

***THE BRONX CLUB OF
VEGAS VALLEY
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2010***



THE YEAR IS 1953.

Can you tell me where this picture was taken?

If you require any information concerning the Club, know of anyone interested in joining the Club, or have any ideas for upcoming events, please contact Leslie Schoenberg ls1166@aol.com, house 838-3560, cell 702-513-2553. In addition, I am also Newsletter Editor. If you have, any articles about The Bronx or New York that you would like to have put in the Newsletter, please forward them to me at the above email address.

Our Co-Chair is Sue Braun, suefromtustin@yahoo.com, 360-2232. Please try me first. If you cannot get me then call Sue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 26th – The Bagel Café, 301 North Buffalo Drive, between Summerlin Parkway and Westcliff. The dinner starts at 5:30 pm. Event hosts: Leslie and Larry Schoenberg. Please respond by September 20, to Leslie Schoenberg ls1166@aol.com, 838-3560 or Sue Braun, 360-2232, suefromtustin@yahoo.com. Our guest Speaker will be Jill Hanlon Esq. Ms. Hanlon a former New Yorker, received her Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School and her Masters of Business Administration from The Bernard M. Baruch College, The City University of New York. She was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1998. Her areas of practice include Elder Care, Estate Planning, Probate, Guardianship, Trusts and Wills. Jill will give a short and informative talk then will answer any questions you may have. You can order from the menu and the restaurant will issue a separate check including gratuity. For only one dollar per person, the restaurant has agreed to put a pastry on each table for dessert. We will collect \$1.00 at the door, to cover Jill's expense.

October 17th – Memphis Championship Barbecue, 1401 South Rainbow Boulevard, website - [Memphis Championship Barbecue Menu](#). Event hosts: Sue and Les Braun. Please respond to suefromtustin@yahoo.com, 360-2232 or Leslie Schoenberg ls1166@aol.com, 838-3560. Responses must be in by October 12. The dinner starts promptly at 6:00 pm. You can order from the menu. The restaurant will issue separate checks, including gratuity. Our guest speaker will be Jon Ralston, who hosts a daily public affairs show on KSNV Channel 3 called Face to Face with Jon Ralston. We will collect \$1.00 at the door to cover Mr. Ralston's expenses.

Following is a short biography.

Jon Ralston hails from Buffalo, NY. He received a B.A. in English from Cornell University in 1981 and a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Michigan in 1983.

Jon Ralston



Jon came to Las Vegas in 1984 as a night reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He later covered general assignment and county government before becoming a political reporter in 1986. Jon became a full-time political columnist in January 1989.

Jon began publishing The Ralston Report, a statewide political newsletter, in January 1993. Until late 1999, he was freelancing columns to the Review Journal and doing commentary for Channel 8. In July 1998, he began a daily newsletter sent by e-mail to subscribers.

November 14th – Location: Television City in the MGM Casino, 3600 Las Vegas Boulevard, South. Television City is located at the end of Studio Walk and is affiliated with the CBS television network. Your hosts are Susan and Allen Blonder. NOTE: This event will start at 1:00 pm. Tickets are free, but we need to have an exact count no later than November 1, 2010. Lunch will follow at Wolfgang Puck in the MGM Casino. [WOLFGANG PUCK BAR AND GRILL :: LAS VEGAS RESTAURANT](#). Please respond by November 1, to Susan or Allen at 395-6878, or Leslie Schoenberg at ls1166@aol.com, 838-3560. If you need a ride, please call Susan or Allen and they will try to arrange one for you.

December –We will be having a potluck holiday party on December 19, at the home of Les and Susan Braun, 11021 Cherwell Court. Les, Susan, Larry and Leslie Schoenberg will host the party. Details to follow in the October Newsletter.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Niedelman September 15

Marjorie Karp September 16

Robin Johnson September 17

Howard Lasky September 26

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Les and Co-Chair Sue Braun September 2, their 50th.

Vinny and Rene Marino September 4, their 23rd.

David and Rhoda Pearlstein September 7, their 11th.

Bob and Carol Seskin September 8, their 47th.

Sheldon and Sharon Gottlieb September 13, their 29th.

Carolyn Jones and Phil Potashner September 19, their 29th.

Phil and Loretta Nass September 20, their 51st.

Sandy and Barbara Rubens September 27, their 29th.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL. MAY YOU CELEBRATE MANY HAPPIER,
HEALTHY OCCASIONS.**

**THIS MONTH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RECEIVED GET WELL
CARDS:**

Carole Pollack

Arleen Spiegel Lasky

**DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THE RIVERDALE ARTICLE, THE
ARTICLES ON MORRISANIA AND CITY ISLAND WILL BE IN THE
OCTOBER ISSUE.**

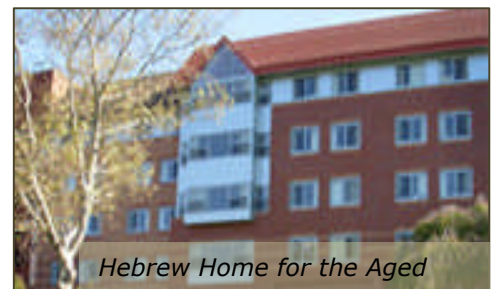
NEIGHBORHOOD LIVING – Continued from last month.

Following is a short history of early Riverdale. A far calmer scene was Riverdale. As with Highbridge, Riverdale was separated from the rest of The Bronx by a high bluff. Unlike Highbridge, many of the Irish who lived there were servants in the large estates that spread across the area. Here, the wealthy lived in their great mansions, and it was common to refer to The Freeman Estate, The Dodge Estate or the Delafield Estate. Although the old established families were most prominent, pedigree was not as important as wealth and prominence in enabling one to reside in Riverdale. Anthony Compagna could build his mansion across the street from the huge estate of George Freeman, partner of J. P. Morgan. Close by, Joseph P. Kennedy resided. It was a comfortable life in a quiet neighborhood.

Following are the remembrances of Greg Abbott, who grew up in the Riverdale section of The Bronx.

In July 1946, my family moved back to New York and into an apartment in Riverdale. I was 4½ years old. Our apartment complex of ten buildings was one of the very few apartment houses in the north end of Riverdale, at 254 St. The apartment, on the sixth floor, had a window that overlooked the Hudson River and the Palisades of New Jersey. Adjacent to us on the north side, was a humongous rock hill.

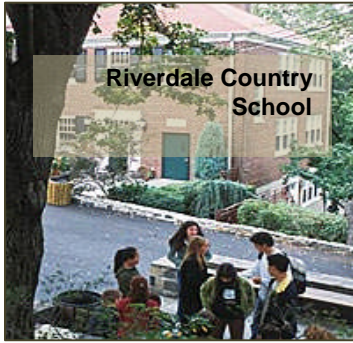
That was our playground for a few years. Every winter we would sled down the "mountain," always trying to stop before we slid out onto Riverdale Avenue. P.S. 81 was across the street. In the early 50s, the hill was dynamited and new apartments were built.



Riverdale attracted an interesting crowd. The British owned Wave Hill. Dignitaries such as the Queen Mother would stay there when she came to New York. Others who lived there at one time or another were Mark Twain and Bobby Kennedy. Arturo Toscanini's estate flowed downhill toward the Hudson River alongside 254th St. The well known Hebrew Home for the Aged still exists near the river and the College of Mount St. Vincent resides in the northwest corner of the Bronx.

The Russian Enclave is located on Mosholu Ave., where the Russian United Nations personnel live. This was in the middle of our favorite woods to play, which also included Indian Hill and a chicken farm. As boys, we used to chase the chickens.

Lou Gehrig lived nearby on the hill behind Christ Church. Around 1960, the movie *Splendor in the Grass* was filmed in Riverdale. More of the movie was filmed at the Riverdale Country School for Boys, Horace Mann High School, and the basketball game was filmed in the gym. The Riverdale Country School for Girls served as the insane asylum in which they sequestered Natalie's character.



Riverdale Temple was in the old, large, Ben Riley's Arrowhead Inn, on a hill overlooking the Henry Hudson Parkway at 246 St. In 1953, they decided to build a new Temple at 246 St. and Independence Ave. It opened, almost completely finished, in late 1954. I was the first Bar Mitzvah in the temple in February 1955.



The Riverdale Neighborhood House on Mosholu Avenue and 256 Street was built in 1872 as a lending library for neighborhood workers. The Neighborhood House was the hub of Riverdale. It housed the neighborhoods first library and community rooms. A baseball field, tennis courts, and swimming pool are attached. That baseball field is where one of the first Little League franchises in New York City played. When I became of age to play (9), my father and his friend got the franchise. Now my friends and I had a place to play baseball. Basketball courts were in the schoolyard at P.S. 81. As a teenager, I played with some of the best basketball players in the New York City area. P.S. 81 in Riverdale and Rockville Center in Long Island were where the top players spent their summers. Even Sugar Ray Robinson would come down to play once in awhile.

The wealthy area in Riverdale is Fieldstone. Fieldstone is privately owned. Beautiful wooded streets and magnificent homes still exist there. Manhattan College, the Fieldstone School, and Horace Mann High School are located in Fieldstone.



The Bell Tower Park (the Monument), was situated right above the Henry Hudson Parkway at 242 St., which "divided" north Riverdale from south Riverdale, also known as Spuyten Duyvil.

Fieldstone



***A final anecdote!
The Toscanini estate
flowed downhill on
254 St. It had a
waist-high stone
fence along the
street side. On the
estate side of the
fence, was an old,
chestnut tree.***

Bell Tower Park



One day, when I was around 7 years old, I was over the wall on the estate side collecting chestnuts that were lying on the ground. My pockets were bulging with nuts. Suddenly I heard a car horn. I looked up and saw a black Cadillac had stopped. The front window was down and the driver was calling me over. I obeyed, climbed over the wall, and walked up to the car. The rear window opened and Arturo Toscanini was looking at me. He said, in his heavy Italian accent, "Boy, what are you doing on my property?" I meekly answered that I was collecting chestnuts. When he asked why, I told him that my mother makes a very good chestnut pie. He said, "Okay, take the chestnuts home and ask your mother to make a pie and bring it to me tomorrow at 3:00 p.m."

I ran home and told my mother, who had never made a chestnut pie in her life. Nevertheless, she did it. The next day I went to his house at 3:00 p.m. and knocked on the door. A butler answered the door and told me to come in. I was in a large space with a winding stone staircase going up. We crossed the hall to a door and I was ushered in. Toscanini sat at the far end of a 20-seat table with a cup of coffee in front of him and a glass of milk at the seat next to him. I sat down and shared the pie with him. He still is one of my favorite persons of all time.



Toscanini

The footnote to the story is that I was actually collecting the chestnuts to make bolos out of them so I could have a "war" with my friends. I never mentioned that to him or my mom.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE BRONX OR HIS OR HER SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOOD PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO ME AND I WILL PUBLISH IT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

OUR AUGUST EVENT was held at TGIFriday's in the Suncoast Casino. Judy Auerbach hosted the dinner and entertainment. As the pictures show, everyone had a great time. Thanks, Judy.



Members Sherry Hackerman and Al Brandon



New members Shelly and Sharon Gottlieb



Hostess Judy Auerbach and her associate Myrna Weidenfield



Entertainer Peggy Thompson

THIS MONTH WE HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT, TRIVIA QUESTIONS ABOUT CARS THAT WERE DRIVEN IN THE BRONX.

- 1. In the 1950's most cars were equipped with a four, six or eight cylinder engine. How many cylinder engines was the 1930 Cadillac powered by?**
- 2. A junior motorized replica of this dual seat sports car was built by the Power Car Co. What was the name of this car styling innovation?**
- 3. In 1950, Chevrolet introduced the first automatic transmission in a low priced car. What was the name of the engineering breakthrough?**
- 4. During 1958 & 1959, this automobile manufacturer introduced such technical gimmicks as transportable radio, the safety sentinel speedometer, new-matic ride, power antenna and adjustable dome lights. Who was the manufacturer?**
- 5. What automobile manufacturer merged with the Hudson Motor Co., on 5/1/1954?**
- 6. What car boasted the first see through top?**
- 7. What car bore portholes on its sides?**
- 8. What now obsolete car offered the exclusive feature of torsion level ride to smooth the road automatically while you drive?**
- 9. Identify these automobile companies from their familiar advertising slogans:**
 - Unmistakably _____.**
 - The forward look _____.**
 - The emphasis is on engineering, but the accent is on elegance.**

 - When better automobiles are, built _____ will build them.**
- 10. What auto manufacturer produced the Hornet Wasp, Commodore, and Pacemaker models?**
- 11. In what year did the Ford Motor Company unleash its 250 million dollar "White Elephant", the Edsel on the American public?**