

the Editor

program happen for a second successful year! Thank you to everyone at CAANH for supporting Manhasset SEPTA's G & T division, and for serving the hungry minds of all the youngsters who have attended the program.

We are so delighted to be able to bring this wonderful culture and language program to Manhasset and the families in the Town of North Hempstead. Together, SEPTA is providing an outstanding learning opportunity to our youth—and we are so grateful to CAANH, our teachers, and our participants for making the Chinese Language and Culture program a continuing success. Look for the program's return in the spring 2011 at the Manhasset Public Library—we hope to see new and returning families.

Kelly Fu

Manhasset SEPTA Vice President
Director of the Gifted & Talented Division

Response to: 'Why So Much Water in 2010?'

Troy's astute observation was in reference to the Manhasset-Lakeville Water District's record setting water pumpage in July 2010. The increase of 146 million gallons over July 2009 was directly attributable to lawn irrigation. In total, the district pumped over 2.6 billion gallons of water to our residents in 2010. The system's ability to meet that demand is a tribute to the current and past board's commitment to keeping our water system's infrastructure strong and up-to-date. Long Island has one of the greatest natural water supplies on the planet. We ask that all residents be mindful of conservation to help preserve this precious resource for future generations.

Paul J. Schrader, P.E.
Superintendent, MLWD

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JACK MARTINS

Ground Running

State to create jobs, something we all agree we desperately need. The bill provides businesses with a three-year tax credit of up to \$5,000 for each new job created and eliminates taxes for small businesses that are hindering job growth.

Mary Jabbour and the Town That Time Forgot

Five Homes in Strathmore Vanderbilt in Same Hands for 37 Years

By Dennis Klainberg

In *Newsday's* article announcing that three of Manhasset's incorporated villages made the top 10 of our nation's wealthiest places to live, one of our neighbors declared our town's very special sense of community, so special that the children of our residents often return as grown-ups to become homeowners themselves.

Such is the case for our family, and so many others who chose to return and raise their children in—as *The NY Times* called it so many years ago—“The Town that Time Forgot.”

But in so noting, we often overlook the contributions of the first generation, our parents, and those who were, have been, and even still, are committed to living in and working towards the quality of life that makes our town so special.

Certainly, my own father, who regretfully now is not as capable as when he wrote his famous *Manhasset Press* “Bernie's Banter” column, due to his oft-cited Parkinson's Disease, still resides here, along with my saintly mother, and Adelphi Nursing Professor (and former Dean) Dr. Marilyn Klainberg (albeit, with the occasional month off in Miami when Adelphi is not in session).

Sadly, it was during this last holiday break, when our second generational family (nestled these last 14 years in Plandome Heights) while visiting with my parents in Florida, received a call that immediately changed the composition of South Strathmore.

On Dec. 31, 2010 we learned that Mary Jabbour, dear friend and neighbor, died, following the death of her husband Edmond a few short years ago. Mary was a dynamic, witty and extremely kind woman who, thanks to her Puerto Rican heritage, her love for her church, and passion for the success of her family (six Jabbour daughters), exuded a warmth and vitality that comforted all who knew her.

What is fascinating, and something we second generation families (including that of lifelong friend Michael Gallo, living in Strathmore Vanderbilt with his

family) took for granted, is that this very special area, consisting of five homes contiguously situated, had, until this moment, not changed hands since our childhood; that is to say, over 37 years.

From the home of the Fischer family on East Gate, to that of the Zbodulas and Gallos on Old Mill, with the Jabbour home wrapping around onto Short Drive, next to my parent's home, there was truly a Manhasset phenomenon that, to my knowledge, was never ever heralded in the wake of new construction everywhere, burgeoning new developments, new stores, more traffic, and ever longer school drop-off lanes.

I imagine there may be some other Manhasset enclaves not unlike this one in terms of first generational longevity, but this one truly was special. In pockets in and around this section, we are still pleased to see the Benedettis up the block (whose son Joe and family is our neighbor in Plandome Heights), the Petersons, the Simons, the Bradys, the Joyces, the Demerts (who moved a few blocks away, but whose daughter now lives in the family home, and thank you realtor Lucy for helping us find our homes), the Ciampas in Strathmore Vanderbilt, and even the Foersts, in not so far away Strathmore Village, whose friendship with the Jabbour family brought them to our neck of the woods so many, many times.

Funny enough, even though all of us went our separate ways, thanks to my work as a freight forwarder—my father's profession, shared by myself and my brother, Greg (living in Great Neck), and because I am a JFK Rotarian, I have stayed in contact with the Jabbour girls (living throughout Long Island) the Gallos, the Fischers, and most recently, dear old friend Chris Zbodula, who lives in North Carolina.

As often stated, the school system and train line to Manhattan make Manhasset an attractive burg; but it's our families, and the commitment and friendliness of people like Mary Jabbour, that make our town a great place to live.

Three Manhasset Villages