywood defeated Immaculata, 9-0. Erika Von Zup and Aubrey Klesh picked up singles victories for the Pacers.

Women's volleyball

At Gettysburg, the University of Scranton split a pair of matches today - beating Washington College, 3-0, before losing to Messiah College, 3-1 - to finish with a 2-2 mark in the Battlefield Classic at Gettysburg College. Katie Newman had 12 kills and two aces in the first game while Jenell McFadden had 10 kills and 22 digs in the second game for the Royals.

Cazenovia 3

Keystone 2

At Cazenovia, N.Y., Keystone fell to Cazenovia in five games (25-20, 17-25, 19-25, 25-20, 11-15). Shelby Morgan had eight kills, three aces and 21 digs and Leah Simko had five kills, 28 assists for Keystone.

SUNY Potsdam 3

Baptist Bible 1

At Cortland, N.Y., SUNY Potsdam handed Baptist Bible its third loss of the SUNY Cortland Tournament, winning in four matches (25-12, 23-25, 25-16, 25-22). Jessica White had 12 kills, Katelin Broughton had 31 assists and Laura Hodupp had 34 digs for Baptist Bible.

Baptist Bible 3

Montclair State 0

At Cortland, N.Y., Baptist Bible picked up its first win of the SUNY Cortland Tournament with a sweep of Montclair State (25-22, 25-17, 25-18). Marlie Kneifel and Brittany Floyd each had eight kills, Katelin Broughton had 27 assists and Laura Hodupp had 14 digs for Baptist Bible.

Golf

At White Stone, N.Y., behind fourth-place individual finishes from Chris Schank and Rob Bresnahan, the University of Scranton won the Utica Invitational at Hidden Valley Golf Course. Schank and Bresnahan carded rounds of 77 as the Royals posted a four-score total of 312 to squeeze out a one-stroke victory over Castleton State. The Royals also received a 78 from Jamie Bresnahan.

Men's cross country

At Doylestown, Quincy Scotland was the top finisher for Lackawanna College as the Falcons competed in the Delaware Valley College Cross Country Invitational. Scotland finished in 100th place with a time of 32:58 while Jalill Mitchell-Burton finished 128th at 38:39.

- At West Point, N.Y., Penn State Scranton finished fifth out of five teams at the Army Open. Todd Lucke was the top runner for Penn State, finishing in 46th place at 19:49. Kyle Frick was 47th at 20:09.

- At Gwynedd Valley, Aaron Klosheim was the top runner for Baptist Bible, finishing 26th at 30:56 in the Gwynedd-Mercy College Invitational. Jared Hawn was next for the Defenders in 31st place at 31:45.

Women's cross country

At West Point, N.Y., Penn State Scranton finished fourth out of six schools at the Army Open. Maureen Suchecki finished 33rd at 22:07 while Megan Davis was 43rd at 24:30.

- At Gwynedd Valley, Kimberly Caines finished 17th at 21:37 as the top performer for Baptist Bible in the Gwynedd-Mercy College Invitational. Caryn Depue was 21st at 22:16



Staten Island sports bulletin board for September 6, 2010

Published: Tuesday, September 07, 2010, 9:37 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

CSI alumni game

The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni game is Sept. 24 at **CSI** with a 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at Barbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

Tennis classes

The Staten Island Community Tennis Center is offering new classes for kids to adults, starting Sept. 13. Call the Willowbrook facility at 718-982-3355.

Tennis entries

The Staten Island Men's/Women's Junior Vets (35 and over) Singles tournaments, which will begin play Saturday at the Tottenville Racquet Club, is taking entries. There will be no morning matches. Call Gregg Hansson at 646-379-1280.

Biddy refs needed

Any high school student (16 or older) who would like to officiate for Catholic Youth Organization Biddy division games should e-mail county director Frank Minotti at fminotti@archny.org. Include the following information: name, address, school, grade, phone number and e-mail address. An application will then be sent.

Cross-country coach needed

St Joseph Hill Academy is looking for a cross-country coach for the upcoming high school track season. Contact Janice Philipps by e-mailing jphilipps417@yahoo.com or calling 718-447-1374, ext 9158.

Softball league registration

The Alumni Softball Saturday Co-Ed League is looking for one more team for its Fall 2010 season. Fall league begins a week from today. Contact Stuart Pfeffer at 732-513-4836 or e-mail Alumnisoftball@aol.com.

Teen baseball camp

The Empire State Future Prospects' 2010 Fall Prospects Camp for baseball players ages 13 to 18 will be held

Oct. 23-24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Joseph by-the-Sea HS field. The instructional camp is directed by former Major Leaguer and current New York Yankees AA hitting coach Frank Menechino. Coaches include former Long Island University assistant Chris Reyes and current Kean University assistant Mathew Scano. The cost is \$250. Each player will receive a written evaluation completed by a staff member. E-mail EmpireStateFutureProspects@yahoo.com or call 917-755-2747.

Youth basketball openings

The CYO Beyond the Arc Basketball Clinic has openings for boys and girls in third through eighth grade. The clinic began at the Port Richmond CYO yesterday and at the CYO-MIV Center on Sept. 7. The clinics run twice a week for three weeks from 4-5:30 p.m. Call 718-987-2603.

Baseball registration

Mid-Island BRL is holding final registration for its fall ball loop tomorrow night from 8 to 10 p.m. Slots are still available for teams in the 13s division and individuals and teams in the 14-19s. MIBRL will also be holding a Texas Hold 'Em fund-raiser on Sept. 24 and its annual awards dinner on Oct. 19. Call Anthony Collette at 347-286-0506.

Rebels tryouts

The Staten Island Rebels girls' basketball program will hold tryouts for the 2011 AAU season on Sept. 12 and 19 at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Huguenot. Tryouts for 9-U (born 2001 or later) and 10s (born 2000) will take place 11 a.m.; 11s (born 1999) at 12:30; 12s (born 1998) at 2 p.m. and 13s (1997) at 3:30. Call 718-351- 9619 or email sirebels1@aol.com.

YMCA B teams needed

The North Shore YMCA Men's Basketball League's B division needs two teams for its upcoming season, which begins Sept. 16. The league plays Thursday nights. Call Mike Ahearn at 917-902-6808.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



CSI women's soccer beats NYU-Polytechnic 9-1

Published: Thursday, September 09, 2010, 9:51 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The **College of Staten Island** women's soccer team opened the season with a 9-1 non-conference victory over NYU-Polytechnic yesterday.

Host **CSI** took 29 shots in the first half and scored five times before halftime.

Lauren Neglia, Paige Buono, Demi-Jean Martorano and Natalie Tombasco (two assists) scored two goals apiece. Cassandra Black had the final tally.

The Dolphins play at Mount St. Vincent Saturday at noon.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



College of Staten Island plays to scoreless tie in men's soccer

Published: Thursday, September 09, 2010, 8:15 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

MEDIA, Pa. — The Dolphins (0-3-1) settled for a draw on the road against Penn St.-Brandywine.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



CSI women's volleyball loses to William Paterson

Published: Friday, September 10, 2010, 10:43 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The **College of Staten Island** women's volleyball team dropped a 25-14, 25-11 and 25-8 decision to visiting William Paterson yesterday.

Joanna Tepedino had five kills and four digs and Kaitlyn Flynn had four kills and three digs for the 0-2 Dolphins.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Draft Delays Cause Problems For New York-Penn League

By **Guy Cipriano**

September 10, 2010

STATE COLLEGE, Pa.—New York-Penn League president Ben Hayes is part administrator, handling mundane tasks such as umpire assignments and enforcing league rules.

Hayes is also part ambassador, making stops at various events to promote the short-season league.

Now in his 10th year overseeing the NY-P from his St. Petersburg, Fla., law office, one of Hayes' biggest—and perhaps most challenging—tasks could be protecting the league's economic vitality from dates its 14 franchises wield no control over.

Major League Baseball has not set the date for next year's draft, but league officials have said they've been told it could be as late as June 13. Short-season leagues aren't supposed to begin play until two weeks after the draft. The NY-P has received waivers to the rule in recent years, including this summer when play started June 18—11 days after the draft's opening night.

A later draft could push the schedule back even more, with the regular season beginning later in June ending later in September.

The State College Spikes draw respectable late-season crowds because Centre County's population swells when Penn State's fall semester begins. But that is hardly the norm, and the Spikes are among the teams that don't want the season starting any later.

"I think from our standpoint, the closer to where we have started in the past, the better," general manager Jason Dambach said. "From a consistency standpoint, to ask fans to wait another week to 10 days to start the season when they are used to it starting June 17th, 18th and 19th is not good."

Williamsport Crosscutters general manager Doug Estes called playing into September "incredibly challenging." The Crosscutters held seven home games from Aug. 31-Sept. 6 last season, and their attendance dipped more than 30 percent during the period. Once September starts, teams are competing with fall sports, including high school and college football, for fan interest. Plus, most schools are back in session.

"The biggest thing is that kids are back in school," Estes said. "It doesn't make sense to have that many games in September from a dollar and cents standpoint."

The majority of the Spikes' and Crosscutters' players live with host families, so housing isn't a major problem for the franchises. But late home games present logistical challenges in multiple New York-Penn markets where teams are on or near college campuses, including Vermont, Tri-City, Lowell and Jamestown.

The Staten Island Yankees don't play on campus, but the franchise's players live in **College of Staten Island** dormitories. When the college's students return, players must live in a hotel, another cost incurred by the Yankees. Staten Island's 2009 season didn't end until Sept. 16 because of its run to a league title.

"Ideally, from a date standpoint . . . I wouldn't mind seeing the season begin June 10 so we get the season over by the first of September," Hayes said.

Hayes has expressed the league's concerns to the commissioner's officer. But receiving the ideal starting date could be difficult given the current draft structure. Factors such as the MLB Network, which broadcasts the first round in prime time, the needs of scouting directors and later starts to the NCAA Division I season also affect the timing of the draft.

Top Talent Absent

The NY-P has a reputation as the starting destination of many former college stars. That reputation is eroding because of baseball's mid-August signing deadline and a later ending to the College World Series. Just four of 32 first-round picks this June were playing in the league on Sept. 1.

The Spikes had 13 players selected in this June's draft on their roster in late August. Only five were on the Opening Day roster. Multiple key players, including center fielder Mel Rojas Jr. and shortstop Drew Maggi, missed significant time because of lengthy contract negotiations with the Pirates.

Pirates farm director Kyle Stark said the signing deadline is changing the composition of the NY-P. Instead of filling rosters with first-year professionals, teams are assigning players selected in previous drafts or Latin American signees who participated in extended spring training to the league.

"As long as teams expect to sign a majority of their draft picks later in the summer, then they must rely on players from extended," Stark said.

The signing deadline also has led to an influx of nondrafted free agents entering the league, as some organizations turned to players not selected in the draft to fill rosters. The Indians shipped seven nondrafted free agents to Mahoning Valley. Auburn encountered a similar situation, receiving five nondrafted free agents from the Blue Jays. The Scrappers and Doubledays were each trying to avoid last-place finishes in the six-team Pinckney Division.

"It hasn't happened just this year," Hayes said. "It has happened over the last five, six years, seven years. It has been a gradual process. But if you go back and look, the higher draft picks are taking longer to sign. Players are slotted with their signing bonuses and everybody is kind of waiting to see where other people get slotted before they sign."

Pirates president Frank Coonelly, whose organization signed four players shortly before the deadline—including first- and second-rounders Jameson Taillon and Stetson Allie—said the signing deadline needs to change to help both parent clubs and short-season leagues.

"It's not that much different than the past when it worked up against when you would go to college, which was later," said Coonelly, who examined draft issues during his tenure in the commissioner's office. "The Aug. 15 deadline has moved things up, but it made it clear that anybody who wants to exercise leverage on the player side—and there's some fault on the club side—we're going to be waiting until the last minute. We need to move that date up considerably so these short-season teams can get players and so we can get the players in and playing."

Coonelly said the draft will be a major topic when the Collective Bargaining Agreement expires after next season. Hayes and executives across the Northeast are hoping the changes benefit the NY-P.

"It's not like the old days when the draft happened and everybody signs the first week and gets out to short-season clubs," Hayes said. "Those days are over. We can wish, we can want, but it doesn't mean that it can reverse itself and go back in that point in time."

Guy Cipriano covers the State College Spikes for the Centre Daily Times.



College of Staten Island sports roundup for September 11, 2010: Tennis and soccer

Published: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 9:00 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

WOMEN'S TENNIS

William Paterson 5, CSI 4

The two teams won three singles matches apiece, but the Dolphins suffered the loss as the Pioneers won two of three doubles matches in Willowbrook.

SINGLES: Gabriella Villarruel (CSI) def. Sonja Pedersen, 6-1, 4-6, 10-5; Ilona Stoyko (CSI) def. Mary Skretkowicz, 6-0, 6-3; Delnaz Shalforoosh (SP) def. Yelena Rasporskaya, 6-4, 6-4; Qing Li (CSI) def. Justine Lawson, 6-1, 6-2; Meghan Crampton (WP) def. Justine Kuna, 7-5, 6-3; Maris Ferreira (WP) def. Tara Colao, 6-1, 7-5.

DOUBLES: Villarruel/Stoyko (CSI) def. Shalforoosh/ Skretkowicz, 8-7 (7-3); Pedersen/Lawson (WP) def. Rasporskaya/Kuna, 8-6; Ferreira/Crampton (WP) def. Li/Colao, 8-2.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

CSI 4, Mt. St. Vincent 0

Demi-Jean Martorano scored twice and Lauren Neglia and Paige Buono also scored for the visiting Dolphins (2-0).

MEN'S SOCCER

Berkeley College 2, CSI 0

The Dolphins (0-2) allowed two second-half goals.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



College of Staten Island soccer takes two losses

Published: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 8:46 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Mack Diller scored on a penalty kick in the 32nd minute to lift Brooklyn College to a 3-2 CUNY men's soccer win over **College of Staten Island** yesterday.

Brooklyn (2-0-1 overall, 1-0 CUNY) scored twice in the first five minutes, but **CSI** (0-5-1 overall, 0-1 CUNY) battled back to tie it on a rebound goal in the 18th minute by Lirim Begai and Paully Awad's tally off another rebound two minutes later.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

*FDU-Florham 9, **CSI** 0*

FLORHAM, N.J. — The Dolphins (2-1 overall), who were outshot 38-3 by the Devils (2-3-1), allowed three scores in the first 17 minutes.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



CCNY Appoints Stephen Spagnoli Assistant Athletic Director For Sports Information



The City College of New York athletic department announced an addition to its staff on Monday morning, as Stephen Spagnoli was appointed as the new Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information.

Spagnoli joins the CCNY staff after spending three years at fellow CUNY institution Lehman College where he served as the Sports Information Director and Intramural Coordinator from the fall of 2007 until the spring of 2010. Prior to that, the Staten Island native spent five years as a college assistant working at the College of Staten Island. He was also a member of CSI's radio station - WSIA - from March of 2003 until the summer of 2006. City College Athletic Director Jackee Meadow believes Spagnoli will be a tremendous addition to their staff.

"Stephen comes over to our institution bringing a plethora of experience - including a pair of stints at two CUNY schools - so he is very much familiar with the way things operate in our conference," Meadow said. "We're looking forward to seeing him make a difference for our athletic department and in our community."

At Lehman College, Spagnoli was responsible for all facets of sports information, and was very pivotal in the implementation of many different new features - including a monthly newsletter titled "Lightning Strikes", as well as weekly podcasts, baseball and softball media guides, and coaching shows. Now at City College, Spagnoli will once again be tabbed with the responsibility of overseeing the athletic department's sports information operations - as he will be very active in updating the school's athletics website as well as promoting the student athletes, coaches, and administrators. The CSI alum believes his experience at Lehman College will help him bring CCNY's athletic department to the next level, and he's certainly looking forward to the challenge of the aforementioned task.

"CCNY's sports information department has the potential to be extremely strong, and I'm very excited for the opportunity that Jackee Meadow has provided for me," said Spagnoli. "More than the promising future of the sports information department and athletic department as a whole, the staff here is a collection of terrific people, and that drew me right in and helped me realize that the City College of New York was the right place for me moving forward in my career and future."

At the College of Staten Island, the CUNY veteran organized clips, compiled statistics for the department's home games, helped out with the scheduling and implementation of the intramurals program, and posted flyers around campus. As his tenure progressed, he began taking on more in-depth responsibilities, including the publishing of game programs and brochures, assisting with media guides, serving as the public address announcer for athletic events, and assisting in the upkeep of the CSI athletics website. In his final year at CSI, Spagnoli served as editor for Staten Island's Sports Information Newsletter, "Dolphin Sightings", a monthly publication that included numerous human interest stories centering on CSI athletes. Spagnoli also lent his efforts to various activities, including the annual CSI Barnes & Nobles Golf Outing, Annual Awards Banquet, and various high school and CUNY Conference tournament events held on CSI's campus.

Alongside his duties within Staten Island's Office of Athletics, Spagnoli had also worked in conjunction with WSIA, 88.9 FM, CSI's campus radio station. There, he served as Sports Director

while also serving as host to many professional and college sports shows, including the "Thursday Night Sports Wrap" and the "CSI Sports Insider". Spagnoli also served two years as the official play-by-play announcer for the Staten Island Yankees Class A baseball team. In addition to working with the baby bombers, he also worked for the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium during the 2003 and 2004 post seasons, assisting the media relations staff with all aspects of operations during the playoffs.

A graduate of the College of Staten Island, Spagnoli holds a Bachelor's Degree in communications with a focus in media studies. He resides in the Huguenot section of Staten Island.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

College of Staten Island to hold second baseball alumni game

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island baseball program will hold its second annual alumni game Sept. 24 at the Willowbrook campus field.

Participants will register at 6 p.m. followed by a batting practice session. First pitch is expected to be at 7 p.m.

The event is used as a fundraiser and the staff is asking for a \$50 donation the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt.

E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.



Staten Island sports bulletin board for September 18, 2010

Published: Saturday, September 18, 2010, 9:43 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Great Kills elections

Great Kills Little League is holding elections Tuesday at the clubhouse at 245 Greaves Ave. from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Voting is open to all GKLL members.

Strength, endurance training

Next Level Performance will hold winter strength and endurance training program starting on November. Visit www.nxtlevelnow.com or call 917-922-8513.

Adult softball leagues

The James and Joanne Tabee Memorial League needs a team for its Sunday doubleheader dirt B division and one for its Sunday coed dirt nine-inning loop. Call 718-987-2818 or e-mail TabeeMemorial@aol.com.

CSI alumni game

The College of Staten Island baseball alumni game will be held Friday at CSI with a 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at Barbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



College soccer: **CSI** men, Wagner women both lose

Published: Monday, September 20, 2010, 2:29 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The **College of Staten Island** men's soccer team remained winless, losing 7-1 to visiting Baruch yesterday at the **CSI** Soccer Complex, Willowbrook.

Kenneth Zaw scored late in the first half for the (0-7-1) Dolphins, who host York on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Delaware State 3, Wagner 1

The Hornets outshot the Seahawks 7-4 and netted the first two goals of the game during the first half.

Senior Catherine Del Medico brought Wagner within a goal in the 60th minute, after she took a pass from Julie Vigliotti and tore a shot into the right corner of the net for her first goal of the season.

Wagner goalkeeper Katie Marcy made eight saves, while Delaware State's Courtney Haas recorded 12 stops in the win.

The Hornets win marks their first of the year, and first since Sept. 14, 2009 when they beat the Virginia Military Academy.

The Seahawks, who have dropped three straight and have fallen to 4-5 on the season, will be back in action at Long Island University on Friday.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

COLLEGE TENNIS

CSI cruises past St. Joseph's

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The host Dolphins improved to 5-2 overall with a 9-0 non-conference win over St. Joseph's of Brooklyn.

SINGLES: Gabriella Villaruel def. Christine Parker, 10-2; Ilona Stoyko def. Kristen Bauman, 10-2; Qing Li def. Patricia Nealon, 10-0; Nancy Almazo def. Elizabeth Stein, 10-1; Justine Kuna def. Shamika Thomas, 10-0; Demi-Jean Martorano def. Leah Hampton, 10-0.

DOUBLES: Villaruel and Stoyko def. Stein and Parker, 8-0; Almazo and Li def. Bauman and Thomas, 8-0; Kuna and Martorano def. Nealon and Opal Morrison 8-2.



Staten Island sports bulletin board for September 21, 2010

Published: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 8:31 AM U



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

CSI alumni game

The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni game will be held Friday at **CSI** with a 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at Barbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

SITA Senior Vets

The Staten Island Tennis Association Senior Vets 45-and-over men's and women's singles tournament will be held this weekend at the Westerleigh Tennis Club. Enter by calling Nick Farkouh at 718-987-1905. Deadline to enter is today.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

CSI appoints new cheer coach

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray!

The College of Staten Island (CSI) has a new face in the forefront of their cheer squad.

Justine Elyse Green will take over the head coaching duties of coeducational cheerleading squad.

The varsity squad, in its third year as an organized program, has placed second at the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Exhibition Cheer Championship for two straight years. Ms. Green takes over for **Alexandra Thaten**, who stepped away from the program at the close of the 2009-10 season.

Ms. Green was a competition cheerleader and student-athlete at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Va. She graduated in 2008 cum laude with a bachelor's degree in journalism. The dynamic professional has also served in a series of positions concentrated in leadership initiatives. She has been involved in both competitive cheerleading and cheer coaching for nearly a decade.

"Justine Green has a strong high school and collegiate cheerleading background grounded in solid leadership skills in her present career in the Leader to Leader Institute (of Manhattan)," said **Vernon Mummert**, CSI's athletic director. "I'm excited about having her lead our cheerleading squad in a positive direction to enhance campus enthusiasm for our sports teams ..."

Ms. Green will take charge of a cheer squad that started as a student-led, grass-roots initiative in 2008 and has blossomed into one of the CUNYAC's finest pro-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CSI

JUSTINE GREEN

grams. The non-competitive squad focuses on support during basketball season and community events and showcases, culminating in the CUNYAC Exhibition Cheer Championship in late February.

Ms. Green's diverse background has seen her make a stop at the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) upon graduation, where she was involved in championship hosting and publications. She then worked for the Women's Sports Foundation and, when she took a position with the Women President's Organization in Manhattan, it prompted her move to the Big Apple.

Ms. Green has never been one to back away from challenges, and alongside her daily routine as well as coaching, she will work as a Championship Events Assistant at the CUNYAC in March of 2011.

"I'm very excited for the opportunity to coach a great group of athletes and am ready to move the CSI program to a next level," said Ms. Green, who is looking to use life lessons learned as a former student-athlete and as a working professional, into the coaching arena.

CSI alumni baseball game tomorrow

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — The College of Staten Island will host its annual baseball alumni game tomorrow at its Willowbrook campus field.

Registration is at 6 p.m. followed by batting practice. First pitch is expected to take place at 7 p.m. A \$50 donation is requested, payable at the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

Anthony Avena smacks a fly ball to the outfield during last year's CSI baseball alumni game.



CSI shuts out New York City Tech in women's tennis

Published: Friday, September 24, 2010, 9:13 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Six **College of Staten Island** players coasted to singles wins en route to the CUNYAC shutout victory at York College.

SINGLES: Gabriella Villarruel def. Kimberly Battle, 6-3, 6-0; Ilona Stoyko def. Amanda Duong, 6-0, 6-1; Qing Li def. Olayinka Sarayi, 6-0, 6-3; Yelena Rasporskaya def. Amelia McGuire, 6-0, 6-1; Justine Kuna def. Gendaro Tavera, 6-0, 6-0; Tara Calao def. Stephanie Arabalaez, 6-0, 6-0.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



College sports roundup: **CSI** beats CCNY in women's soccer

Published: Sunday, September 26, 2010, 12:33 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Demi-Jean Martorano's goal, off an assist from Christina Sgarlato, in the 80th minute lifted the **College of Staten Island** past City College of New York 1-0 in CUNY women's soccer action yesterday at Randall's Island.

Goalie Danielle McLaughlin made 15 saves for the Dolphins (2-0 CUNY, 5-1 overall).

WOMEN'S TENNIS

CSI 8, Lehman 1

The Dolphins won five of the six singles matches in the Bronx.

SINGLES: Gabriella Villarruel (**CSI**) def. Ravnit Bhatia, 6-1, 6-3; Ilona Stoyko (**CSI**) def. Natalee Smith, 6-4, 6-4; Qing Li (**CSI**) def. Dalia Rodriguez, 6-1, 6-1; Yelena Rasporskaya (**CSI**) def. Daralaz Collado, 6-4, ret.; Justine Kuna (**CSI**) def. Alexandria Reel, 6-2, 6-1; Ashley Cox (L) def. Tara Calao, 6-0, 10-5.

DOUBLES: Villarruel/Stoyko (**CSI**) def. Bhatia/Smith, 8-0; Kuna/ Rasporskaya (**CSI**) def. Reel/Cox, 8-2; Li/Calao (**CSI**) def. Melissa Santana/Rodriguez, 8-2.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

CSI 3, New Rochelle 2

The Dolphins recorded their first win of the season in a 25-22, 25-23, 20-25, 16-25 and 15-11 thriller.

MEN'S SOCCER

CCNY 3, CSI 1

The Dolphins dropped to 1-3 in the CUNY and 1-8-1 overall with the league loss at Randall's Island.

TRACK & FIELD

Wagner men take 5th

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The Wagner College men finished fifth out of seven teams in the Central Connecticut State University Ted Owen Invitational 8K race.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



MEMORABLE EVENING HAD AT THE SECOND ANNUAL BASEBALL ALUMNI GAME



CSI Baseball Alumni Game

It felt like a mid-summer night as the 2010 College of Staten Island's second annual Baseball Alumni game had a turn out of twenty players come together on Friday evening at the CSI Baseball Complex. Members ranging from the 1985 to 2006 team put on their gloves and got out their bats to be a Dolphins baseball player for one more night. Alumni from the odd-numbered years defeated the even-numbered years by a close 3-2 victory.

Current CSI assistant coach John Scrivani coached the winning odd-numbered team that donned black jerseys and consisted of Frank Gugliemo, Kevin Biesty, Ted Maceda, David Granato, Anthony Hillery, Mark Gonzalez, Steven Schnell, Robert Marolla, T.J. Greco, Joe Ruiz and Victor Reich. Wearing blue was the even-numbered team coached by CSI assistant Tom Wohlfit and included Anthony Avena, Bill Lonergan, Anthony Calafiore, Nick Secchini, Andrew Fraschilla, Joe Perrotta, Matt Stefanski, Pat Smith and Arne Mattsson.

Mark Gonzalez ('05) was awarded MVP for the black team after knocking in the winning run and getting the save on the mound. Awarded MVP for the blue team was Anthony Avena ('00) who tallied three hits, an RBI and a run scored.

Organized by CSI head coach Mike Mauro and associate head coach Neil Barbella, the College of Staten Island's Alumni Association also helped fund the event with t-shirts and raffles. All members of the 2009 CSI CUNYAC Championship team were there to help with batting practice and registration.

"It was a great night thanks to our supportive alumni and the hard working staff at CSI," said Barbella, "I'm happy so many people look forward to this night and the alumni and their families have an enjoyable evening. We hope it continues to grow as word spreads to all of our Dolphin baseball alumni."

Stories



Summer's over at College of Staten Island

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 10:08 AM



Mark D. Stein

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - When traffic is backed up at Victory Boulevard and Forest Hill Road and there's a mad race to find that final parking spot, in the last row, of a lot that feels miles away from the classroom building, it can only mean one thing: School is back in session at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**.



As students gather outside the **College of Staten Island's** Campus Center, Sean Dixon-Murray, 19, runs his guitar pick along the instrument's strings during the first day of school. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein) Fresh faces and folks familiar with **CSI** populated the spacious Willowbrook campus last Thursday for the first day of fall semester classes.

Some students kicked around the hackey sack in between classes. Others waited for the shuttle bus to move them around, and the cafeteria actually had students in it. Not campers.

James Swift, 18, of Great Kills, was experiencing college for the first time. He graduated from New Dorp High School in June.

He said there's an adjustment period.

"I like it. I'll get more used to it (as time goes on)," said Swift, noting that there are a lot more people that appear laid back.

"The biggest different here is that you're more serious," he explained. "This is where you can't afford to screw around."

Swift aspires to major in political science.

Having bounced in and out of full-time status over four years, Ashley Collins is, finally, in her last semester at CSI.

Ms. Collins, 24, of Eltingville, is transferring to Kean University in Union, N.J., in the spring.

Asked for her thoughts on the first day back at school, Ms. Collins immediately beamed.

"I love it. I was so excited," said the Arizona native. "I felt like a little kid."

But she said the starting day of classes is boring because professors usually have a simple, introductory day.

Last year, the occupational therapy major had the opportunity to study abroad in Italy, where she took classes on wine, cooking and painting.

During her time at CSI, she said she's been lucky to have great teachers and good friends.

However, it's time to go.

"I'm ready to leave," she said. "Parking here sucks. This campus sucks."

Tom Tellefsen, chairman of the business department, was walking through the campus with Alan Zimmerman, an international business major area chairperson.

"It's wonderful to be back to see the fresh faces ready for class. So far, the first day has gone without a hitch," he said.

Tellefsen explained that the start of a semester always has a nice tone because students are eager to start class and have dialogue with professors.

"We actually look forward to it. My best time of the day is in the classroom," he added. "I'm happy to be back, and that goes for most of my co-workers."

Angel Ghosh was taken by surprise when she sat through class.

"It's not what I expected," said the 20-year-old freshman. "I didn't really expect how much the teachers talk."

She said her art and English classes initially appeared easy, but once she saw the syllabus for each, "A lot of work needs to get done."

CSI sophomore Marcus Turner, 19, of Port Richmond, was ready to go, until he found out he was de-registered from his classes due to a financial issue.

His schedule was made in the spring, but now he must find each professor to be slotted into his classes.

"I'm just hoping the teachers give me a shot to get into classes," he said. "I'm a little nervous. I'd like to think positive."

Meanwhile, another 19-year-old Port Richmond resident Sean Dixon-Murray, was taking things in stride, playing the guitar outside the Campus Center in between classes.

He said his first class, a history course, was a breeze.

"A lot of jokes were made (by the teacher), and then she let us leave after 25 minutes," he noted.

When asked what he thought the class would be like for the semester, he replied: "It looks like it's going to be horrible, actually."

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Fall into autumn with Greenbelt events

Published: Thursday, September 09, 2010, 9:00 AM



Staten Island Advance



Advance File Photo

Cooler temperatures invite families to explore nature - and Staten Island has a lot of that to offer, especially in the Greenbelt.

ALL SHORES

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — With the passage of Labor Day, summer is unofficially over. But what's not in the rear view mirror yet are outdoor activities. Cooler temperatures invite a family to explore nature — and Staten Island has a lot of that to offer.

TAKE A HIKE

September is one of those bittersweet months. Adults are back to work; kids are back in school. And a sense of purpose replaces the carefree days of July and August. But September has at least one thing going for it: It's not too hot, not too cold. Take advantage of the more temperate weather and head for some of Staten Island's famed hiking trails.

Need a little leadership to get going? That's not a problem. High Rock Park at 200 Nevada Ave., in Egbertville, kicks things off with an event called "Swamp Stories." On Saturday, children ages 3-6, along with an adult chaperone, can sit swampside to learn about local critters and bugs; you'll also enjoy a mini

hike around the park.

The event starts at 11:30 a.m. and a reservation is required.

Starting Wednesday, the Greenbelt Nature Center will offer toddlers the opportunity to participate in some hands-on exploration. "Greenbelt Peepers" for 2-year olds and "Tree Tots" for kids 3- to 4-years-old are held every Wednesday through Dec. 22.

Using activities, observation, finger plays, games and stories, children get familiar with the sights and sounds of the forest. They will also be introduced to letters, colors, patterns, numbers and shapes.

Both programs will take place indoors and outdoors [weather permitting] and are for a toddler and caregiver. Registration is required. Each is \$4 for Conservancy members and \$6 for non-members.

If you're looking for something a bit more challenging, join the National Park Service Rangers for a two-hour hike. On Sept. 19, you can test the Greenbelt's newest north and east trails, before making your way to one of the park's oldest buildings, the David LaTourette house. The walk starts at 11 a.m. and is recommended for children 8 years and older. Be sure to wear hiking gear, comfortable shoes and bring a big bottle of water. Registration is recommended, but the event is free.

Say "so-long" to Monarch butterflies as they make their way back to Mexico for the winter. You and your kids can learn how to identify these black and orange winged wonders, and become a part of a citizens' science initiative, called MonarchWatch. Come to Willowbrook Park, off Victory Boulevard, near the College of Staten Island on the West Shore on Sept. 26 at 11a.m. Reservations are recommended.

To reserve a spot for any of these offerings or for more information, call the Greenbelt Nature Center, 700 Rockland Ave., Egbertville, at 718-351-3450 or e-mail naturecenter@sigreenbelt.org.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Cancer Society salutes top volunteers on Staten Island

Published: Friday, September 10, 2010, 10:01 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The American Cancer Society held an appreciation dinner last night for the top volunteers for the recent 2010 Relay For Life of Staten Island and the Society is already recruiting volunteers and sponsors for next year's event.



Among the young volunteers saluted by the American Cancer Society are, front row, Amanda Roussel, 11; Juliana Criscuoli, 10 months; John William Criscuoli, 4; Briana Dore, 6. Back Row: Anthony Roussel, 12, and Bryan Goss, 10.

All Stars Amanda Roussel, Brianna Dore, Debra Ruberto, Donna LaBargo, Jennifer Criscuoli, Lisa Giuliano and Maria Pastorello were praised at the dinner at Henny's Steak House, New Springville.

TD Bank was lauded as the multi-site sponsor. The Staten Island Board of Realtors and the relay planning committee also were thanked for their support.

Top schools were the **College of Staten Island**, Moore Catholic, St. Joseph Hill Academy and St. Peter's Boys High School.

Kudos went to these teams: Amanda's Pandas; DeFalco Divas & Dudes; Our Island Real Estate; All Are Welcome!; Roseann's Diamonds; Bones; Amazing Grace; Team John William; Delta's Jersey Widgets; A.T. Real Estate Specialists; Patricia's Pooh Posse; Klingon Hulagins Care Bears; RUMC Scrub Team; Jim's Crusaders; Howie's Hearts; Cast of Characters

Over 100 teams spent the evening of June 11 walking the track at Wagner College to raise over \$163,000 for the Society.

The Society is looking for people to join the planning committee for the 2011 relay. For information, call Yvette Serrano, special events manager, at 718-987-8872 or **Yvette.Serrano@cancer.org**.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Will MTA listen at Staten Island hike hearing?

Published: Monday, September 13, 2010, 12:57 AM



Maura Yates



Commuters can sound off on the MTA's plan to hike tolls on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to \$12 as well as the new higher-priced MetroCards on Thursday.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- It won't be culture-seekers gathering Thursday night in the St. George Theatre, but rather angry commuters lining up for their turn to tell the MTA what they think about a proposed fare and toll hike set to kick in on New Year's Day.

The MTA's fare and toll hike hearing is set to begin at 6 p.m. in the landmark building on Hyatt Street, which marks a more transit-friendly venue from the **College of Staten Island**, where previous hearings were held.

MTA Board Members will hear from the public regarding a proposal to increase transit costs by 7.5 percent, along with a 10 percent toll hike, which would amount to a whopping \$12 cash toll at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, along with a rise in the discounted fares paid by Staten Island residents who rely on the bridge.

The hikes are part of a plan to keep afloat in the face of a looming budget gap over the next four years.

The proposed fare hike would keep the base fare at the current \$2.25 for local bus, subway or Staten Island

Railway trips. But the plan calls for a 25 cent increase in the cost of a single-ride ticket. Express bus fares would remain \$5.50.

DECREASED BONUSES

MetroCard bonuses would decrease under the proposal, from a 15 percent bonus with a minimum purchase of \$8, to a 7 percent bonus with a minimum \$10 purchase.

The cost of 7-day and 30-day passes would also rise. The plan calls for 7-day MetroCards to rise from \$27 for an unlimited-ride card to \$29, or \$28 for a pass capped at 22 trips over the seven days. The monthly pass, now \$89, could rise to \$104 for unlimited rides, or \$99 for the month, capped at 90 trips.

A 7-day express bus MetroCard, now \$45, could rise to \$50 for unlimited rides, or \$48 for 22 trips taken over the seven days.

The borough's representative on the MTA Board, Allen Cappelli, said while the hikes have been in the works for some time, with one last year and another planned for 2013, it doesn't make it any easier for already cash-strapped straphangers to swallow.

But it's the financial and philosophical impact of the rising Verrazano Bridge levy that will hit Islanders hardest, he said.

"This bridge is really used as a cash cow to fund public transit that we are not adequately served by," Cappelli said. He has proposed a more equitable tolling system that spreads out the burden among the other boroughs. A similar plan that called for adding tolls to the Harlem and East River bridges was rejected by the state legislature in the past.

As an alternative source of revenue for the authority, Borough President James Molinaro has proposed charging an additional \$1 toll for drivers who don't use E-ZPass, thereby putting the burden on tourists and drivers just passing through, while sparing regular commuters and Islanders who already enjoy a resident discount. Doing so, Molinaro said, would raise \$77 million a year, which would be enough to undo the borough's recent transit service cuts, and then some.

The idea "makes a lot of sense," Cappelli said, and "hopefully it will be discussed."

The MTA Board is expected to vote on the proposed hikes in October, and the increases will kick in on Jan. 1. Another hike is already planned for Jan. 1, 2013.



Make yourself heard on fare and toll hikes

Published: Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 8:20 AM



Staten Island Advance Editorial

If it seems to you as if the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has been conducting more frequent public hearings lately, you're not wrong. The authority is required to conduct these public hearings whenever it contemplates fare and toll hikes and service cuts, and the MTA has been imposing those regularly in recent years.

It was just back in March when the MTA held public hearings on proposed cuts in bus and subway service. Now, the authority is calling for increases in fares and tolls on its bridges and tunnels and has scheduled a new round of hearings around the city.

The one on Staten Island will take place this Thursday - the day after tomorrow - at 6 p.m. at the St. George Theatre on Hyatt Street.

That's a new venue for such events, and represents a big improvement over the March hearing that was held at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook. Mass transit service to CSI is limited and attendees had to walk long distances on a chilly evening across the campus between the college public parking lots and its Center for the Arts, where the hearings took place.

Yet, even though the MTA did implement service cuts in June, they were not nearly as deep as the cuts it initially proposed. Many people attribute the agency's willingness to relent a bit to the large, vocal crowds of people who attended the March hearings in opposition to the cuts.

Now the MTA is proposing overall increases of 7.5 percent in transit fares and 10 percent in tolls. The base toll for the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge would go up to a mind-boggling \$12, for example. The base fare of \$2.25 for local bus, subway or Staten Island Railway trips would be preserved as would the \$5.50 express bus fare. But the MTA is calling for a 25-cent increase in the cost of a single-ride ticket and increases in the cost of 7- and 30-day MetroCards.

Elected officials around the region are crying foul, of course, and with good reason. These fare and toll hikes impose new hardships on working families that are already hurting financially amid the lingering recession. (Indeed, the burden for the fiscal problems we see at every level of government rolls downhill, directly onto ordinary people at the bottom. And those ordinary people have no recourse but to absorb the increased

costs caused by excess and mismanagement way up the ladder. All too many public officials, in their fervor to address their agencies' financial issues, prefer to ignore this fundamental injustice.)

Staten Island elected officials have particular reason to gripe about the MTA's plan. The agency unabashedly uses the Verrazano Bridge as a cash cow to finance its other operations. And since the bridge is used disproportionately by Staten Islanders, Staten Islanders contribute far more than their share to that revenue stream, even with E-ZPass and the resident discount.

What's more, Staten Islanders get little in return for their contribution. Mass transit here remains notoriously inadequate and the MTA has been unwilling to do much of anything about it.

Borough President James Molinaro has proposed that the MTA add a \$1 surcharge to the Verrazano toll for vehicles that don't have E-ZPass - mostly out-of-towners. That would provide \$77 million annually to help the MTA right its finances without requiring regular E-ZPass users to foot the bill.

He wants to mobilize Staten Islanders to converge on Thursday's public hearing at the St. George Theatre and support his toll idea specifically and, in general, protest the proposed fare and toll increases. (Attendees can pre-register to speak at the hearing by calling the Borough President's HelpLine, at 718-816-2000.)

The MTA Board is scheduled to vote on the proposed increases next month, and if they are approved, they would take effect in January.

But between now and final approval, there will be the public hearings at which thousands of people can make their opposition to the proposed fare and toll increases known to the MTA loud and clear. The more, the better. So make yourself heard. The results of the March hearings on service cuts show that, on occasion, MTA officials do listen. Who knows? It could happen again.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

College of Staten Island to highlight transformation of Fresh Kills landfill into park

Published: Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 10:30 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Still doubt that The Dump can become The Park?

Set aside time next Wednesday afternoon to attend a presentation on transforming Fresh Kills "from the world's largest landfill to a model of sustainability and Green public space."



This combination of artist's renderings and photographs shows that plans for Fresh Kills include a road for jogging and rollerblading, ball fields, bike paths and an outdoor amphitheater. Once the park is built, it will be two and a half times the size of Central Park.

The **College of Staten Island** Sustainability Council is sponsoring the event, which will take place in Building 1S, Room 116 from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m.

Several aspects of the plan for Freshkills Park will be discussed to teach students -- and the general public who attend the free lecture -- about sustainability, renewable energy, and urban transformation.

Freshkills Park is “one of the most ambitious public works projects in the world, combining state-of-the-art ecological restoration techniques with extraordinary settings for recreation, public art, and facilities for many sports and programs,” says Carrie Grassi, outreach manager for the Parks Department.

Construction has begun on the 2,200-acre park, which will be developed over the next 30 years.

For questions please contact Bertram Ploog at 718-982-4082.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Staten Islanders need a health check

Published: Monday, September 20, 2010, 5:12 AM



Diane O'Donnell



Women ages 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months can make an appointment for a breast exam at the health conference.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Staten Islanders need to treat themselves better.

That's the message city Councilman James Oddo and borough health care experts hope people take home after attending the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation's Health & Wellness Expo on Sept. 28 in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

From deciding what and how much to eat to whether to exercise or reach for the next pack of cigarettes, borough residents need a wake-up call, according to Oddo.

"If you look at the data it will tell you that Staten Islanders' obesity rates and smoking rates are some of, if not the worst in the city," said Oddo, a leading sponsor of the event.

What we are doing and failing to do puts us at risk for many health problems, such as certain types of cancers, heart disease, diabetes and other conditions causing a shortened and diminished quality of life, say Island health experts.

To that end, the second annual SIEDC expo will once again provide Islanders with a chance to examine and revamp their lifestyles through access to free health screenings.

Community Health Action of Staten Island's mobile health unit will be providing walk-in HIV testing, and

hepatitis C and diabetes screenings.

“There are fewer people on Staten Island who have ever had an HIV test than any place else in the city,” said Diane Arneth, executive director of Community Health Action.

Sixty-two percent of Staten Islanders have never had an HIV test — the lowest testing rate of all the boroughs, which ranged between 33 and 48 percent.

In 2008, 42.8 percent of Staten Islanders who were initially diagnosed as HIV-positive had already developed AIDS. That same year, the citywide rate for late diagnosis was 24.6 percent.

Project Renewal will operate a mobile mammography van for women ages 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the past year and who have previously scheduled an appointment. Women wishing to make an appointment for a mammogram on the Project Renewal van can call 800-564-6868 or 718-226-6447.

On Staten Island, about 335 women are diagnosed and 77 die from breast cancer every year, the highest mortality rate in the city, according to state Department of Health statistics. Many of those diagnosed are women between the ages of 40 and 50.

“We’ve had a 5 percent decrease from last year in patients actually making appointments for mammographies,” said Barbara O’Brien, registered nurse and administrator of the Cancer Services Program of Staten Island. The program provides free mammograms to uninsured and underinsured women at Staten Island University Hospital, Richmond University Medical Center, several other health care facilities, as well as the Project Renewal van.

Ms. O’Brien attributed the dip in the number of mammograms to the economy and a controversial recommendation last November by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force that determined women between the ages of 40 and 49 could forgo annual mammograms.

The Cancer Services Program also provides free cervical and colorectal screenings. Program staff will be handing out fecal occult blood (FOBT) kits, which people can do at home and mail to a lab to check for some intestinal conditions and colorectal cancer.

“Port Richmond has the highest incidence of colon cancer and we know that’s directly related to the fact that people are not getting screened for colon cancer,” said Ms. O’Brien.

While she acknowledged that an FOBT is not the same as a colonoscopy — the gold standard for detecting colon cancer — it can help break the ice for those who are afraid of the test.

Other screenings available include hearing exams by the Center for Hearing and Communication, glaucoma tests by the Congressional Caucus Glaucoma Foundation and peripheral artery disease and metabolic

syndrome screenings by Richmond University Medical Center.

More than nine months of planning have gone into this year's health and wellness expo, said Paula Coyle, director of programs for the SIEDC, which teamed up with Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn), Northfield Bank Foundation and the **College of Staten Island**.

In addition to screenings, the expo will also feature author Lisa Oz, wife of TV's Dr. Oz, a healthy recipes cooking contest for Island fire houses presided over by firefighter/chef/author Joseph T. Bonanno Jr., a keynote address by city health commissioner Dr. Thomas A. Farley, more than a dozen health and nutrition seminars, representatives from borough health agencies, a blood drive and fitness presentations.

(For more information about individual events and times, check **www.siedc.org**.)

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Accounting workshop Friday at CSI

Published: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 10:55 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The job of an accountant can be more exciting than just punching numbers into a calculator.

Certified Public Accountants might be corporate controllers, educators or even FBI agents investigating white-collar crimes.

In fact, the Staten Island Chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants wants to inform high school students of all the potential careers of a CPA at a workshop Friday at the College of Staten Island's Performing Arts Center, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The group, which invited every Staten Island public, private and Catholic school to the free event, is hoping several hundred students will attend.

The focus is on high school seniors and juniors who may be considering careers in business or accounting, and the day will include mock interviews to prepare them for possible college admissions or job interviews in the future.

For more information, contact Rosemarie Giovinazzo-Barnickel at rgbcpa@nysscpa.org.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Poet Tina Chang to read and sign at CSI

Published: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 9:40 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Newly appointed Brooklyn Poet Laureate Tina Chang will present a book reading and signing tomorrow at the **College of Staten Island's** Center for the Arts Lab Theatre.

The free event will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and will feature readings from her poetry collection, "Half-Lit Houses."

Ms. Chang currently teaches poetry at Sarah Lawrence College and Hunter College. The reading is sponsored by **CSI's** departments of English and Education, as part of the college's commitment to bringing noted scholars and educational programs to the Willowbrook campus.

For more information, call 718-982-3715.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

State education chief visits Island for tour, chalk talk

Published: Saturday, September 25, 2010, 7:43 AM



Amy Padnani



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Hungerford School Principal Dr. Mary McInerney introduces student Catherine Peluso to the officials.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — In a rare move, the New York State commissioner of education visited the borough yesterday, touring schools before meeting with a cross-section of local educators about what supports they need from Albany.

Commissioner David Steiner, along with Senior Deputy Commissioner John King, accepted the invitation from Christine Cea, the member of the Board of Regents who represents the borough, to get a candid view of how local schools are faring.

His visit was evidence that Staten Island schools are on his radar as he reviews a long list of educational improvements needed throughout the state, though he was vague in indicating what those enhancements would include.

"I didn't want to come here with preconceptions," Steiner said. "I want to look at schools, meet teachers and really hear from them. ... Then one can go back and look at the numbers and ask, 'What are the challenges at a macro level?'"

In fact, Steiner chose to visit some schools that don't receive as much attention as others.

He began with a trip to The Hungerford School, then went to Port Richmond High School. He ended his day at a meeting with educators at the College of Staten Island.

He pronounced himself impressed by innovative forms of teaching at The Hungerford School, a District 75 school for students with disabilities, as some students learned to read through singing karaoke, or learned to walk using an apparatus that helps children in wheelchairs stand up.

"It's immensely skilled work," he said of the school's teachers. "It's immensely difficult work but it's incredibly rewarding."

In fact, Steiner said, as he watched educators work one-on-one with students to determine their individual learning needs, he thought about how blanket policies don't help every student, and how more techniques need to be recognized for special-education students.

"In some ways, we've been so keen to establish the sort of single-standard mantra that we've lost sight of the reality that some of these children — from the outside — might look like they've made a very modest improvement, but it's absolutely extraordinary," he said. "Sometimes our data doesn't pick that up. We've got to look at reality."

At Port Richmond High School, the commissioner joked with teachers and students as he was whisked from one classroom to the next, experiencing the talents of the culinary students and the enlightenment of those in the virtual enterprise program.

He ended the day by meeting with educators from across Staten Island in a closed-door discussion at the College of Staten Island, where teachers and principals said their tightly knit community would make Staten Island the ideal laboratory for new initiatives.

"There was a lot of discussion in how to bring in young teachers and the commissioner was very strong about that passion you see," said Port Richmond Principal Tim Gannon.

"We know there's a lot of work to be done, but for him to provide us with the inspiration to keep the fight going and work hard, by telling us we're on the right track, it was really helpful."

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

'You're welcome,' says CSI

Published: Thursday, September 30, 2010, 11:17 AM



Mark D. Stein

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - Welcome to college - where there's more to school than just books, term papers and letter grades.

That was message **College of Staten Island** staff members stressed as they hosted the college's seventh annual Welcome Back Carnival and Involvement Fair.



Students check out the various opportunities offered by clubs, groups and other **College of Staten Island** organizations at the Willowbrook school's Involvement Fair and Welcome Back Carnival. (Photo Courtesy of Sarah Varon)

Held two weeks ago, on Sept. 16, the event drew approximately 300 students - half of whom were freshmen. The "howdy-do" lasted from noon to 4 p.m.

It featured representatives from 38 clubs, organizations, publications and campus offices who had set up tables in front of Building 1C.

Some of the groups included The Banner (school newspaper), the psychology and computer clubs, the women's center, and an information technology organization. School sororities and fraternities were also represented.

To make the experience more inviting, barbecued food was served, and large versions of chess and checkers

were open for play. Super-sized versions of popular games like Connect Four, Operation, and Twister, could also be played on the nearby lawn.

Of course, there was music. A band called Legend of the Fall played throughout.

"Lots of things to get the students interacted," said Debi Kee, associate director of student life and activities at the school. "We get a good mix of students. It's a mix of the whole campus coming together."

Ms. Kee told the Advance that freshman students need to earn "CLUE credits" for participating in extracurricular activities, before completing 12 class credits. It's a requirement that not only pads a student's resume, but in turn, assists them in their academic and professional development.

"It's very important for them to get involved and not just go to class," said Ms. Kee, who believes that involvement in clubs and organizations can improve leadership skills and boost a student's team-building abilities.

To future employers, said Ms. Kee, "It says: 'I did more than just show up (to school).'"

Andrew Gad, a Graniteville freshman, played chess with his friend, Immanuel Youssef. Gad said the event was fun and helped break the ice a bit.

"I was playing Twister for about an hour and now I can't even feel my legs," he joked.

Gad described the fair as informative, and he appreciated the food and fun.

His friend, Youssef, said when he arrived on campus and saw the scene, he thought, "It was like, 'Wow.'"

"Free food, man. Free food," he added.

Gad said he wants to settle in before committing to any extracurricular activities, but he's game once he feels comfortable.

"I'm definitely going to look into it for later," he said.

Justine Soldano, of New Jersey, is no longer a student at the campus, but she represented her sorority at the fair.

"It helped me meet a lot of good friends that I'll know for the rest of my life," she said, adding that the positive notes to add to resumes help, too. "It definitely has its privileges."

Leonard Donegan, a junior at CSI from Todt Hill, said, "I love being here. It's a great school and I get a lot

done."

Donegan hung out during the fair, which helped lead him to where he is now - a member of the Alpha Club, which is a community events group.

"It helped me out a lot. It's gotten me to associate with new people," Donegan said, explaining how it helped him become more comfortable at the Willowbrook campus.

"For the freshmen, it's going to take some time to see what they want out this, out of college, for their careers," he noted.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Students & Alumni

Youth Arts Council urges teens to express creativity

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 11:24 AM



Kathryn Carse

STATEN ISLAND, NY - OAKWOOD - The annex at Canlon's Oakwood restaurant was transformed with poetry, paintings and balloons into an art gallery on the last Saturday of August, an end-of-summer celebration organized by the fledgling Youth Arts Council.



At Canlon's restaurant in Oakwood, for a celebration organized by the Youth Arts Council, are, from the left, Joseph Amis, 15; Erin Dennis, 16; Tara-Jean Canlon, 12; Jesse Hepworth, 14; Clare McCormick, 14, and Shani Paul, 15. (Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores)

However, the council's work was not a summer project. Grymes Hill resident Claire Jimenez began organizing it with a Council on the Arts and Humanities of Staten Island (COAHSI) grant in April.

Ms. Jimenez has always coupled pursuit of her own creativity with providing the same opportunity for others. Drawn to the written and spoken word as a teenager, she was part of Youth Speaks, which later became Urban Word NY, a literary arts program emphasizing both poetry and performance. At Colby College in Maine, she co-founded a weekly open mic series called Poets Rest at Dawn.



Also at the Youth Arts Council event: Claire Jimenez, left, coordinator of the Youth Arts Council, and Sajda Ladner, executive director of the Universal Temple of the Arts. (Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores)

Returning to Urban Word as a research intern, Ms. Jimenez created a project called Changing Minds, Changing Words, through which she meets with a group of teen poets weekly to talk about the ways spoken word can be used as an activist tool. She also currently is writing short stories.

When she applied for the COAHSI grant her goals were to have the council members start a mapping project of arts opportunities for teens, to encourage them in their chosen arts and help them develop and improve communication skills to strengthen the presence of the arts in the lives of local teenagers.

The event was part formal presentation, part networking, and showcased both the work and the pleasure the teens acquired in being able to talk about what they do.

Joseph Amis, 15, a sophomore at Curtis High School, who enjoys both sketching and dance, realized by meeting other creative teens that "kids like art and I like helping other people." Putting the two together, he developed skills not always associated with the art world, facilitating events through press releases, photos, invites, setting up the room. Amis discovered a liking for "working together, planning things out" to make events like Saturday's happen.

Erin Dennis, who likes to draw, began to pursue fashion designing when she discovered it was something she liked doing with her drawing. The 16-year-old **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies student helped develop the mission of the council by getting teens out in the field to visit museums and attend performances.

Jesse Hepworth, sporting a thrift shop army style jacket trimmed in silver studs and a few chains he added, also said he was drawn to fashion - for practical reasons.

"Why should I wear something I don't like? I just make something I like," said Jesse, explaining he looks at old designs and thinks "How can I make that new?" A bass clarinetist at a Manhattan performing arts school, he lent his graphic and technological skills to the council. He helped design the group's logo, a lesson, he said, in "constant revision and putting the needs of everyone together to evolve the work."

Ireania Moore posts her poetry on deviantart.com, and was enjoying meeting people reacting to her poetry in person at Saturday's event. Claire McCormick, budding pianist and poet, appreciated "meeting a bunch of artistic kids, something I couldn't do anywhere else."

Among the resources the Youth Arts Council discovered was the Young Artists Group, composed mainly of intermediate and high school painters learning the healing capacity and human connections to be made with art. Their work was exhibited at the event.

Using a pottery wheel, kiln and glazes, Shani Paul, a junior at Brooklyn Friends School, discovered a concrete form of expression in creating something usable: ceramic dinnerware. The teen turned to ceramics, she said, when "painting was not working." She seized the opportunity to talk to a reporter who was looking at her earthy ceramic pieces, pointing out the effect she sought in the glaze with a brown edge topping the green and blue plates, bowls and cups.

Poised and petite, Tara-Jean Canlon might be your first choice if guessing who was a dancer/actor. Still, as the youngest member of the group at 12, her ability to articulate the experience of being part of the group is a bit unexpected.

"It was interesting to see people express themselves, not physically, but just putting it out there (on a piece of paper or ceramics)," she said. "My creativity flows out through movement and speech," the St. Clare's seventh-grader continued. "But painting, to express something through the simple movement of the hands, I think that is amazing." .

Adults were instrumental in shepherding the charter members of the Youth Arts Council to their mission. Tara's mom saw something about it in the newspaper, the librarian at Curtis High School steered Ireania Moore to it, and Joseph Amis was encouraged by his mentor at the Staten Island Children's Museum. Now they are ambassadors, committed both to their own expressions of creativity and the importance of other teens discovering it in theirs.

"Sometimes people don't realize the importance of art and creativity in their life. It's the part of you inside that is ever changing," said Sadjia Ladner, director of the Universal Temple of the Arts (UTA). Ms. Ladner expressed her gratitude for what Ms. Jimenez accomplished and for the support of the Staten Island Children's Campaign as the effort goes forward under the umbrella of UTA.

For more information about the Youth Arts Council, contact Ms Jimenez at claire.jimenez@gmail.com.

Drag race down Bay Street leads to fiery death

Published: Sunday, September 05, 2010, 8:27 AM



Maura Yates

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A race for a late night snack cost a 20-year-old Meiers Corners man his life, when he lost control of his speeding car and slammed into a gas pump, setting it ablaze early yesterday morning.



New York Daily News

Police officers investigate the scene of a fatal car wreck at a gas station on Bay Street in Tompkinsville.

Philip Boney-Scrivano of Graves Street, was en-route to White Castle in Stapleton, according to a police source, when his car jumped the curb on Bay Street and crashed into the Citgo at the corner of Hannah Street in Tompkinsville.

The driver's side of his 2009 Honda Accord bore the brunt of the impact, which was so powerful that his body was ripped apart, sources said.

His passenger, Jean Carlos, 25, was pulled out of the car and taken to Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton with non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

The gas pump caught fire but Battalion Chief Michael McLaughlin told the Advance that firefighters immediately activated the gas station's fire suppression system, possibly averting an explosion.

A witness who was outside the Cargo Cafe nearby said he saw the Accord and a second car speeding through red lights at Slosson Terrace and Victory Boulevard, and driving on the wrong side of the street.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR BONEY-SCRIVANO

"They blew right through the light here, going well over 100 (miles per hour)," the witness said.

Police said the investigation is ongoing, and could not confirm the witnesses' accounts that two drivers were drag racing.



View full size

Philip Scrivano as seen in his MySpace profile.

http://www.silive.com/southshore/index.ssf/2010/08/police_probe_details_of_horrif.html

The driver of the second car, Korey Swatz, 33, of West Brighton, drove to the hospital to check on his friends after the crash, a police source said. There, while being interviewed by cops, he was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Boney-Scrivano's friends said he had been with them for a night out on Forest Avenue, and another friend had offered to drive his car home. But over the course of the evening, Boney-Scrivano left the group, they said.

Boney-Scrivano was a student at the **College of Staten Island**, and worked during the summer as a counselor at Camp Lindenmere in the Poconos, where he taught hockey and baseball.

"He was a great kid, well loved," said Carol Morales, who has lived next door to Boney-Scrivano on Graves Street for four years. "It's a shock," she said. "We still don't know what happened."

The wreck follows last Sunday morning's horrific crash of another speeding car, which killed Daniel Peluso, 19, of Great Kills and Jeffrey Capretta, 20, of Woodrow. Four others survived, but two suffered serious injuries.

Peluso and Capretta were buried Thursday.

-Advance reporter Jeff Harrell also reported this story with Robert McCormick

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

As summer ends, changes come to Staten Island schools

Published: Monday, September 06, 2010, 12:21 PM



Amy Padnani

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- New schools, new superintendents, new classroom facilities and new standards will greet students as they take their seats on the first day back at school Wednesday.

Despite one of the most severe budget cutbacks in recent history, local schools have been making the most of scant resources to offer an awe-inspiring return to class.

Staten Island Technical High School, for instance, will be opening a state-of-the-art television studio.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance photo/Irving Silverstein

Staten Island Technical High School students Tyler Romeo, left, Robert Walsh work in the control room of the new studio.

With funds secured over several years by Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island), the \$1 million studio -- designed and built by Lawless and Mangione, the School Construction Authority and Jordan Construction -- will embrace modern ideas. Programs produced in the studio can be broadcast to 700 students in the auditorium, across Staten Island through public access channels and across the world through streaming on

the website, www.siths.org.

Principal Vincent Maniscalco envisions students teaching math to other students through fun, innovative lessons. And that disembodied voice making morning announcements can now be viewed as a live broadcast, aired on SMART Boards in every classroom. Students will also create documentaries. In fact, they already completed one on the nutrition of school food, taking on roles like scriptwriting, lighting, producing, directing, hosting and film editing.

"The potential of this studio is really up to the imaginations of our students and staff -- it can be incorporated in English, math, social studies and even physical education," said Frank Mazza, a teacher in the engineering department, who developed the idea.

Mazza, the advisor to the school's Young Producers Club, has 13 years of experience developing programs on education and medical issues, which are aired on public access channels. "The studio will also be a community resource, open to politicians and schools across the five boroughs who want to come in and use it," he said.

NEW SCHOOLS

The borough's landscape of school choices is growing, with two new charter schools opening their doors. The Staten Island Community Charter School, a K-8 that will be housed in Trinity Lutheran School in Stapleton, will infuse the curriculum with music and art as children are taught to become model citizens by learning about social responsibility, academic excellence and community service.

New World Preparatory Charter School, Port Richmond, will be the Island's first charter school for middle school students. Under the management of Victory Schools Inc., the school will focus on immigrant students, with bilingual educators, dual-language instruction and support for families.

The newest public school will be PS 74, an elementary school in Tompkinsville that's opening in PS 16's former annex and will share PS 16's resources. Construction also began on PS 71, a school that will be opening in the former Doctors Hospital in Concord. When it is complete in 2013, it will house the overcrowded PS 48 across the street.

CHANGING FACES

New leadership is aplenty this year, with fresh faces among two superintendents and five school principals. Erminia Claudio, formerly the principal at PS 6, Richmond Valley, was appointed the elementary and middle school superintendent after Margaret Schultz retired. Bonnie Brown, the head of District 75 -- which serves special ed students -- also retired, with Gary Hecht, who was deputy superintendent, taking the helm.

Six schools will also have new heads. In addition to the now-vacant position at PS 6, principals Donna Luisi of PS 18 in West Brighton, Katherine Corso of PS 5 in Huguenot, Robert Corso of PS 39 in Arrochar, Evelyn Mastroianni of PS 52 in Dongan Hills and Emma Della Rocca of Markham Intermediate School in Graniteville

have retired, with their successors yet to be named.

EVOLVING STANDARDS

The city Department of Education is embarking on a two-year special education initiative, and eight Staten Island schools are among 260 across the city to be part of the pilot.

The plan, which will benefit 10,342 special ed students on Staten Island, involves training school staffs to think outside the box when teaching students in literacy and behavior, while emphasizing long-term goals for each child's life after high school.

The first year of the program will be at the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies; PS 32, Great Kills; PS 35, Sunnyside; PS 48, Concord; PS 53, Bay Terrace; the Marsh Avenue School for Expeditionary Learning, New Springville; PS 65, Tompkinsville, and the Petrides School. It will open up to all schools next year.

Staten Island is also getting three new classes for children with autism: two, at PS 69, New Springville, and PS 4, Arden Heights, will mix special education and general ed kindergartners to teach them about socializing; a third, at Tottenville High School, will prepare students to be independent for life after high school.

At all schools, students will experience new standards for state tests, with longer and more challenging exams that cover additional topics.

Also in the coming months, through the use of about \$300 million in federal Race to the Top grants, schools will see a new teacher evaluation system.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Driver In Fatal "Drag Race" Crash Free On \$2,000 Bail



(NY1)

The driver arrested for DWI after a fatal Staten Island drag race was arraigned and then released on \$2000 bail. Korey Swatz, 33, had a blood alcohol of 0.10, above the 0.08 legal limit, after the crash that took 20-year-old Philip Boney-Scrivano's life. Witnesses say that Boney-Scrivano and Swatz were driving at over 100 mph in Tompkinsville when Boney-Scrivano jumped the curb at Bay Street and crashed into the Citgo gas station; his body was thrown from the car and reportedly "ripped apart" when it hit a utility pole.

According to the Daily News, Boney-Scrivano had only bought his Honda Accord last week for his birthday: "At a treacherous bend locals call 'Dead Man's Curve' near Hannah St., Boney-Scrivano lost control of the Honda. It skidded wildly for more than 100 feet before hopping a curb, police said." NY1 has video of the car hitting a gas pump at the Citgo. His passenger, Jean Aleman, 25, somehow made it out of the crash alive. Described as Swatz's brother-in-law, Aleman denied they were drag racing and said, "I feel bad for the guy's family."

Swatz's relatives claim he just met Boney-Scrivano at the On the Rocks bar. Boney-Scrivano was, the Staten Island Advance reports, "was a student at the College of Staten Island, and worked during the summer as a counselor at Camp Lindenmere in the Poconos, where he taught hockey and baseball."

Wake held for Philip Boney-Scrivano, Staten Island victim of early-morning crash

Published: Wednesday, September 08, 2010, 6:50 AM



Maura Yates



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Mourners enter Matthew Funeral Home to pay their respects to Phillip Boney-Scrivano who died in a car crash at Bay and Hannah streets early Saturday mourning.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Mourners packed Matthew Funeral Home in Willowbrook last night for the wake of Philip Boney-Scrivano, where they paid a fond farewell to their friend and wondered about the events that led up to his tragic death.

The 20-year-old Meiers Corners man **died early Saturday morning in a horrific car crash** when his Honda Accord jumped the curb on Bay Street and crashed into the Citgo at the corner of Hannah Street in Tompkinsville.

Witnesses said they saw Boney-Scrivano's Accord and another car speeding through red lights on Bay Street just before the crash, but police have said there is no indication the cars were drag racing.

The driver of the second car, Korey Swatz, 33, of West Brighton, **was arraigned Sunday on a DWI charge**. Swatz and Boney-Scrivano had met just 10 minutes prior to the crash, according to Swatz's lawyer, Gary Hanna.

For reasons still unclear, Boney-Scrivano took passenger Jean Carlos, 25, whom he had also just met, on a ride to White Castle in Stapleton. Carlos' sister, Paola Aleman, 21, who is married to Swatz, was a passenger in Swatz's car. Carlos was pulled out of the car and taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Hanna would not comment on his client's drunken-driving arrest, but was adamant that Swatz was not drag racing at the time of the accident.

"There was never any kind of racing involved. This young man at some point sped away from the other group and couldn't negotiate the turn," Hanna said. "He basically just blew by the other group," he said of Boney-Scrivano.

Swatz was released on \$2,000 bail and is due to return to court on Oct. 7.

Outside the wake last night, Boney-Scrivano's friends remembered his outgoing personality, smile, energy and optimism, and said they still had no answers to explain what happened.

Boney-Scrivano made friends easily, according to his longtime pals, but they said it was out of character for him to disappear with Carlos, whom they did not know.

"It just doesn't add up," said friend Alana Schiro.

"He would never go off without letting anyone know," another friend said. "He would have went inside and said 'who wants food?'"

Inside On the Rocks bar, which opened less than a month ago at Forest and Dubois avenues, two women tending bar said they weren't working the night of the accident and hadn't heard any details about Boney-Scrivano or his friends that might shed light on his last moments.

There are no new developments in the case, police said, pending the results of a toxicology report.

Boney-Scrivano was a student at the **College of Staten Island**, and worked during the summer as a counselor at Camp Lindenmere in the Poconos, where he taught hockey and baseball.

Flower arrangements in the shape of crossed hockey sticks, and his hockey jersey flanked the closed casket.

His funeral was to be this morning in St. Rita R.C. Church, Meiers Corners, and he was to be laid to rest in

Moravian Cemetery, New Dorp.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.



Staten Island Ferry riders transport their thoughts to day that changed everything

Published: Saturday, September 11, 2010, 12:55 AM



Ben Johnson

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Capt. James Parese was steering the ferryboat Samuel I. Newhouse north when he realized something was wrong.

Radios on board were chattering about a small plane crashing into One World Trade Center, and crew members on the deck brought out the binoculars to get a closer look as the boat approached Whitehall Terminal. Nearing Governor's Island, passengers watched a second plane fly over and into the second building, and the crew knew they wouldn't be landing.

"At that point, we didn't think it was a good idea to bring those people in there," Parese, 56, of Rosebank, recalled about that fateful day nine years ago. "We had an exchange of conversation with a police boat, and he said to get out of there."



Capt. James Parese had charge of the ferryboat Newhouse at the fateful hour.

Like the commuters on the boats he commands -- the Staten Island Ferry fleet makes more than 100 trips on weekdays -- Parese has one of the best views of Lower Manhattan. After the attacks, the boats were one of the main links to Manhattan, carrying personnel and essential supplies to Ground Zero.

A simple reminder can bring it all rushing back for this captain: A bright, crisp day; the roar of a plane overhead, a glimpse of the skyline that still suffers a gaping wound.

Nine years later, everyone has his or her own memories of that day, and thoughts on what it has meant for America and the world since. From the decks of the Staten Island ferry, commuters, tourists and students share their stories about 9/11.

Peter Competiello, 48:

9/11 bonds last forever

Peter Competiello's life might have been saved on 9/11 because he hates gridlock.

"I was living in Rossville, and I usually drove over the Bayonne and then took the PATH train into Manhattan, but I was worried about traffic that day so I took the ferry," said Competiello, who in 2001 was working as an account executive on Maiden Lane, which intersects with the World Trade Center site. "If I hadn't [taken the ferry], I would have been coming up into the World Trade Center stop that day."

Competiello got off the boat and got to work before realizing what was really happening. By the time he and co-workers knew terrorists had attacked Manhattan, supervisors told them they couldn't leave. But they disregarded those instructions. Afraid the buildings would topple, he headed northeast, watching the second building collapse from Park Row, and heading up through Chinatown.

"All you thought about was getting out; getting away from the buildings. Some people who recognized me from the ferry that morning asked me if they could walk with me," said Competiello, 48, who now lives in Marlboro, N.J. "I didn't want to go over the Brooklyn Bridge because I was afraid it would be a target, too."

Giving his necktie to a woman who was having trouble breathing amid the dust and debris, the salesman led his companions over the Manhattan Bridge, down Flatbush Avenue and then all the way down Fifth Avenue into Bay Ridge -- on foot. Dust followed them into Brooklyn. Deli and shop owners handed out bottles of water as they passed. When the travelers got to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, authorities directed them onto buses that took them over the bridge.

"I still stay in touch with the people I walked with; we send out an e-mail every year on the day. I go down to the World Trade Center site with one of the guys. It's one of those bonds you'll never forget."

Dewight Smith, 30:

Lost a friend that day

"No matter how much time has passed, you remember it like yesterday," said Dewight Smith, returning to the Island after a night shift at his workplace. "When it happened, I came down near the terminal. You could see the flames from here, and you could almost feel the heat, even on the Staten Island side. It was like a terrible, mesmerizing movie."

Smith, 30, of Todt Hill, had two friends who were at the World Trade Center when the attacks occurred; one died, the other suffered a crushed kneecap. He says the attacks made him more aware of his surroundings in the city, kept alert by the knowledge that in an instant, tragedy can be brought home. But he shuns ceremony on the anniversary of the attacks.

"It's funny how we use any excuse to make a holiday out of something, make a big deal about it," said Smith, who works at a group home for disabled children. "I just keep a solemn remembrance of the friend I lost."

Opey Sehindemi, 17:

'Have we learned anything?'

Opey Sehindemi was in third grade on 9/11, and was having some very third-grade problems.

"I remember being upset that day because I couldn't decide where to sit at lunch," said Miss Sehindemi, during a ride home on the ferry last week. "Then I got called to the office, and my mother came to get me. She explained something very bad had happened and that we had to go home."

Miss Sehindemi, 17, is a Bronx resident who works for the National Park Service on Staten Island. She is aware of the new construction at the site, but too young to look at the skyline on her ferry rides home and be conscious of something missing. The events on 9/11 may be on her mind, but in a more abstract way: A vague memory, and an understanding of the post-9/11 world in which she lives.

"Have we learned anything? We're in two wars. It was prompted by violence, and as long as there is violence anywhere, we haven't learned," she said, watching the sunset over New Jersey as the seafaring part of her commute ended in Manhattan. "I can understand where they are coming from, the people who are angry, and who think we are protecting ourselves overseas. But violence is not a means to peace. Anywhere."

DJ Sensale, 22:

'So much hatred'

DJ Sensale was home sick from school in New Jersey on 9/11. He admits that it's difficult to understand the attacks, and the greater conflict they represent.

"I went to Ground Zero once, it was massive," said Sensale, 22, a Brooklyn resident riding the ferry to his first class at the **College of Staten Island**, where he is studying music. "I didn't know there was that much hatred, to do something that big. Their hatred must have been pretty strong."

David Green, 25:

Cautiously optimistic

When David Green walked into U.S. history class at Staten Island Academy in Dongan Hills on 9/11, his teacher shut the door and told the class to be quiet. She turned on the radio, tuned to WCBS 880, and they all listened, together.

"We listened for the whole class, 45 minutes, at least," recalled Green one day last week on his ferry ride home from work as a compensation analyst in Manhattan. "They were covering it the whole time, no traffic and weather that morning. We heard one of the buildings fall live on the radio. It was pretty surreal."

As a relatively new ferry commuter, Green, 25 and a Huguenot resident, doesn't miss the World Trade Center when he looks at the skyline during the trip across the harbor. He feels cautiously optimistic about progress in the struggle against terrorism.

"I wasn't a big Bush fan, but I think we're doing a pretty good job of averting attacks since then. I know we've had some close calls."

The Colombels of France:

'Skyline changed forever'

"We took the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island," said Veronica Colombel, as her husband snapped a shot of Manhattan from a southbound ferryboat one recent afternoon. "It's my first time, but my husband came here once before, in 1999."

The couple was on the ferry the other day, on holiday for a week from their hometown of Grenoble, France.

"It's very strange, to look at the site, nine years after," said Jack Colombel, who noted the travelers had been to Ground Zero earlier that day. "The images from that day come back, looking at the site. For me, the skyline of New York, it's changed forever."

Colin Brosnan, 65:

'On my mind every year'

As an Australian who watches a lot of Sky News in his native country, Colin Brosnan remembers watching coverage of the 9/11 attacks on television.

"We went to Ground Zero earlier, and it was really good for me to go there and say, 'This is where it was,'" said Brosnan, 65, on holiday with a group touring the U.S.

"It's on my mind every year when it comes around, and it's in the minds of a lot of Australians. I imagine Sky News will devote a whole day to it there."

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

NYC Housing Authority puts gun violence amputee in 12th story apartment with no elevator

Michael Daly

Sunday, September 19th 2010, 4:00 AM

Anybody at the [New York City Housing Authority](#) who paid proper attention to his family's application would have seen that 18-year-old Christopher Williams is disabled and in a wheelchair, having lost his right leg as a manifestly innocent victim of gun violence.

Yet, the housing folks went ahead and placed the former [Fort Hamilton High School](#) football star and homecoming king in a 12th-floor apartment in a [Brooklyn](#) building slated for elevator renovation that would make his new home inaccessible for more than three months.

Williams was only informed of the impending shutdown when a notice went up in the 13-story building in the [Walt](#)

[Whitman](#) Houses. The notice was posted between the two elevators, only one of which rises above the seventh floor.

72 HOUR NOTICE

Elevator construction is scheduled to begin at:

Date - 9/13/10

Construction of each elevator will take approximately 14 weeks.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Williams had shown uncommon courage and grace after being shot nine times with a .45-caliber automatic three years ago.

He kept his spirits up even when he was told the amputation was too high up his leg for him to wear a prosthesis. He now found himself ambushed by a piece of official paper that gave him three days to find a place to live for more than three months.

"If I can't get upstairs with the elevator, what am I going to do?" he asked.

The Housing Authority offered no

immediate assistance. Williams sought out everyone he knew who lived in a wheelchair-accessible place and might shelter him for the duration of the construction.

"I was asking friends, 'Can I stay with you guys? I'll pay you guys rent,' but they all said no," Williams recalled.

Williams had yet to find an alternative when workers painted "ELEVATOR OUT OF SERVICE" in red on the door to the lone conveyance to his apartment.

"I felt like I was homeless," he said.

His only immediate option was the nearby [New York Marriott Hotel](#) at the [Brooklyn Bridge](#), which charged him \$400.

"For one night," he said. "No room service, nothing."

He faced sleeping in the street when the Housing Authority finally came through with a fourth-floor apartment in another building.

That proved four floors too high on a day that elevator broke down and, to his great distress, he missed class at the [College of](#)

[Staten Island.](#)

In the meanwhile, workmen at his previous home seemed in no hurry to finish despite the tenants still on the upper floors, including one elderly man who uses a walker.

Yesterday, nobody was working at all. The 72 Hours Notice was still on the wall, along with two work permits. One was issued on June 8, the other on May 5, the same month that the housing folks put a magnificent young man who lost a leg to violence on the 12th floor.

NYCHA said they're looking into the matter.

Often, the problem is not big government, but small.

mdaly@nydailynews.com

New Dorp woman gave up her office job to become a puppeteer

Published: Thursday, September 02, 2010, 11:20 AM



Tevah Platt

STATEN ISLAND, NY - NEW DORP - Janine Schiller was tired of her office job.

So, she made a decision some 15 years ago that was just short of joining the circus - an alternative she'd also seriously considered.

She became a puppeteer.



Janine Schiller graduated this spring from the **College of Staten Island** with a degree in dramatic arts, and she will go on to New York University to pursue a master's degree in drama therapy. She's pictured here with her alter ego, Frankie, a crooner fashioned after Old Blue Eyes. (Staten Island Advance/Tevah Platt) Ms. Schiller, a 47-year-old resident of New Dorp, now has a cast of characters at her command.

Performing with Ms. Schiller earlier this summer at Staten Island's Pier 1 outside of the Lighthouse Museum building was Jack, Petunia the Cow, the Magic Harp, a motley showman named Pierre, the diminutive Puppetino, Captain Doodlehead (an alligator who can blow up balloons), and - Ms. Schiller's alter ego - Frankie, a crooner fashioned after Old Blue Eyes.

Ms. Schiller graduated this spring from the **College of Staten Island** with a degree in dramatic arts, and she

will go on to New York University to pursue a master's degree in drama therapy.

But she got her start with a class in puppet- and mask-making at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, and by networking through the Brooklyn-based Puppetry Guild of Greater New York.

"I had an actual passion for it," said Ms. Schiller, "like a stay-up-and-work-all-night kind of thing. My family thought I was crazy, especially at first."

Volunteering at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in Central Park, Ms. Schiller got what felt like her big break when, one day in the late '90s, the hands behind Hansel got the chicken pox. Ms. Schiller swooped in to join some of the city's best puppeteers.

Working with classical marionettes, cut-out shadow puppets, and foam-headed characters, Ms. Schiller has honed the crafts of both making and operating these figures.

Performing is like dancing, Ms. Schiller said, because it requires moving the entire body.

The trick to sculpting, she said, is in getting the eyes right, so that the puppet doesn't appear stone-faced or aloof.

Petunia is endearingly cock-eyed; Pierre's painted marble eyes are soulful; Frankie's eyes are bright.

Frankie is Ms. Schiller's favorite puppet, for reasons she can't explain. He has a bold character and a deep voice (the opposite of Puppetino) and is ready with quips to squeeze suavely between the lines of jazz standards.

Under the company name Puppet Mask-a-rade, Ms. Schiller performs throughout the city, at local parties and schools, and for residents of the Menorah Home and Hospital in Brooklyn. Performances for kids are often followed by sock-making workshops. Staten Island clients, because they are local, are offered discounted rates.

Ms. Schiller's August performance, "Puppets at the Pier," was sponsored by the Children's Committee of Bay Street Landing with space granted by the Staten Island Downtown Council. The purpose is to provide an event for children to enjoy in and outside of the Bay Street Landing Community, said children's committee member Lisa Della Vecchia, and to further Bay Street Landing's goal of becoming more integrated with the larger communities of Tompkinsville and St. George.

The show featured a classic marionette show and a telling of "The Emperor's New Clothes. Ms. Schiller often performs "Jack and the Beanstalk," a fable about the frog and the snake, and Russian folktales featuring the child-eating witch Baba Yaga.

Puppeteering isn't the most lucrative profession, Ms. Schiller says, but it feels like a calling. "I know I'm doing the right thing because on my way home from a show or a party, I feel right," she said, "like I've hit that bell true."

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.

Diamond Gets GOP Nod for 16th AD Race

Friday, 03 September 2010 00:00

Mineola Resident Will Challenge Incumbent Schimel

Scott David Diamond, a resident of Mineola, is the Republican/Conservative candidate for the 16th Assembly District of the New York State Assembly. He will be challenging the incumbent Democrat, Michelle Schimel (D-Great Neck). Diamond currently works as a paralegal contractor for the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. The Mineola area is located in the 16th AD.

Diamond is a native of Staten Island who claims his love of politics came during his undergraduate years at the **College of Staten Island** where he met a Democratic New York State Senator who offered him a chance to intern for him. That moment, he added, led to other internships, including one with Governor George Pataki, and volunteer work for Rudy Giuliani's 2008 presidential campaign. "At this point I was on my way to moving towards a dream of one day running for office," Diamond said.

"The Albany machine seems to have lost touch with the people who put them in office," Diamond said, giving his reasons for running for office. "It seems as if their only objective is raising taxes and relying on us as a personal piggy bank and showing no empathy for the people.

"If I am elected, I will end this practice and stand up for those in our community," he continued. "I will stop wasteful spending and ask for a cap on spending and property taxes. I will approach things with common sense. The voice of the people will be heard once again."

September 8, 2010

When Youth Is a Job Qualification

By **ROBIN FINN**

Steven M. Volpe, 21, who graduated in June from the **College of Staten Island**, parlayed an unpaid spring internship at the New York City chapter of the **Alzheimer's Association** into a paid summer internship. In August he was offered a job as a social media associate. He lives with his parents in Dongan Hills on Staten Island and moonlights Saturday nights selling business machines at a local Staples.

First, he played: My father brought home a computer when I was about 9; it was a Compaq Presario, and I remember using it to play games like “Oregon Trail” and “Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?” I wasn’t ever intimidated by computers; I think I started using them in elementary school in the fourth grade at St. Ann’s School, and in high school, I got more interested.

Then, he tinkered: My parents got me an eMachine, an inexpensive computer, but I learned how to upgrade the software to make it faster, replace the hard drive, stuff like that. In my senior year my father bought a Dell for the family; we kept it in the basement, and my sisters and I did our homework on it. I never watched much TV, so in my spare time, if I wasn’t playing sports, I’d research stuff. I called myself a Google-holic.

Hands-on major: I thought I was going to be a history teacher, but after taking some of the core general ed and psychology courses, it seemed like history was all about memorization, and I wanted to do something more hands-on, so I made the segue to media studies. The range of courses you could take made it great: production, marketing and journalism.

Getting the point across: One course was called Media Audiences: some of it focused on microblogging, and we did a couple assignments involving **Twitter**, which is how I learned how it could be valuable in a corporate way, not just a celebrity way. Using 140 characters to communicate a point is pretty cool. But I’m not interested in what Ashton Kutcher or Diddy have to say. I mainly tweet for corporate releases for the association.

Meeting the boss: On the first day of my internship, I was being taken around the office for a meet-and-greet, and because we're a small office, I even got to meet the C.E.O., Lou- Ellen Barkan. I'd never been in a C.E.O.'s office before. I was expecting just to be helping out with marketing and events, but Ms. Barkan surprised me by asking me to do a research project about ways the organization could profit from the social media. She told me my age made me the right person for the job, so of course I said yes. I mean, what college student would say no to the chance to do a project on [Facebook](#) and Twitter?

Keeping it fresh: They had a Facebook account, but they didn't really keep their followers in the know; you can't build followers or awareness if you're only posting once a week or once a month. You don't want to overdo it, but you need to be out there with news and events every other day.

Feeling grateful: I graduated at the worst time in this state's economy, so wow, thank God I got this internship and it led me somewhere interesting. I have friends from college who can't even get nonpaying internships.

Still researching: I'm involved in everything we do — marketing and events and finding alternate methods of fund-raising through texting and online. I don't know anybody with Alzheimer's, but I'm learning about it. This week I'm going to a dementia awareness lecture, and of course, now I'm researching the disease.

ELECTIONS

Primary Election Puts Focus on Third Party Lines in Assembly Race

Incumbent Kenneth Zebrowski is being challenged with a write-in campaign on Independence Party Line by county Legislator Frank Sparaco.

By **Michael Woyton** 5:03am

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Who will appear on the November ballot on the Independence and Working Families lines in the race for the state Assembly Districting representing Clarkstown will be decided in today's primary election.

Incumbent Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, 94th Assembly District, faces a write-in campaign waged by Rockland County Legislator Frank Sparaco, R-Valley Cottage.

Zebrowski, 29, was elected to the state Assembly in a May 2007 special election held after the death of his father, Assemblyman Kenneth Peter Zebrowski. New City resident and practicing attorney, Zebrowski graduated from the Clarkstown school system before going to SUNY Albany and Seton Hall University School of Law. He is single.

Zebrowski said his goals include growing jobs for the district and instituting a property tax cap. "I think I've been an effective legislator in both shaping state-wide policy and addressing local concerns," he said.

Getting on the Independence and Working Families lines is important, Zebrowski said, "but it's not the whole election. Every vote helps."

Sparaco, 34, lives in Valley Cottage and has been a Rockland County legislator since 2007. He owns Pop's Vending and is a decorated U.S. Navy combat veteran. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for six years and have a 4-year-old daughter. He attended Nyack High School, Arizona State University, the **College of Staten Island** and Rockland Community College.

Sparaco said Zebrowski consistently votes with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat who represents the Lower East Side of Manhattan. "That's not being an independent voice," Sparaco said.

If elected to the Assembly, he said he will fulfill three promises. "I will not vote for any tax increases or increased mandates to counties," he said, "and will fight to repeal the MTA payroll tax and will push for a property tax cap."

No matter the outcome of the primary, Zebrowski and Sparaco will both appear on the November ballot for assemblyman on the Democratic and Republican lines, respectively.

The 94th Assembly District includes the towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw and portions of the Town of Ramapo, including the villages of Pomona, Wesley Hills and most of New Hempstead.

Other races New City voters will have to decide include a Republican primary between former U.S. Representative Rick Lazio and Buffalo businessman Carl Paladino. Lazio is also being challenged on the Conservative line by West Seneca attorney Ralph C. Lorigo.

Democratic incumbent Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand faces a primary against Gail Goode, a trial supervisor in New York City's Corporation Counsel. They are running to fill a two-year term in the U.S. Senate.

Committee leadership for the 94th Congressional District is also on the ballot for the Independence Party line.

The polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. today.



PHOTOS (2)



ZEBROWSKI VS. SPARACO: THE WAIT FOR AN INDEPENDENCE WINNER CONTINUES

Race for the third-party line in 94th Assembly District Independence too close to call; absentee ballots won't be counted until Tuesday.

By [Michael Woyton](#) | [Email the author](#) | September 15, 2010



It's up to the absentee ballots in the 94th Assembly District Independence Party race, and that means the candidates won't know the outcome until at least Tuesday.

The absentee will determine whether incumbent Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, or Rockland County Legislator Frank Sparaco, R-Valley Cottage, will appear on the Independence Party line in the November general election.

According to unofficial results from the county Board of Elections, Zebrowski received 183 votes, which was more than the 121 write-in votes. There are 115 applications for absentee ballots.

Sparaco petitioned successfully for an opportunity to ballot, which forced Tuesday's primary.

Democratic Elections Commissioner Ann Marie Kelly said the absentee ballots will be counted Tuesday afternoon.

The new optical scanner voting machines captured the written-in names and the board is getting those images from the stored data, she said.

"We have to bring up the image" and interpret it, Kelly said. "Last night, all we got was the number of write-ins."

She said the oval next to the area where voters could write in a name had to be filled in — just like on the rest of the ballot where names were printed — in order for the vote to count.

Kelly said as soon as the board has gone through all the write-in votes it will make public the results.

Zebrowski, 29, was elected to the state Assembly in a May 2007 special election held after the death of his father, Assemblyman Kenneth Peter Zebrowski. New City resident and practicing attorney, Zebrowski graduated from Clarkstown school system before going to SUNY Albany and Seton Hall University School of Law. He is single.

Sparaco, 34, lives in Valley Cottage and has been a Rockland County legislator since 2007. He owns Pop's Vending and is a decorated U.S. Navy combat veteran. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for six years and have a 4-year-old daughter. He attended Nyack High School, Arizona State University, the **College of Staten Island** and Rockland Community College.

Zebrowski will appear on the Democratic Party line in November. Sparaco will appear on the Republican, Conservative and Working Families party lines.

In other races, Rockland County voters did not buck the statewide voting trends.

In the Democratic race for attorney general, county voters chose Eric Schneiderman to be on the November ballot by 43.6 percent. Out of the four other candidates, his closet opponent was Kathleen Rice at almost 18 percent of the ballots cast.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand handily won over NYC attorney Gail Goode in the county, with 69.5 percent of the votes over Goode's 21.9 percent.

Buffalo business man Carl Paladino bested former U.S. Rep. Rick Lazio by a margin of 50.5 percent to 43.5 percent for the Republican Party line in Rockland County.

In the Republican Senate primary, Rockland voters gave Jay Townsend 52 percent of the votes to Gary Berntsen's 42 percent.



ZEBROWSKI VS. SPARACO: INDEPENDENCE WINNER COULD BE DECIDED TUESDAY

When the write-in votes were counted, Zebrowski's lead increased by two.

By [Michael Woyton](#) | [Email the author](#) | 5:32am

Who the Independence Party candidate for the 94th Assembly District will be will have to wait until Tuesday.

Incumbent Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, and Rockland County Legislator Frank Sparaco, R-Valley Cottage, spent part of Thursday at the Rockland County Board of Elections examining the results of the write-in ballot survey.

The net result was Sparaco lost two votes.

The unofficial results of the primary, released early Wednesday morning, were 183 votes for Zebrowski and 121 write-in votes. After the board interpreted the write-in votes, Sparaco ended up with 119 votes—down 64 from Zebrowski.

Sparaco is now waiting to see what the absentee ballots yield. There were 115 absentee ballots sent out. To be valid, absentee ballots must have been postmarked Monday. They must arrive at the Board of Elections by Tuesday.

"I think that if I win it will be by four to five votes," Sparaco said. "If I lose, it will be by between 10 to 20."

Zebrowski said he will be looking closely at the absentee ballots to make sure they are valid.

"Right now, I'm happy to have a 64-vote margin," he said. "At this point, I'm already looking toward November."

Zebrowski, 29, was elected to the state Assembly in a special election May 2007 held after the death of his father, Assemblyman Kenneth Peter Zebrowski. New City resident and practicing attorney, Zebrowski graduated from Clarkstown schools before going to SUNY Albany and Seton Hall University School of Law. He is single.

Sparaco, 34, from Valley Cottage, has been a Rockland County legislator since 2007. He is the owner of Pop's Vending and is a decorated U.S. Navy combat veteran. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for six years and have a 4-year-old daughter. He attended Nyack High School, Arizona State University, the [College of Staten Island](#) and Rockland Community College.

Zebrowski and Sparaco will appear on the November ballot for assemblyman on the Democratic and Republican lines, respectively. Sparaco will also appear on the Conservative and Working Families party lines.

Rockland school news

5K walk-run to help families with tuition

GREEN MEADOW WALDORF SCHOOL: Green Meadow Waldorf at 307 Hungry Hollow Road in Chestnut Ridge will hold a 5K walk-run Saturday to benefit families who need tuition assistance. Today is the last day for participants to register in advance. Registration will also be available at 7 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the Chestnut Ridge Middle School, 892 Chestnut Ridge Road. The fee is \$25 per person or \$70 per family. Contact 5K coordinator Lisa Cusano at Lisa.m.Cusano@gmail.com or call development assistant Katie Burns at 845-356-2514, Ext. 304.

Green Meadow will hold Oct. 16 fair

GREEN MEADOW WALDORF SCHOOL: A fall fair featuring pumpkin carving, hayrides, puppet shows, children's activities, music and food will be held from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Green Meadow Waldorf School, 307 Hungry Hollow Road, Chestnut Ridge. The rain date is Oct. 17. Vendors will sell handcrafted gifts, toys and clothing. Call 845-356-2514.

2 in math named to tenure-track posts

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Rockland Community College appointed Jean L. Phanor of Monsey and Eric Magaram of Staten Island to the tenure-track positions of instructor of mathematics. Phanor has served as an RCC adjunct faculty member since 2006, teaching algebra, calculus and statistics. He also worked as an adjunct at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J. Phanor, a former RCC student, received his Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., and his master's degree in pure mathematics from City College of the City University of New York. Magaram worked at the City of New York Harcourt Fellowship Program at Hunter College and the Teacher Academy and at the College of Staten Island. Magaram received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the City of New York College of Staten Island and a Master of Science degree in applied statistics from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, N. J.

O&R gives \$1,500 for scholarships

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc. presented the Rockland Community College Foundation with a check for \$1,500 for its scholarship program. The foundation was established in 1982. It has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to students for either scholastic excellence or financial need or both.

Arts Council offers grants to schools

The Arts Council of Rockland has grants available for in-school programs through the Arts Education Grants. Rockland prekindergarten-12 public, private, parochial and charter schools are eligible. The grants provide funds for collaborations of Rockland schools with cultural organizations or artists to implement projects that use the arts to improve teaching and learning. Projects must take place between Jan. 1 and June 15. Arts Education Grants provide matching funds that range from \$500 to \$4,000. Guideline and application seminars will be offered to assist applicants. The seminars are scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Arts Council of Rockland, 55 W. Railroad Ave., Building 24, Suite A, Garnerville, and 4 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Rockland Teachers Center, 14 E. Vanderlip Circle, Thiells. Applications are due by 1 p.m. Oct. 27. Call Mark Judelson at 845-947-3660 or e-mail info@artscouncilofrockland.org. Guidelines and applications can be downloaded from www.artscouncilofrockland.org.

"In the Schools" is compiled by staff writer Nicole Futterman. Announcements are listed on Mondays. To submit information, send an e-mail to nfutterm@lohud.com or a fax to 845-578-2477.

ZEBROWSKI TAKES INDEPENDENCE PARTY LINE

Sparaco write-in effort during primary falls short as absentee ballots are finally counted.

By [Michael Woyton](#) | [Email the author](#) | September 21, 2010



Incumbent Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, will appear as the Independence Party candidate for the 94th Assembly District in the November general election.

Rockland County Legislator Frank Sparaco, R-Valley Cottage, said the absentee ballots were counted Tuesday at the Rockland County Board of Elections for the primary held Sept 14. He said the unofficial count, including the absentees, was 198 votes for Zebrowski and 172 for him.

"Looks like I lost," Sparaco said. "I don't think it's worth opening up the machines" and canvassing the marked ballots to see if uncounted votes were intended for him.

Zebrowski now has his eyes on November.

"I worked hard to communicate my independent agenda with the voters," he said. "The results indicate our campaign was successful, and I look forward to moving on to the general election."

The unofficial results immediately after the Sept. 14 primary were 183 votes for Zebrowski and 121 write-in votes.

After the Board of Elections examined the write-in votes Thursday, Sparaco ended up with 119 of them, but was down 64 from Zebrowski.

After the absentee votes were counted, Zebrowski gained 26 more votes, while Sparaco gained 53.

Zebrowski, 29, was elected to the state Assembly in a special election May 2007 held after his father, Assemblyman Kenneth Peter Zebrowski, died. New City resident and practicing attorney, Zebrowski graduated from Clarkstown schools before going to SUNY Albany and Seton Hall University School of Law. He is single.

Sparaco, 34, from Valley Cottage, was elected to the Rockland County Legislature in 2007. He owns Pop's Vending and is a decorated U.S. Navy combat veteran. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for six years and have a 4-year-old daughter. Sparaco attended Nyack High School, Arizona State University, the [College of Staten Island](#) and Rockland Community College.

Zebrowski and Sparaco will appear on the November ballot for assemblyman on the Democratic and Republican lines, respectively. Sparaco will also appear on the Conservative and Working Families party lines.

ELECTIONS

Sparaco vs. Zebrowski: Primary for Third-Party Endorsements Now Turns to Absentee Ballots

Republican Sparaco not ready to concede Independence Party line to incumbent Democrat Zebrowski.

By Michael Woyton 3:03am

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

There may be a split decision in the 94th Assembly District fight for the Independence and Working Families party lines.

According to unofficial results, incumbent Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, D-New City, received more votes than Rockland County Legislature member Frank Sparaco, R-Valley Cottage, to claim the Independence Party line on the ballot for the November general election. With 100 percent of precincts reporting, there were 183 votes for Zebrowski and 121 write-in votes.

For the Working Families line, the total write-in votes outnumbered those cast for Zebrowski, with Zebrowski receiving 12 votes to 35 write-ins.

"I think my independent record and reform agenda resonated with the voters," Zebrowski said. "This builds momentum for November."

Sparaco said he thinks the Independence line is too close to call.

"There were 115 applications for absentee ballots," he said. "As of today, the board of elections had about 70 returns, and I know I have about 60 of them."

"I need to see the paper and see if people wrote in my name and didn't fill in the oval so the machine wouldn't count it," Sparaco said. "We need to find out what the voters' intent was."



Zebrowski, 29, was elected to the state Assembly in a May 2007 special election held after the death of his father, Assemblyman Kenneth Peter Zebrowski. A New City resident and practicing attorney, Zebrowski graduated from the Clarkstown school system before going to SUNY Albany and Seton Hall University School of Law. He is single.

He said his goals as Assemblyman are to grow jobs in his district and institute a property tax cap.

Sparaco, 34, lives in Valley Cottage and has been a Rockland County legislator since 2007. He owns Pop's Vending and is a decorated U.S. Navy combat veteran. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for six years and have a 4-year-old daughter. He attended Nyack High School, Arizona State University, the College of Staten Island and Rockland Community College.

Sparaco said, if elected, he would never vote for any tax increase and would fight to repeal the MTA payroll tax.

Zebrowski and Sparaco will appear on the November ballot for assemblyman on the Democratic and Republican lines, respectively. Sparaco will also appear on the Conservative Party line.

Just who will lead the Independence Party in the 94th District is up in the air as far as the female state committee member is concerned.

Marsha F. Coopersmith, the current member, is behind Debra Ortutay by nine votes. Who wins will be determined by the absentee ballots.

Michael S. Ortutay is likely the male state committee member, with 147 votes to 115 for Cesar A. Perez.

The 94th Assembly District includes the towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw and portions of the Town of Ramapo, including the villages of Pomona, Wesley Hills and most of New Hempstead.

Here are the unofficial results from Tuesday's primaries across New York:

Governor: Cuomo will face Paladino

In an upset, the Republican primary between Rick A. Lazio (<http://www.lazio.com/>), a native Long Islander and former member of the U.S House of Representatives, and Carl P. Paladino (<http://www.paladinoforthepeople.com/>), a former lawyer and conservative who has the backing of the Tea Party, ended with a Paladino victory on Tuesday.

Paladino tallied 63 percent of the vote to Lazio's 37 percent.

Lieutenant Governor: Ognibene and Duffy

Thomas V. Ognibene (<http://www.paladinoforthepeople.com/>), a conservative and former member of the New York City Council who ran for mayor against Michael Bloomberg, is Paladino's chosen running mate. Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy is Cuomo's choice for Lt. Governor.

State Attorney General: Schneiderman Likely

Eric Schneiderman looks set to clinch the Democratic nomination with 34 percent of the vote. Kathleen Rice is at 31 percent.

Schneiderman will likely face Daniel Donovan (<http://dandonovan.org/>), a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the only Republican candidate, in the November election.

Five Democrats were hopeful for the Democratic nomination to be Attorney General: Richard Brodsky (<http://www.richardbrodsky.com/>), a member of the State Assembly representing the 92nd district since 1982; Eric T. Schniederman (<http://www.eric schniederman.com/>), a progressive Democrat and member of the state Senate since 1998; Sean Coffey (<http://www.coffey2010.com/>), a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Eric R. DiNallo, former Assistant District Attorney, Assistant Attorney General, and head of the New York State Insurance Department; and Kathleen Rice (<http://www.kathleenrice.com/>), the District Attorney for Nassau County.

U.S. Senator (full term): Townsend will face Schumer

Jay Townsend (<http://www.townsendfornewyork.com/>), a businessman who owns the consulting firm The Townsend Group, beat Gary Berntsen (<http://www.garyfornewyork.com/>), a retired CIA officer and businessman, for the Republican nomination on Tuesday.

Townsend secured 56 percent of the vote to Berntsen's 44 percent. Townsend will face Democrat Charles E. Schumer, the current U.S. Senator.

U.S. Senator (unexpired term): Gillibrand will face DiGuardi

Kirsten Gillibrand (<http://www.kirstengillibrand.com/>) had a landslide victory over Gail Goode (<http://www.gailgoode.com/>), a former lawyer for the New York City Transit Authority. Gillibrand tallied 76 percent of the vote to Goode's 24 percent.

The Republican candidate Joseph J. DiGuardi (<http://www.dioguardiforussenate.com/>) secured his party's nomination with 42 percent of the vote over his next closest rival, David Malpass (<http://www.malpassforsenate.com/>), who had 38 percent. Bruce Blakeman (<http://www.blakeman2010.com/>), an attorney and former member of the Nassau County Legislature had 20 percent of the vote.

Jersey Shore's Vinny Tells Us Why He's Giving Up His Dreams of Being a Lawyer for an Acting Career

• 9/23/10 at 5:30 PM

When people first started talking about MTV's *Jersey Shore*, it was always about Snooki or The Situation. And floating around in the background, getting little attention, was Vinny. What kind of nickname is *that*? A former political aide who spoke of law school, Vinny Guadagnino came off like he was possibly too smart to fit in on this show. But he seems to have solved that brains/brew dichotomy this season, jumping headlong into the antics and hedonism with everyone else. Fresh off of filming season three (back at the Jersey Shore), Vinny spoke to us about how he got comfortable, and why he's shelved that whole law-school plan.

Everyone is saying that you've come out of your shell this season. Why'd you lay so low last year?
In general, I'm just not a dramatic person. That's just my personality. I wasn't outlandish, I wasn't with my friends. I wasn't comfortable. I was getting used to being away from home, on the show, living with new people. By the time I got used to all that, the season was over. It left me in a comfortable position [for season two]. It's not like I changed characters or anything like that. It's just that the first time around I was adjusting.

What were you doing before the show?

I was in college for four years: I first went to SUNY New Paltz and then I went to CUNY CSI [College of Staten Island]. I did political science, and I was going to go to law school, so I was studying for my LSATs and hooking that up. That's when somebody sent me the casting thing. It happened right when I graduated; the first opportunity that really came my way.

You used to work for a politician.

Yeah, I worked for a Staten Island state assemblyman [Democrat Michael Cusick].

Do ever feel like you can't show that intelligent side on the show?

I straight-up told [MTV] when they picked me that I went to college, and I wouldn't dumb myself down. I eloquently described to them how to party at the Jersey Shore. I definitely didn't — and don't — hide [that side of me]. But it's not really about showcasing where we went to college, or law, or poli-sci. We don't even have a TV, or a radio, or cell phones. We don't even talk about current events. It's not like they don't make us talk about politics, it's just that we're in this cocoon. Even if I wanted to, I couldn't talk about politics. It's just about having fun. There's so much drama, we wouldn't have time in that hour to sit around and talk about religion.

It seems like you're not as into doing endorsements or club appearances as the other cast members.

I think that people who have more of a story around them — a nickname — they are definitely segueing into other things that would get them endorsements, magazines, this show or that show. Pauly does the D.J.'ing thing. Me, I'm on the opposite side of the spectrum. There is no gimmick to me, there is no nickname. It's just Vinny. I'm starting to shape my career. I'm interested in acting, more than anything. So I want to dedicate that time to getting coached and getting auditions. But it all has to shape around my long-term goals. An endorsement now might mean that I may not be able to get on a show in a few years, and I don't want to do anything that will blow that chance.

Do you worry that you'll be put in a box, given what happens on the show?

Fortunately, for me, I think that if I keep being myself, I'm in a position where people understand that I'm on the show, but I am not *the* show. I'm Vinny, and just like any other model is a model before they are an actor, or a rapper is a rapper before they are an actor, I don't see why I should be criticized for being on a show where I got my beginning from. But I don't think that's going to happen. It comes down to whether you are good or not.

Were you really considering law school at Harvard or Yale?

I said that if got into Harvard or Yale with my LSAT score, then maybe I'd give up on the reality-TV career, but this was back when the show just started. But I didn't, obviously. It was good enough to get into a good school, but my score was nowhere near that. But the next day after saying that, all these headlines said "Vinny is going to Yale or Harvard!" When I wanted to go to law school, I didn't really know what lawyers did, and I still didn't want to be a lawyer. I just wanted the degree, and that still stands. I think it's very prestigious to have a law degree. You can go into politics, the FBI, Wall Street. I would never rule that out. But I don't want to be a lawyer. I have a lawyer now, and I see what he does, and it's not for me.

Some reality-TV stars have gone into politics after their show ended.

What is American politics? You have to be smart, but it's all campaigning — if people get a good vibe from you, if people recognize that you have a good head on your shoulders, and if people trust you. When you're on the show and you're out there in public, people get all of that. It's like you're campaigning for yourself with whatever you want to do. And I can definitely see politics as one of [those things]. You open up your soul to America.

So you're not planning on going on another reality show, like the ones where they take celebrities and cram them in a house together and make them do challenges?

[Laughs.] No, honestly, I never pictured myself on a reality show. You would never see me auditioning for *Rock of Love*. Not that I'm saying anything bad about them, but there is a certain type of reality person, and then there's me. Which is kind of a contradiction, since I'm on a reality show.

How do you think the rest of the cast is handling their new fame?

Everybody loves the moment. Usually reality shows are a one-season thing, see ya later. Then you have to try to manage your way through life. That's how it normally is. Then people go back to school, working. I've seen people who were in movies who are waiters now. It's the same thing. But we've been given a rare opportunity where we have a couple of seasons, and we're on one of the biggest shows on TV. We are all pretty smart kids; you don't see that, but we're not idiots. We can transition the opportunity we're given and transition it to something else.

By: [Michael Rispoli](#)

A knack for accessorizing inspires Tottenville entrepreneur

Published: Thursday, September 30, 2010, 12:34 PM



Kacey L. Semler



Marissa Ruggeri is the creative mind behind "Missie's Creations" - a side-business based out of her Tottenville home through which she handcrafts bright and colorful headbands, hairpieces and other accessories for kids and adults. (Staten Island Advance/Kacey Semler)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - TOTTEVILLE - Marissa Ruggeri is a 29-year-old who, as the expression goes, wears many hats.

She's a mother, a full-time teacher, a tutor and a soon-to-be student.

But, perhaps her favorite hat to wear is that of a businesswoman - currently, she runs "Missie's Creations" from her Tottenville home. Strictly a part-time operation, it allows Ms. Ruggeri to tap into her artistic side as she handcrafts bright and colorful headbands, hairpieces and other accessories for kids and adults.

"My nieces were my inspirations," she said, referring to Isabella, 1 1/2, and Gianna, 9. "Whatever I make I try out on them."

Though Ms. Ruggeri started the venture just six months ago, it's already picking up steam. With the help of Facebook and word-of-mouth advertising, she's receiving a steady flow of orders.

She also sells her pieces on consignment at several local businesses, including Salon 72 in Dongan Hills on the East Shore, and Episode Nails, and Cape House Gallery - owned by her aunt and uncle - both in Tottenville.

Every item Ms. Ruggeri creates is one-of-a-kind, as she strives to make each piece custom and unique.

"I like being creative and being on a more personal level with my customers. I'm having fun and hope my items will help build more self-esteem in kids," she said.

A hot-glue gun specialist by night, Ms. Ruggeri spends her days at P.S. 23 in Richmond, on the East Shore, where she works as an Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teacher.

A graduate of St. John Villa Academy, she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and society from the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook. She also received two master's degrees in elementary education and early education, also from CSI.

This winter, Ms. Ruggeri will return to the West Shore campus to start classes toward her Ph.D in education administration.

In addition to her roles in the classroom, Ms. Ruggeri offers her teaching skills as an after-school tutor for children.

She's also a dedicated "chauffeur" to her son, Christopher, 7. "He's very involved," she said. "He plays football, basketball, and baseball."

"I'm strongly devoted to everything I do, but being a mom comes first."

So, how does Ms. Ruggeri keep track of it all?

"With my blackberry - and calendars. I have calendars everywhere," she laughed.

How to order

Accessories from "Missie's Creations" range in price from \$5 to \$25 or more. For more information, or to place a custom order, call Ms. Ruggeri at 718-300-7442, or search for Missie's Creations on Facebook. Any businesses or salons interested in displaying Ms. Ruggeri's work, may also call.

© 2010 SILive.com. All rights reserved.