

Al Fischer gives his 40th gallon of blood at Crest Hollow Country Club on Long Island. Photo by Christie M. Farriella

Bloody good fellow donates 40 gallons

BY HENRICK KAROLISZYN and CARRIE MELAGO
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

HELPING PEOPLE is in his blood.

A 75-year-old Long Island man reached his goal of donating 40 gallons of blood Tuesday morning — inching him closer to becoming the nation's most prolific donor.

"Some people give money," said Al Fischer, a printing shop operator from Massapequa. "I give blood. It's my cause and has been for a long time."

Fischer first donated at the First Baptist Church in Union, S.C., in 1951 while visiting relatives. He's given blood every eight weeks since.

"I haven't stopped. I'm going to keep doing it until I drop," he said.

Fischer is so passionate about donating that his car sports a vanity plate reading "O BLOOD," advertising his universal-donor blood type.

He was rewarded Tuesday with the "Heroglobin Award" for reaching the 40-gallon milestone — an astonishing 320 pints.

"He's an outstanding ambassador for us," said New York Blood Center President Chris Hillyer. "It is a very important donation."

Fischer is only 6 pints shy of eclipsing the country's leader in blood donation, 83-year-old Maurice Wood of St. Louis.

"I've spoken to him before," Fischer said. "I don't think I can beat him unless he stops donating."

When Fischer walked into the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury during a blood drive, he was greeted with hearty applause. He says he donates not for the accolades but to help people in need.

"What if your mother needed blood? Would you give blood?" he asked. "What about your brother? How about your next-door neighbor? How about all mankind?"

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20 years in S.I. mobster slay

A BONANNO crime family member who admitted ordering the Staten Island "haunted house" murder of another gangster was sentenced yesterday to 20 years in prison.

Gino Galestro, 41, a former truck driver who admitted to loansharking and other crimes, said he ordered the grisly murder of mob associate Robert McKelvey at the Kreisler Mansion in 2005 because of a money dispute.

"I've already made enough mistakes to last a lifetime," said a weepy Galestro, who apologized to his victim's family and asked to be sentenced to close to the minimum.

Brooklyn Federal Judge Allyne Ross slapped him with the 20-year max, calling it "extremely lenient."

"I think he deserves all the time he got," said McKelvey's sister Donna Holtermann. "You know what the word of God says: 'Vengeance is mine.'"

Scott Shifrel

Mom sues city on school PCBs

BY BILL EGBERT
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A BRONX woman, frustrated by the city's foot dragging on ridding older schools of toxic materials, is going to court to force action.

Naomi Gonzalez said although it has been more than a year since the Daily News uncovered window caulking material contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls at her daughter's school and others, the city has yet to remove it.

"We're starting another school year, and the city still has done nothing about this problem," said Gonzalez, whose daughter Emelina, 6, at-

tends Public School 178 in the Bronx.

Gonzalez is filing a lawsuit today asking Manhattan Federal Court to require the city Education Department to test for PCB caulk in at-risk schools and force the removal of all tainted material.

A News investigation 17 months ago revealed dangerous levels of potentially cancer-causing PCBs in the window caulking of schools across the city built before the material was banned in 1977.

PS 178 had PCB levels of 2,000 times the legal limit of 50 parts per million. Anything over 50 ppm is deemed toxic under federal law.

In response to The News' investigation, the Education Department scrubbed the schools and removed contaminated soil.

But the city concluded that air tests showed low risk of exposure, so it did not remove the toxic caulking as required by law.

Dan Greene, a lawyer in the city Law Department's environmental law division, couldn't comment on the pending lawsuit, but said, "We are engaged in positive and productive discussions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop an agreement on a plan to address the PCBs in N.Y.C. public schools."

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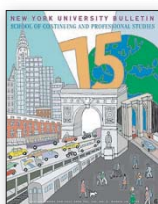
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