

The Island Current

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One Dollar

Island Landmark Demolished

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK, JOHN BURKE and courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM
For over 100 years, the Rosenberger boathouse sat on the property just north over the City Island bridge (bottom left). The historic building, which was once next to the Bay View Hotel (top left), had deteriorated and was demolished on March 8, 2023 (photos right).

On Wednesday, March 8, Facebook started lighting up with photographs and comments about New York City's demolition of the old Rosenberger boathouse aka Worm Hole at 663 City Island Avenue, near the City Island Bridge. Some Islanders were very upset at the loss of this historic building, while others were delighted to see the deteriorated structure gone for good.

For well over a hundred years, the building, supported on pilings that were covered with water at high tide, housed Rosenberger's Boat Livery, owned and operated by Ferdinand Rosenberger and his descendants from 1890 to 1991, when Eddie Rosenberger (the fifth Edward to operate the business) sold it to Island residents "Trader" John Persteins and John Burke.

Ferdinand, according to family legend, was a ship's captain who walked to City Island from the South in 1865 to avoid the Civil War and proceeded to buy parcels of land here, where they rented cottages, ran a biergarten and helped operate the City Island ferry (before the first bridge was built in the 1860s). The Rosenberger building itself was constructed in 1890, next to the famous and popular Bay View Hotel, and the family rented boats to

oystermen, tourists and fishermen, ranging from 28-foot sloops to small orange rowboats, which cost 25 cents a day to rent (\$50 a day in 2008).

Eddie Rosenberger, great-great grandson of Ferdinand, told *The Current* in 1990 that their boathouse had the first public telephone number on the Island with the number 001. He also recalled that the original boathouse was one floor but that the entire structure was jacked up and a second story put underneath it. In those days, he reported, plaster was mixed with horsehair. "Those ceilings will last forever," he boasted.

Island resident Vincent Panzarino remembers that his first job was working at Rosenberger's, "counting worms and directing cars where to park in the lot across the street, painting Ed Jr.'s lobster boat, retrieving skiffs that broke away during storms, and of course working with City Island legend John Caterson on the dock." He also remembers sitting on a very tall bar stool at the mahogany bar, "drinking a Coke with a cherry through a straw, and the smell of Schaefer beer permeating the air while listening to fishing tales."

The building was partially damaged by fire several times, in 1900, 1987 and

1997, but always went back into business promptly, surviving nor'easters, hurricanes, blizzards and even street remappings. After celebrating the 100th anniversary of the business in 1990, however, the Rosenbergers sold the business to Trader John, who continued to rent boats and run a bar that quickly became known as the Worm Hole, presumably honoring the bait that shared the counter with beer and wine. In 2004, Trader John told the *New York Times* that until he renewed his tavern liquor license, he would use a "club beer" license to form a drinking club he called the Seamen's Nestorian Christian Temple to "service both the spiritual and emotional needs of visiting seafarers and merchant men."

Interestingly, the *Times* took a special interest in the building as "perhaps the longest-running fishing outpost of its kind in the country" and published several articles about the Worm Hole from 2000 until 2009, when the business went into receivership for nonpayment of taxes. New York City soon auctioned the property, which was designated as lot 149 and purchased by a real estate dealer who has not since found a buyer. However, the Rosenberger building is not actually included on lot 149 but sits on land that the city had originally mapped as a street. The street was ultimately built further inland at its current location, where it connects Bridge Street to the City Island Bridge, but the unbuilt street remained city-owned and is controlled by the city's Department of Transportation.

Since 2009, with no one at the helm, the building went downhill very quickly, with holes in the roof, a collapsing chimney, sagging ceilings and broken windows, although the piers that held it even during the highest of tides stayed intact. For a while the building was used as a feeding station for stray cats, an illegal residence for a homeless man and who knows what else. Some Islanders wanted to save the un-landmarked landmark from demolition, but according to civil engineers, there was no way the building could be renovated or restored, and so the Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Department of Housing Preservation declared it a hazard and ordered it to be destroyed, along with nearby structures in lot 149.

An appealing feature of the 2004 *New York Times* article was the description of the Worm Hole interior: "The place is cluttered with fishing and nautical equipment. Christmas lights are strung onto fishing reels hung from the ceiling, and the décor includes a menagerie of stuffed fish and animals, including the bison head resting on the bar, the eight-foot shark hanging overhead and a mounted wild boar with a slipknot on its snout." One can only assume that it all ended up in Trader John's store at 239 City Island Avenue, unless it too was demolished along with the building.

Now that the building is gone, some Islanders are wondering what, if anything, might replace it. A new structure is

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

TREES ON CITY ISLAND AVENUE: The City Island Civic Association is moving ahead with its tree-planting project along City Island Avenue. CICA is looking for donations to help cover the cost of planting, as well as physical help in clearing the tree pits (date to be announced). For more information, check the Civic Facebook page or e-mail questions to city.island.civic@gmail.com.

CI NAUTICAL MUSEUM TO HIRE LEAD DOCENT. The museum seeks a part-time lead docent to schedule all docents (paid and volunteer), to provide some coverage during public hours (1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday starting in May) and to help arrange for and manage tours and special events. Knowledge of City Island history a plus, along with organizational skills. \$25 per hour; estimated schedule is 1-2 hours a week between now and May and 4 to 5 hours a week from late May through October. For more information, e-mail CINM Secretary, Lauren Nye at Lnye610@gmail.com.

DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM, sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, will provide a New York State Insurance Reduction Program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips, and those who complete the course will receive a reduction of about 10 percent off the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years. The course will be held at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway. The cost is \$30. To register, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

MARY COLBY STUDIO GALLERY is celebrating 30 years on Saturday, April 22, starting at 6 p.m. Clipper Coffee and Cinema on the Sound will celebrate her anniversary with artistic festivities, and many shops along the avenue will be open for a fun evening. Mary will host an open studio night at her gallery, 276 City Island Avenue.

THE GARDEN CLUB SPRING LUNCHEON will be held this year at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club on Thursday, May 25, at noon. The cost is \$65 per person, and reservations and pre-payment are required. To make a reservation, call Vangie Parenti at 917-691-9430; checks should be made out to the Garden Club of City Island and mailed to P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

SCOUT SOME FLOWERS: You can buy your Easter flowers and support City Island's Scouts at the same time this year. City Island's Troop 211 Easter Flower Sale will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 6 and 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturday, April 8, if necessary, from 10 to noon. The sale will be held in front of Trinity United Methodist Church at Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Look for them inside the church hall in the event of cold or inclement weather. Mark your calendars!

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer. NYC teens aged 14 and 15 learn about career opportunities and make a difference in their communities through paid project-based activities. Young people aged 16-24 improve their work readiness skills and explore career pathways through paid summer jobs in a variety of industries throughout NYC. The deadline to submit applications is March 31. Selection into SYEP is based on a lottery; submission of an application does not guarantee that you will be offered a summer experience. To apply, go to <https://application@syep.com>. If you have further questions about SYEP, contact Community Connect at 800-246-4646.



Grace Episcopal Church
Holy Week Schedule
 April 2nd, Palm Sunday:
 Liturgy of the Palms and
 Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM
 April 6th, Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 PM
 April 7th, Good Friday
 The Church will be open 12:00-3:00 PM
 with the Good Friday Liturgy at 2:00 PM
 April 9th, *Easter Sunday* ~ 10:00 AM
All are Welcome!
 116 City Island Ave. (at Pilot Street) 718.885.1080 ~ www.graccityisland.net

THE ISLAND CURRENT
 P.O. Box 6
 Bronx, N.Y. 10464



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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during February and March 2023. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED DRIVER
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – LOST PROPERTY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – ASSAULT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Feb. 16 to March 22, 2023.

2/16 – On Reynolds Street at 6:15 p.m., an Island male reported a burglary at a business. Victim stated items were stolen from inside his parked truck. Victim was not sure if vehicle was locked.

2/20 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 29, on Carroll Street and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle at 12:14 p.m. Defendant was observed seated behind the wheel operating a vehicle. Upon a legal car stop, defendant was found to have a suspended driver's license.

2/21 – An Island male, 24, was arrested and charged with assault on Tier Street at 11:03 p.m. The victim, a male Islander,

told police that he and the defendant were having a verbal dispute. Defendant then went upstairs, grabbed a shovel and proceeded to strike the victim multiple times to the body. Victim received minor lacerations to his left toe and the side of his right calf.

3/5 – At 1:45 p.m., an unknown person entered a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue and harassed a male employee. The perpetrator began to say curse words and started to remove items from the store, causing complainant to be annoyed and alarmed for his safety.

3/6 – On City Island Avenue at 5 a.m., an Island female reported an incident of aggravated harassment. Complainant states she received phone calls and was threatened by another female, who said that she was going to kill the complainant.

3/11 – On Schofield Street at 11:50 a.m., an off-Island male told police that a contractor destroyed the tiles that were placed on the wall of a bathroom in an act of criminal mischief. Damage caused was \$600.

3/15 – An Island male reported lost property on Hawkins Street at 9 a.m. Complainant states that his Oregon license plate was removed from his truck without permission or authority.

3/22 – Police arrested an Island male, 27, and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Fordham Street and City Island Avenue at 10:15 p.m. Upon a lawful car stop, motorist was found to be operating a vehicle with a suspended license.

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 Good Friday Worship
 Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
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To Celebrate
 Sunday, April 9
 Sunrise Service Pelham Cemetery, 6:15 a.m.

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Photo courtesy of JOHN BURKE

Boathouse Demolished

Continued from page 1

unlikely, as the tide often rises there as far as City Island Avenue. The Gateway, an Island nonprofit that would like to see the city-owned parts of the property cleaned up, along with the deteriorating buildings

on the privately owned lot 149, had hoped to preserve the historic building, but an engineer's report persuaded them that this was not feasible. As to Lot 149, DOB has issued a full vacate of this property and the other buildings have also been destroyed, although the docks remain in place, at least for now.

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CONSTRUCTION ON I95 AND HUTCH

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Proposed Work (I95 Interchange)



Photo by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

A new exit and ramp is being constructed off the Hutchinson River Parkway North right before the City Island and Orchard Beach exit. This will enable access to Co-Op City and Bay Plaza for drivers heading north on the Hutch.

Several years ago, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto presented to the City Island Civic Association a project that New York State was going to undertake in order to improve access to and from I-95 (Bruckner Expressway). Although the schedule for the project was disrupted by the Covid pandemic, work is now well under way, with completion anticipated early next year at a cost of nearly \$30 million.

The goals of the project include addressing congestion on I-95 near the Pelham Parkway interchange by widening the highway after the exit ramp to City Island and Orchard Beach. The project is also designed to increase safety, improve pedestrian and bicycle paths and provide

access to Co-Op City from the Hutchinson River Parkway north, and replace trees that were removed for the construction.




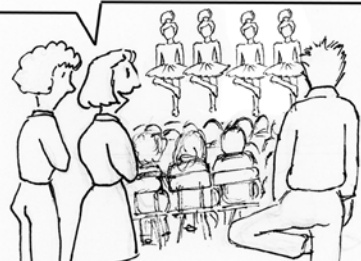
Many Islanders, however, may not realize that access to I-95 north will not be as easy as it is now, because that ramp, along with several others (see map) will be eliminated. A new traffic signal will be installed along Pelham Parkway, closer to I-95 than the current signal. That is where drivers heading west along Pelham Parkway will have to turn left onto a new ramp to I-95, one that will also accommodate drivers coming east on Pelham Parkway. It is hoped that improved access to Co-Op City from the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway will eliminate the illegal U-turns in Pelham Bay Park at exit 3.

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<p>RETURN OF PANCAKE SUPPER AT GRACE ON SHROVE TUESDAY AFTER PANDEMIC HIATUS</p>	<p>CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP RETURNS AFTER 3 YEARS WITH SRO "PLAY ON!"</p>	<p>NEW RAMP TO CO-OP CITY ON HUTCHINSON RIVER PKWY NORTH BEFORE CI EXIT</p>	<p>IRISH DANCERS PERFORM AT VARIOUS CI VENUES</p>
<p>PERSONALLY, I COULD REALLY THINK OF SOMETHING MORE DECADENT THAN PANCAKES TO HAVE AS MY LAST MEAL BEFORE FASTING FOR LENT.</p>  <p>EGGS BENNY, MAYBE?</p>	<p>WELL THIS BEATS PUTTING ON PLAYS IN THE LIVING ROOM FOR MY FAMILY!</p> 	<p>OH, A NEW INTERCHANGE CONFIGURATION.</p> <p>BRONXITES ARE NOT REALLY BIG ON CHANGE. GET READY FOR EVEN WORSE TRAFFIC SNARLS UNTIL EVERYONE GETS USED TO IT!</p> 	<p>MY HUBS ISN'T TRYING TO DANCE ALONG WITH THE STEPPERS. HE JUST DOES THAT WHEN HIS BOXERS RIDE UP.</p> 



We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Orchard Beach Ferry

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current:

To Elected Officials, Community Board 10, media outlets and residents

The City Island Civic Association officers and members ask that, as New York City seeks to expand its ferry service, Orchard Beach be selected as a suitable location for those using commuter ferry service from the East Bronx to Manhattan. We agree with the city's assessment that City Island is not a suitable location for a ferry stop because of lack of ridership.

We recommend the Orchard Beach site because it has a parking lot that can accommodate 5,000 vehicles but rarely if ever does so, according to a recent study performed for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Geographically, Orchard Beach can easily accommodate the multitude of commuters who would use the ferry service. Residents of the surrounding communities of Country Club, City Island, Baychester, Eastchester, Co-op City, Pelham Bay, Pelham Parkway, Pelham Manor, New Rochelle, and White Plains would all gain NYC ferry access to Manhattan, which would serve only one community if the stop were on City Island.

Other reasons why City Island would not be a good ferry stop include the problems that would be caused by excessive

traffic that would result. City Island has only one way on, one way off, putting the community at risk for emergency service. It must also be noted that there is no available site for a ferry dock on City Island; the Hart Island ferry uses a relatively small dock at the east end of Fordham Street, but it cannot be expanded because adjacent lots are privately owned. Most importantly, there is no sufficient parking at Fordham Street or any other location on City Island for ferry riders.

In light of the expensive construction and dredging that must be done to develop a ferry pier, we recommend building it at the stone jetty located at the north end of the boardwalk. This location would minimize environmental impact and allow the ferry easy access to a navigational channel. It would also be located far from any residences that might be adversely impacted by the noise of early morning departures.

In addition, we propose that this pier could also be utilized as a location for a new NYPD Harbor Unit Precinct, which would provide the Bronx with its very own, much-needed harbor protection unit. Currently, the Bronx is the only borough without a dedicated NYPD Harbor Unit to patrol its waters. The Bronx has suffered numerous watercraft accidents and at least one death in recent years that have directly resulted from the lack of a dedicated Harbor Unit.

We believe that the location of a ferry dock at Orchard Beach would be the most efficient way to provide the NYC ferry service for the largest number of people without exacerbating the limited parking facilities and traffic congestion on City Island. We ask that you consider these proposals on behalf of City Island residents and the neighboring communities with which we have discussed this proposal.

Respectfully submitted by the City Island Civic Association

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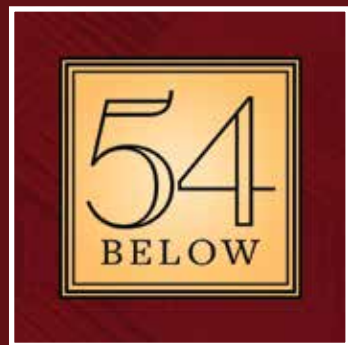


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A Current Review

PLAY ON!

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by MARY McINTYRE

Perseverance, hard work and talent brought the City Island Theater Group back to the stage after three long years. The group was proud of their efforts, which played to a full house of very appreciative audiences every night. Pictured is the cast from "Play On!" by Rick Abbot (l. to r. seated): Elizabeth Paldino, Carol Dooner, Penelope Golden and Toni Fazio; (standing): Paula J. Rocheleau Hernandez, Victoria Hernandez, James Mohn, Brian Argiento, Joseph Scaduto and Susan Rauh.

The City Island Theater Group has been away for a while. With the enforced mayhem of the last few years, we've seen nothing from CITG since 2020's "Gods of Carnage." This all changed last week, with the group's disastrous production of possibly the worst mystery ever written. Fortunately, CITG presented this awful show within the framework of a side-splitting comedy: Rick Abbot's "Play On!" More on Rick later.

The heart of "Play On!" is a show within a show. A small community theater company is desperately struggling to present "Murder Most Foul," a murder mystery, which they chose to produce when the play's inexperienced author gave them the rights for free. However, the playwright's maddening interference with the show's production has made the actors disgruntled and the director despondent. Four days before the opening, dialogue is still being changed, characters are being added and subtracted, and someone has finally realized that no one has actually been murdered—a surprising omission in a murder mystery.

I've always wanted to do a really nasty review, and with "Murder Most Foul" I feel empowered. The production is terrible. The plot is impossibly intricate, the characters' motivations make no sense, and the entire show eventually collapses under the weight of its many internal contradictions. CITG's production of "Play On!," however, was a dichotomy of sorts—a hilarious presentation of a terrible show. The show (we're talking about "Play On!" now) consists of three acts; Act I is a rehearsal of the dreadful "Murder Most Foul"; Act II is the near disastrous dress rehearsal; and the final act is the opening performance, in which anything that can go wrong does.

Hilarity mounts as the show moves along. The characters and the story line are established in a comical first act, and merriment increases in the second, as it becomes obvious that the amateur actors have been overwhelmed by constant rewrites and dialogue changes and have only a vague grasp of the material. Grace Church echoed with peals of laughter as the production collapsed in the third act. One character says: "I know my lines, I just don't know when to say them." That remark gives a good feel for the happenings on stage.

This far along in a review, I usually go into a show's Broadway history, but this doesn't exist for "Play On!" since the show was never produced on Broadway. Furthermore, the playwright's name wasn't Rick. "Rick Abbot" was one of

several pen names used by an incredibly productive writer, John Michael Sharkey, aka Jack Sharkey, who wrote virtually all his plays for community theaters. Indeed, this particular production is considered by many to be a love letter to community theater.

Sharkey began writing at the age of 10 and died in 1992 at the age of 61. He was once the most produced playwright in Southern California, and at one point the Samuel French Company estimated that John Michael Sharkey had between 80 to 100 titles in their catalogue, written and credited under his own name as well as other pseudonyms: Rick Abbott, Mike Johnson (stage thrillers), and Monk Ferris and Mark Chandler (comedies and musicals). His plays are still performed all over the world. He also wrote 10 novels and more than 70 (mainly) science fiction short stories.

"Play On!" is also unique in that there are no real leading roles. Instead, the show's cast was a tightly knit ensemble, seamlessly playing off one another to reach a maximum comedic effect. Nearly all the actors played two roles—one in "Play On!" and the other in the pseudo play.

Brian Argiento (Saul Watson / Dr. Rex Forbes), Carol Dooner (Polly Benish / Lady Margaret), Toni Fazio (Phyllis Montague), Penelope Golden (Violet Imbry / Diana Lassiter), Victoria Hernandez (Maria "Smitty" Smith / Doris), James Mohn (Henry Benish / Lord Dudley), Elizabeth Paldino (Gerry Dunbar), Susan Rauh (Aggie Manville), Paula J. Rocheleau Hernandez (Louise Peary) and Joseph Scaduto (Billy Carewe / Stephen Sellers) made up the cast, and they were all excellent. The stage was full nearly throughout the show, and the level of coordination between the actors at all times was a pleasure to watch.

Costumes were designed by Antonio Consuegra, a fashion stylist based in New York City, and his work was impressive. Lighting design was by Zach Dulny, and the lighting operator was Phil Economas. Sound design was also the work of Zach Dulny, and sound operation was handled by Margie Guzman. Pam Johnston served as Production Stage Manager and was once again responsible for the goings-on backstage. Nick Sala directed what was (by my count) his 15th show with the City Island Theater Group, and the production was impeccable, as always.

CITG's next production will open in June, and though we don't yet know what show they will produce, I know it will be great.

SHOP FOR IT ON CITY ISLAND!

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Holy Week Schedule 2023

PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY-APRIL 2
VIGIL MASS-SATURDAY-5:15 P.M.
SUNDAY-9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M.
(Blessing of Palm at all Masses)

HOLY THURSDAY-APRIL 6
8:00 A.M.- TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER - 7:30 P.M.
Procession to Repository
Adoration to 10:00 P.M.

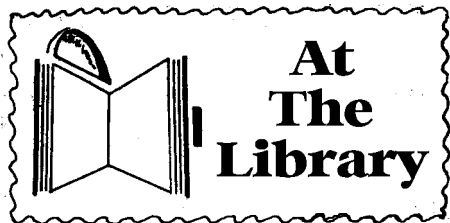
GOOD FRIDAY-APRIL 7
8:00 A.M.-TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
STATIONS OF THE CROSS-12:00 NOON
COMMEMORATION OF THE
PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS-3:00 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY-APRIL 8
8:00 A.M. TENEBRAE (No Morning Mass)
Consists of Psalms and Readings
(No 5:15 pm Mass)

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL-8:00 P.M.
WILL BE HELD AT OUR LADY OF THE
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(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

EASTER SUNDAY-APRIL 9
Masses- 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A. M.





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APRIL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. and Saturday, April 15, at 11 a.m.

Start with Art: Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

Chill Zone: No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

APRIL TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Build a City: Work together to create a city! Where are the schools? How many basketball courts? It's up to you! Part of Civics @ NYPL. Wednesday, April 26, 3 to 4 p.m.

Tween Poetry Slam: Celebrate National Poetry Month by getting loud! Write a poem about something that you're passionate about, then get ready to perform it in the garden! Monday, April 17, at 3 p.m.

Manga Club: Come in and enjoy our manga collection! Different manga volumes will be available to read onsite and to check out. Read and discuss it with friends, and create anime/manga related crafts! Thursday, April 6 and 20, at 3 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m.

Crafternoon: Get hands on with different arts and craft supplies in this free-form create-a-thon! April 7.

Unplug and Relax: April 14 and 21

Recycled Art: Use recycled objects—paper, plastic bottles, cardboard, etc.—to make eco-friendly art! April 28.

APRIL ADULT PROGRAMS

Creative Aging Writing Workshop—Bringing Life to Life Stories: Have you ever wanted to write a memoir but didn't know where to start? In this workshop writer and educator, Frank Ingrassiotta will guide you on how to bring your life stories to the page. In this eight-session memoir writing class, we will examine various aspects of storytelling. Through writing exercises, we will explore the tools of your personal expression that brings writing to life. Tuesdays, April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Introduction to Computers: Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be

conducted on our Library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, April 13 and 27, at 11 a.m.

Adult Coloring: Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, April 6 and 20, at 11 a.m.

City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, April 10 and 24, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Academy Award Film Fest: Feature movie titles, varying in length at 2 p.m.: April 1, Belfast; April 8, Dunkirk; April 15, A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood; April 22, Nomadland; April 29, Gravity.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



REAL ESTATE REVIEW

As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

The following information was collected for *The Current* by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC.

Address	Sale Price	Closing Date
One-Family Houses		
106 Pilot Street	\$590,000	1/11/23
72 Fordham Street	500,000	1/18/23
99 Pilot Street	483,000	1/26/23
104A Carroll Street	570,000	1/27/23
128 City Island Avenue	375,000	1/30/23
16 Fordham Street	750,000	2/13/23
191 Tier Street	550,000	2/19/23
98 Pilot Street	375,000	3/3/23
Multi-Family House		
105 Pell Place	645,000	1/4/23
168 Belden Street	968,000	2/2/23
Condominiums		
190 Fordham Street #2	299,000	1/31/23
1 Windward Way	640,000	2/27/23
190 Fordham Street #15	515,000	3/22/23
Commercial		
271 City Island Avenue	650,000	1/27/23
189 City Island Avenue	455,000	2/27/23



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Photo by ANN-MARIE GOONAN

City Island Yacht Club took delivery of a new crane on Feb. 24, 2023 for hauling and launching boats. Island sailors will begin preparing their vessels in April and May in time for the going-into-commission ceremonies at all the Island yacht clubs.

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Boat Show 2023

By GREG CLANCY

I have been attending the New York Boat Show most of my life and have made my pilgrimage to the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan for at least 30 of the past 37 years in which the show has been at Javits. Despite all those years, it only now begins to seem odd that “my” boat show is both indoors and held during the winter in New York City. I have never been to the likes of the Miami Boat Show, or even Annapolis, but they’ve got to be better than the lashing 40-degree rain my family and I trudged through on our way to Javits this past January. The rain started me off in a rather gloomy mood, so I picked a rather gloomy topic for the theme of this year’s report—money!

With the world drowning in economic stagnation, conflagration and especially inflation, I have decided to give you a “best under” report. For example, what’s the best product I could find under \$100? Best under \$1,000. Best under \$10,000, and so on. In the course of this year’s adventure, I also found a few worsts, but more on that later.

The best buy under \$100 is an oldie! The anti-glare “Fogproofs” is a pink stick that prevents the fogging of eyeglasses, windows, mirrors or windshields. Once it is rubbed onto the glass, the glass remains totally clear and will no longer fog. Really! The exhibitor for this product is also one of my favorites because he has been at every boat show I have ever attended. When I was a young kid, he seemed about 80 years old. Today, he seems about 82. So, God bless him for that. The older we get, the more we appreciate things, especially people who stay the same, and this gentleman and his product do both of those things well. I asked him how many years he had been at the show, and he told me 37 consecutive years, every year the show has ever been held at Javits! He’s a mainstay of the many booths that display boating-related products and is especially popular with eyeglass wearers who boat, ski or just plain struggle with their glasses fogging up. There was no proper company name at this exhibit and no website, but if you google “anti-glare pink stick,” you will find it.

In the under \$1,000 category I picked a jewelry cleaner. YES, you read that right! Now before you think I have lost my mind by even mentioning a jewelry cleaner, let me explain. I was skeptical at first too, especially since the show is full of non-nautical trinkets! My wife, Admiral Meaghan, had already found the makeup station, and she was rather taken with the WonderPax massage heating gel packs. My boys Patrick, Matthew, James and Johnny really liked the hand-made swords and the three wheeled ATVs. I saw absolutely no place for any of these things at “my” boat show, but as Admiral Meaghan drew closer to the Magic Bling Jewelry Cleaner for a free cleaning, my eyes widened as I watched the salesman demonstrate the utility of his product on nautical brightwork! My brother Bill, my partner on our boat the *Kitty Clyde*, has spent at least 15,000 hours of his life experimenting with metal sprays, including Brasso, Nevr-Dull and others. But Magic Bling, combined with Star Glow metal cleaning paste, might be the secret brightwork formula we have been looking for. I also liked this product as one of the better cross-over products at the Boat Show. Many non-nautical products are showcased there, but they don’t always demonstrate their usefulness to a vessel’s captain, steward or chief engineer.

For best product under \$10,000, I’m not picking. I refuse. There are way too many categories here: inflatables, outboard engines, insurance, docks, electronics, captain’s licenses, surfboards, lifeboats, backyard grills, backyard furniture, backyard

umbrellas, swords and Russian mail-order brides. Just kidding about the mail-order brides; I was just making sure you are still paying attention, but this price range is weird, and it stressed me out. So let’s just move on to the part where we go get a beer.

As I sipped my first beer and toasted to Admiral Meaghan’s *Sauv Blanc*, I marveled at a brand-new innovation that we saw on a few boats. Magnetic points along the boat’s gunwale for securing a metal drink container. At long last, one can set a metal cup or beer can on the side railing of your yacht without fear of your beverage tipping overboard or flying away. I predict this innovation will go viral in the future!

By my second beer of the show, it dawned on me that the Clancy family members have never been given proper ranks aboard our own yacht, *Kitty Clyde*. Since my brother Bill and I are co-owners of *Kitty Clyde*, I thought it was time for us all to be conferred with some proper authority. Meaghan, of course, remains Admiral, and Bill’s wife, Kurstal, has long preferred the nebulous yet authoritative title of Director. Our kids are all Mates (that’s an easy one), but neither Bill nor I have ever held proper rank. I thought “Captain” had a nice ring for me. Kurstal suggested “Sanitation Engineer.” Hmm. I am not allotted enough words in this article to properly retort, so I will save it until Kurstal and I have our next martini at the Morris Yacht Club. Admiral Meaghan ended the debate by crowning me with the title of “Crewman.” So that’s it: I’m a *Kitty Clyde* Crewman. Fitting. Bill’s title is a bit harder. Kurstal suggested “Boat Miser.” Bill’s nephews wanted to stick with the tried-and-true “Bobo.” Bill’s sons, Geir and Stenn, have long thought of Bill as the “Janitor.” I think “Beverage Director” could work, but the matter remains undecided. To all of my friends out there, please text me your recommendation for Bill’s new rank and title, as we need to settle this debate before we launch *Kitty Clyde* in May. I will then report back to my fan base at large in 12 months’ time.

Now back to the show! Where were we? Best under \$50k. This is where the competition gets harder. I was tempted to pick Yamaha’s line of ski boats. No one in particular, just the line in general, where a sporty water lover could find a 19-foot jet drive ski boat in the mid 30s. But instead I choose the Trophy T18 Bay. The all-in price for this boat, motor and trailer is \$43k. That may not seem like a steal for a rather straightforward center console with a single 115 hp Mercury outboard, but in a world where the classic center consoles like Grady and Boston Whaler all cost a gazillion dollars, I thought this Trophy was worth a look. You could add Mako to the list of crazy expensive classics too, but they don’t even come to the New York Boat Show, a sign of total snobbery.

Best under \$100k is another tough category because there just aren’t many boats in the \$50k-to-\$100k range. After the little guys, boat prices jump to around \$200k and up. So, instead of a boat I’m picking an engine. A very expensive engine. I chose the OXE 300 hp diesel outboard made in cooperation with BMW and listing for \$65k. You could buy a 300 hp gas Yamaha for \$25k to \$30k, but the fuel consumption on the OXE should be roughly half. You do the math. I just liked the innovation of a big diesel outboard made like a Beamer.

For best under \$500k, the hands-down winner was the Beneteau Oceania 34.1. This boat is a . . . wait for it . . . hold your breath . . . a sailboat! Yes, we not only found a real sailboat at the show for the first time in at least 10 years, but I am picking it for my “best” list. Hey, Sally McCheap, this is the part of the story where my Dad rolls over in the grave. You let him



Photos by GREG CLANCY

Islander Greg Clancy and his family attended the New York Boat Show in January 2023, continuing the longtime Clancy tradition (top photo). They found a real sailboat among all the power boats, a Beneteau Oceania 34, and enjoyed testing out some of the other watercraft featured at the Javits Center in Manhattan (middle and bottom photos).

spend 25 years using this forum to insult all the “ragmen” sailboaters of the world, but I am coming out of the closet right here and now and confessing to the world that I like sailboats! I also liked the price of this beamy Beneteau. No frills, under \$200k. Every bell and whistle, under \$300. Jokes aside, I was thrilled to see a sailboat back at the show after all these years.

Hey Sally, I am compelled to remind you that there were years when my Dad didn’t even report on a single boat! That might have been the time for you to assert your editorial authority.

Some of you might be asking the question, what DID Bill Clancy Sr. report on? The honest answer is that he reported on the people. He especially loved reporting on all the clam diggers and mussel suckers he ran into at the show. This year I didn’t see a single City Islander, not a one. I didn’t even see our yacht clubs on display. I did attend the show on a Wednesday, in the pouring rain, so that might have contributed to my misfortune. Next year maybe I’ll advertise a day and time for all City Islanders to meet up at the show and share a nine-dollar Budweiser while we compare notes.

Now on to the best under \$1MM! The Cruiser 38-foot GLS for \$797k has a jet-black hull and boasts a top speed of 52 mph (which is like 120 for a car). She has a massive swim platform that works despite three huge outboards. She also has side walls that fold down to widen the aft deck by almost 8 feet, multiple couches, a bar with two deck-mounted stools, a built-in barbecue, an outdoor fridge and ice machine, and a cabin that sleeps four. This is not quite a James Bond boat, but it is definitely the boat he had after getting married, having

three kids and moving to City Island! If you are a sporty man over 40 who has a wife with specific requirements, this could be the one! I am going to share this with one of my mussel-sucking doctor friends for sure. This “Bond over 40” boat is the one we have been looking for!

An honorable mention in this category is the Pardo 38ft Express Cruiser. I was struck by this boat because of the architecture. She has a “knife-like” bow, narrow at the top and at the waterline. No flare. It reminded me of the Zumwalt class of destroyer, and I liked it for its uncommon design.

And for the million dollars and up crowd, there are a lot. Sabreline, Back Cove, Formula, Cruisers, Sölace, Pardo and Vento all had boats over a million dollars on the show floor. The Sabre and Formulaqueens were pushing \$2MM. But I don’t think I would pick any of them. The boats with classic lines and exterior finishes (like Sabre) have minimum outdoor deck space. They’re all cabin, and their helms sit in the middle of the “living room” in an air-conditioned space behind a windshield that doesn’t open. The boats with great back decks and just enough cabin to crash for a night are built with the lines of a Clorox bottle and come with either outboards or I/Os. Outboards are efficient and easy to maintain, but they kill the swim platform. I/Os are okay for a few years but don’t love salt water. Don’t get me wrong. If money were no object, I’d give any of these a twirl, but not a one was perfect.

That’s it for this year, folks! Spring is springing, and it’s time to get those boat shoes out of the attic. See you all out on the Sound!

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Handyman Special

By KAREN NANI



Christian Rota

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

Christian Rota was raised in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx, but since 2003 he has called City Island his personal and professional home. His business as a handyman has flourished, and he credits both residents and *The Island Current* for his success.

“I had worked for other contractors since I was 16 years old,” he explains. “I finally started my own handyman business in 2017, and the phone really started ringing after I took out my first classified ad in *The Island Current*.”

Christian learned carpentry and other skills through on-the-job experience. “My father, Tony, was a New York City Board of Education school custodian, but he was not a carpenter. I went to P.S. 71 and Lehman High School, but I learned the trade by working for contractors in the Throggs Neck and Pelham Bay neighborhoods.”

In 2000, he met Islander Jackie Intrieri, and they married in 2003. They first lived on Schofield Street, and Christian set up his workshop on City Island Avenue after he opened his own business. “My wife was raised on the Island, and I grew to love it. It’s like a small town where everyone says hello and knows each other.”

What kind of work does a handyman do? Christian repairs and installs windows and doors, and he even constructs and power washes outdoor decks. “I worked

with my friend, Islander John McGowan, on some of his jobs. John is a master carpenter,” he told *The Current*. Together they did renovations where Christian worked on sheet rock walls, installed doors and cabinets, and even did some painting.

He also mentioned that Island realtor Louise Del Giudice has been one of his best customers. “When people buy houses from Louise, they often want to do renovations, and Louise has recommended me to a number of her clients.” He even modeled his display ad for the *Current* after the ad Louise runs every month. (A profile of Ms. Del Giudice ran in the June 2021 issue of this newspaper.)

Louise praises Christian’s work. “I use Christian as my handyman for my personal and business needs. I also recommend him to anyone looking for a handyman. I find him to be reliable, very honest and he knows what his is doing,” she told *The Current*.

Always upbeat, Christian notes that his life and career changed suddenly during the last few years. Sadly, his wife passed away in 2017. Then after six years of running his own business successfully, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) offered him a full-time position as a carpenter. “I loved having my own business, but the MTA offered security, a pension, health benefits and a steady salary.” So he accepted the position but continues to offer his carpentry skills to residents on weekends.

The very busy handyman now works six or seven days a week. From Monday to Friday, he is part of the ICC division, which handles contracting work for the MTA. “Right now we are repairing and remodeling all the emergency subway exits in the five boroughs,” he explained. He reminded this reporter that between every subway station underground, there is an emergency exit about two blocks down from the station.

“You can see the metal hatches on the sidewalks. If the train breaks down in the tunnel, passengers are removed and climb up the ladder leading to the emergency hatch.” He and his ICC team work above ground repairing the staircases, replacing the lighting, and handling all the carpentry involved in the rebuilding of these emergency exits. “We are out in the elements, but luckily it’s been a mild winter.”

But the busy Christian still has time to enjoy and recommend City Island restaurants. “If I am going out with friends, we usually go to Crab Shanty. If someone I know is going out on a date, I tell them to go to Artie’s.” He and this reporter also agreed that the outdoor deck at the Lobster House is great in the summer.

So if you need a new window or a door fixed in your house or condo, give Christian a call at 718-679-2396. “My phone is on 24/7 and I always get back to people who need work done.” You can find *The Handyman’s* ad in the classified section on page 19 of this issue.



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A Current Review

“LOVE SONG”

By BRUCE WEIS



Photo by ALL HANDS THEATRE CO.

Michael Temple as Beane and Cassandra Giovine as Joan in the recent production of John Kolvenbach’s “Love Song” at Cinema on the Sound.

All Hands Theatre Company, a relatively new addition to City Island, recently ended its second City Island production, a presentation at Cinema on the Sound, 270 City Island Avenue, of John Kolvenbach’s “Love Song,” which was described by one reviewer as “a cerebral, stream-of-consciousness piece that could leave some baffled and others delighted.” Indeed, I spent the first few minutes of the production struggling to understand what was going on before I grasped the direction of the story and settled back to watch a truly engaging show.

“Love Song” has a fascinating plot, a story of love and near madness. There are only four characters: Joan (Cassandra Giovine), a tightly wrapped type-A executive; Harry (Joseph Abrams) Joan’s laid-back, rational husband; Beane (Michael Temple) Joan’s sad, reclusive brother, and Molly (Tygar Hicks), Beane’s burglar/lover/fantasy, a role that evolves over the course of the show.

Beane lives a life of struggle and seclusion, vaguely monitored by Joan and Harry who consider themselves his unofficial guardians even as their own marriage seems shaky. The action begins early in the first act, when Beane confronts Molly as she is burglarizing his apartment. Mutual attraction isn’t immediate, but soon Beane and Molly somehow fall madly in love, and Beane starts to grow out of his reclusiveness. Joan and Harry are skeptical about Beane’s new relationship at first but soon embrace it, and magically their own marriage seems to become stronger and more interesting.

However, Joan and Harry start to suspect that something isn’t quite right with Molly; she’s never there, always away or in another room. Is she a figment of Beane’s imagination? What can they do about it? “This makes him crazy,” Harry concludes. “This makes him happy,” Joan replies. Quickly, that newly found magic starts to drain back out of their relationship,

and Beane himself begins having his own doubts about Molly’s existence. I won’t go into the outcome; I’ll say only there wasn’t a dry eye in the house.

Cassandra Giovine, as Joan, is an irresistible force as she strides into the apartment and heads straight for the bar, complaining about the office interns she has fired. But then she spends the rest of the show convincingly adding layers to this character. Joseph Abrams, as the rational and laid back Harry, is a perfect foil for the emotional and aggressive Joan. They are, in other words, a believable married couple.

Michael Temple, as Beane, is volatile yet nuanced, portraying his character on two levels, bantering with Joan and Harry on the one hand and in living a deliberately lonely life on the other. Tygar Hicks, as Molly, brought the intensity to Molly that the role demands. As the catalyst for the story, Tygar’s Molly makes you believe in her infatuation with Beane as she lets doubt creep into your mind over her very existence.

The staging of “Love Song” takes place on two sets—Joan and Harry’s apartment and Beane’s apartment—and the action switches back and forth between the two. All Hand’s quick sliding of furniture on and off Cinema on the Sound’s tiny stage ensured that the mood of the play was sustained. The actors joined in moving furniture during set changes, which only affirms the company’s name.

“Love Song” premiered at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago in March 2006 and was presented later that year in London’s West End and was nominated in 2007 for the Olivier Award as Best New Comedy.

The next production of the All Hands Theatre Company will be “Romeo and Juliet,” presented in cooperation with Michael Temple and his Player Temple Theatre Company at a date yet to be determined. Stay tuned! You won’t want to miss it.



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Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the second Thursday of the month in Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street. Our sandwich bingo will be April 13 at 1 o'clock. The cost is \$15. Hope to see you there.

Joyce Kennedy

Holiday Services

Trinity United Methodist Church

331 City Island Avenue at Bay Street
Saturday, April 1: Spring Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7: Good Friday service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8: Easter Egg coloring, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, 6:15 a.m. Easter Worship at Trinity Church, 10 a.m.

Temple Beth El

480 City Island Avenue

Thursday, April 6: Passover Second-night Seder, 6 p.m., with Rabbi David Markus and Pastor David Jolly. Registration and fee information can be found on Temple website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

April 7: Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Rabbi David; Pesach Shabbat (at TBE and online), 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the bridge
Saturday, April 1, Palm (Passion) Sunday, Vigil Mass, 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Blessing of Palms at all Masses.

Thursday, April 6, Holy Thursday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. Adoration to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 7, Good Friday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross, 12 noon. Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, Holy Saturday: Tenebrae, 8 a.m. Solemn Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. "The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ" presented by members of the Church School.

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 7: Good Friday, church will be open from 12 to 3 p.m. with the Good Friday liturgy at 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday, Celebration of the Resurrection and Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt following the service.

City Island Civic Association

The February meeting was held in the Community Center on Feb. 28. Bill Stanton offered to give Civic members free safety and security checks for their homes.

The Civic has voted to support a ferry to and from Orchard Beach, but not City Island (see page 4 of this issue), and will be putting a petition on line: <https://www.change.org/p/expand-nyc-ferry-service-to-orchard-beach>.

Bill Clancy has reached out to elected officials to request funding for new trees for City Island Avenue. A spokesperson for Councilwoman Marjorie Velázquez has agreed to ask for funds in the Council budget

for the year 2023–24, which could be made available in June. A member questioned the replacement of trees near the bridge in Pelham Bay Park that were removed for the water main project; according to Parks officials, funding has been granted for tree planting to take place later this year.

All residents should feel free to bring any matters or concerns to Civic meetings, which are held on the last Tuesday of the month (except December) in the Community Center at 7:30 p.m. We will do what we can to be of assistance to you. You can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com to ask for assistance.

Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken streetlight or graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember that all our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our NYPD Neighborhood Community Officer Rugovac can be reached at 917-434-8847.

We are collecting dues for 2023 membership: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to city.island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry and a greater focus on the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) are how each of us is being gifted by God's spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

Bible study takes place after worship, featuring "More Love, Joy and Peace in God's Words."

Wednesdays at Trinity: 4:30 p.m. Youth Group for all children 5th through 12th grades. At 6 p.m. a Community Supper of soup and bread and then at 6:30 p.m. a time of prayer.

Saturday, April 1, Trinity Spring Fair from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with lunch served from 11:30 to 1:30.

Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. to noon, Child and Guardian Easter Egg Coloring

Sunday, April 9, 6:15 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, Pelham Cemetery

Saturday's Budget Shop is fully open and fully stocked. Thank you to all who donate and shop.

If you have any questions, call Pastor Dave Jolly at 845-532-3378.

Rick DeWitt

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. and Vigil on Saturday evening at 5:15 p.m.; Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Palms will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

The Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy

Thursday evening, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., followed by adoration until 10 p.m. On Good Friday we will have Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion and Death of Jesus will take place at 3 p.m. The Solemn Easter Vigil will take place at 8 p.m. and will be held at **Our Lady of Assumption Church**. Masses on Easter Sunday are 9 and 11 a.m.

Blessings on the 10 children from Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program, who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on April 29 at 1 p.m. here at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, officiated by Most Rev. Joseph A. Espallat, Auxiliary Bishop.

The Thrift Shop has reopened with the Spring Collection. We are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rosette Dietz

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street. Our priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has been presiding over our worship services for six months and has also been very active in the Island community. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, April 2: Liturgy of Palms and Procession, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 2 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9: Celebration of the Resurrection, 10 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place immediately following the service.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m. We have finished reading the book of Judith. The reading is usually held on the second Sunday of the month; we will resume our reading after Easter.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and are preparing for special services, including the Passion of Christ on Palm Sunday and Youth Sunday service on Father's Day in June. The older members of the church school will lead the egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 9, immediately following the service. All are welcome. We will also begin preparing several of our teenagers for confirmation in 2023. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrn1@optonline.net.

The GraceTones: We are happy to announce that we will resume singing at area nursing homes and rehab centers starting this spring. We will be singing at Dumont Center Rehab in April. We are a fun and inclusive group, predominantly female, and we are seeking to bridge the gender gap by inviting more men to sing with us. Remember, you don't have to sound like an angel, just have the desire to sing with like-minded folks who love to spread cheer and joy! If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this COVID period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only, however, some are taking place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for reg-

istering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, meditation, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration is recommended. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. Proof of vaccination is required for all in-person events. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for April 2023:

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services: (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

April 7: with Rabbi David; *Pesach Shabbat* (at TBE and online)

April 14: with Shari and Monty (online only)

April 21: with Stu and Leslie (online only)

April 28: with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth-El and online)

Saturday Morning SoulSpa: Spiritual Learning of Torah with Kabbalah: (10 a.m. start, online). With Rabbi David. No experience necessary. Bring your open mind, heart and soul.

COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER:

Second night of Passover,

April 6, 5:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Join us for a full seder experience, with Rabbi David Markus and Pastor David Jolly. Registration and fee information can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Tuesday Morning Meditation: (10 to 10:30 a.m., online). A calming way to start the day. With Tenzin.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO ISRAEL?

Join Rabbi David on a 10-day guided tour of Israel's most historic sites.

Trip begins after Memorial Day weekend. Refundable deposits are now being accepted.

Visit our website for more details.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We would be happy to host you.

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends & family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at yourshulbythesea@gmail.com.

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org.

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Rachel Stark, President;
Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

Quilters by the Sea QOV

Quilters by the Sea had its first Sew Saturday of 2023, the kickoff to our sixth year of making patriotic quilts for Island veterans. Participants made two beautiful quilt tops and welcomed three new members. There will be another Sew Saturday later this spring. Interested? Contact harlan.sexton1@gmail.com for more information.

Harlan Sexton



For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

Happy April, City Island. The spring holidays are upon us. We would like to thank members of the Community Center for their ongoing patronage and support, especially those who renewed their membership during our membership drive. If you wish to make a donation or renew your membership, please send a check to City Island Community Center, P.O. 135, Bronx NY 10464.

Please reach out to our President, Cheryl Riordan, at 347-843-5076 if you would like to offer a class, run a craft or have any other good thoughts for community engagement at the Center. We are always open to new ideas and welcome new instructors.

The Rotary Club of the Bronx will host a Mother's Day Sip & Paint at the Center on Saturday, May 13.

Our schedule of offerings continues through the spring. Below please find our Spring 2023 programming schedule.

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Civic Association: Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

Children's Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

Yoga: Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

Yoga and Meditation: Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.
Zumba: Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!

Melissa Cebollero

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beginning March 30, we will have our Spring and Summer collection and lots of Easter items. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
City Island Flotilla**

Your Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers remain ready to serve the boating public and the residents of City Island. This past month we have added three new members to our unit. One is a transfer from Florida who brings his expertise and skills to our waters. As we end the first quarter of the year, we are transitioning our focus from training and professional development to pre-session preparations. Although training never ends, our primary mission now is to make sure we are ready for the 2023 boating season.

As our members prepare their PPE and gear, we are excited to announce a new asset in our Flotilla. USCG AUX Facility 313385 *Monty's Ark* is a 31-foot vessel that was accepted for use by the Coast Guard. We are excited to add this to our fleet of vessels, and we will be commissioning it in early May with its first patrol taking place in mid-May.

Our next Flotilla meetings will take place on the following Tuesdays: April 11, May 9 and June 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harlem Yacht Club. Our Command staff and officers are available as early as 5 p.m. to answer any questions for our members and guests.

Our next Boating Class will take place on Thursdays June 15, 22 and 29, from 7 to 10 p.m. If you are interested in joining our Unit or taking a boating class, send us an e-mail to uscgaux0140504@gmail.com.

City Island Oyster Reef

Our seasonal shell collection is starting in April. We are looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from local restaurants and deliver them to our curing site at the Pelham Bay landfill. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com.

City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR) volunteers and City Island Scouts started a spring clearing of the living shoreline behind P.S. 175 by removing plastics and other marine debris that accumulated over the winter. Karen Heil, science teacher at P.S. 175, and her students will plant native grass seed, Virginia wildrye, as a natural means of suppressing the invasive Japanese knotweed that we have worked hard to remove. A study of Japanese knotweed is part of a school science project that P.S. 175 students will present at a district-wide science fair in the Bronx on March 30.

Mark your calendars! The 13th Annual Orchard Beach Clean-Up and Clambake, hosted by CIOR, is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We need beachcombers and divers to clean up the beach and the Sound, and all participants are invited to a clambake after the clean-up. For more information, call Mike Carew at (718)885-1588 or e-mail mike.carew@cioysterreef.org.

Sally Connolly

American Legion Auxiliary

April is nominations month. All members are welcome to the April meeting to participate in the process or run for office. The meeting will be on Tuesday, April 4, at 7 p.m.

Service, not self.

Michelle Del Pozzo

PSS City Island Center

Welcome April! Check out all the exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and formal tablet/i-phone training classes in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Quilters by the Sea QOV gather around a Quilt of Valor made at February's Sew Saturday, held in the American Legion Hall: (left to right) Nilda Nye, Rose Kolb, Maryann Occhicone, Nancy Scottford, Leslie Pelecovich, Phyllis Holloway, Evangeline Parenti, Harlan Sexton, Judy McCormick, Nancy Lotrionte, Alison Winters, Ethel Lott, Annette and Frank Kolovic.

us know if there is someone on the Island who could possibly benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the center.

April Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, April 18, 11 a.m., Elder Abuse Presentation, Neighborhood SHOPP—All are welcome.

Wednesday, April 19, 11 a.m., Virtual Cooking Live with NYC Aging: Kimbap (Korean Sushi)

Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m., Simple Wills (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m., Shield Yourself—Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention on Computers and Phones (free virtual presentation at PSS Life! University)

Thursday, April 20, 12:30 p.m., Birthday Party with Entertainment by Mark Doyle

Friday, April 28, 1:15 p.m., Concert with Singing Group led by Napat—All are welcome.

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

The Current Schedule

- Monday**
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
 - 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
 - 9 a.m. to 12 noon One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
 - 11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
 - 1 to 1:30 p.m. Tablet & I-Phone Training Course (must be pre-registered)
- Tuesday**
 - 9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)
 - 10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
 - 12 noon In the News
 - 12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes
 - 1:15 p.m. Bingo
- Wednesday**
 - 9 a.m. Beginner Broadway Dance with Danny (remote and in person)
 - 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)
 - 11:30 a.m. Tech Byte
 - 12:30 p.m. Knitting & Crochet Club

with Evelyn
Thursday

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)
- 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)
- 1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday

- 9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Danny Durr (in person and remote)
- 10 a.m. Individual Tech Instruction
- 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty (remote)
- 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
- 11:30 a.m. Brain Games
- 1:15 p.m. Singing Group with Napat
- Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot.
- Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club's new plant containers have arrived! The Club has replaced nine of its plant containers that line City Island Avenue, and the new gray containers and the remaining old containers are being filled with spring flowers—pansies, trailing alyssum and curly willow thanks to our members, Helping Hands, and Girl Scout Troop 1814. The containers have special water reservoirs, which should make watering easier during hot, dry weather, and they should last years.

We are looking forward to our annual Beautification Fund Drive. In April, we will be dropping off fund-drive letters at every residence on the island and mailing letters to our businesses. The funds we collect go toward our beautification projects, such as maintaining our plant containers and the Post Office garden. We thank all of you who donated last year and hope that you will do so again this year. Donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

Our annual Spring Luncheon will be held this year at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club on Thursday, May 25, at noon. The cost is \$65 per person, and reservations and pre-payment are required. To make a reservation, call Vangie Parenti at 917-691-9430; checks should be made out to the Garden Club of City Island and mailed to P.O. Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a Helping Hand for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 3, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson



Gardening

April 22 is Earth Day, and it seems fitting to look at films about gardening and what makes our planet more beautiful. The 1949 version of **The Secret Garden** is a wonderful family film, and of all the myriad remakes, the 1993 version is a worthy one. (The 1993 actors are listed in the second position.) This film stars Margaret O'Brian/Kate Maberly as Mary Lennox, a spoiled young girl who had spent her formative years in India. When suddenly orphaned, she goes to England to live with her grieving widowed uncle (Herbert Marshall/John Lynch) whose young wife died in the garden on the estate. There Mary encounters the ghostly inhabitants of this drafty old mansion, including her cousin Colin (Dean Stockwell/Heydon Prowse) and Mrs. Medlock the housekeeper (Gladys Cooper/Maggie Smith). She is befriended by a serving girl (Elsa Lanchester/Laura Crossley) and her brother (Brian Roper/Andrew Scott) and learns how to bring light and life to other people.

All That Heaven Allows (1955) stars Rock Hudson as Ron Kirby, a gardener for the widow Cary Scott (Jane Wyman), a few years his senior. When they fall in love, her family is scandalized. How they deal with their problems makes for an interesting romantic drama of 1950s vintage.

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (Italian, 1971) serves as the background to the story of a wealthy Jewish family in Ferrara, Italy, during World War II, and the effects of the political oppression against them and other Italian Jews. The main characters are Jewish friends Giorgio (Lino Capolicchio) and Giampiero (Fabio Testi), who are invited to play tennis on the Finzi-Contini estate by brother Alberto (Helmut Berger) and sister Micol (Dominique Sanda). Director Vittorio De Sica's film is an elegantly painful and eloquently tragic tribute to the demise of the Jewish aristocracy in Italy in WWII and deservedly won the best foreign-language Oscar in 1971.

In **Silent Running** (1972) Bruce Dern stars as botanist and ecologist turned astronaut Freeman Lowell. After the end of all botanical life on Earth, Lowell maintains a greenhouse on a space station in order to preserve various plants for future generations. When he is ordered to destroy the greenhouse to make space for carrying cargo, Lowell's rage verges on insanity and he is willing to do anything necessary to keep their invaluable greenery alive. The movie goes downhill from there, but the concepts make the film worth a look.

A classic satire of the time is **Being There** (1979), starring Peter Sellers as Chauncey Gardener, a simpleton gardener for a wealthy man who has just died. He is taken in by Ben (Melvyn Douglas), a personal friend of the President (Jack Warden). Ben's wife, Eve (Shirley MacLaine), becomes infatuated with him. The script is fascinating because we see how a man who speaks sparingly and simply can be mistaken for a political genius. Don't miss the out-takes during the closing credits.

The year 1987 brought us **Gardens of Stone**, with a sort of garden most of us have never thought about. It is the burial ground for soldiers killed in Vietnam. It is set in 1968 at Fort Myer, Virginia, and centers on the Old Guard, whose duty it is

to bury the soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Strong performances abound, with James Caan and James Earl Jones as military personnel, D.B. Sweeney as the recruit they take under their wing, Anjelica Huston as Caan's romantic interest, and Mary Stuart Masterson as Sweeney's high school sweetheart. This is an excellent, compelling drama.

The romantic comedy **Green Card** (1990) stars the French actor Gérard Depardieu in his American debut as Georges Fauré, an immigrant who will do anything to remain in the United States. He is introduced to Brontë Parrish (Andie MacDowell), a horticulturist who is desperate to move into a building that has a phenomenal green house. Unfortunately for Brontë, the landlord will rent only to married couples, so a marriage of convenience is born. It does not go too smoothly for the couple, however, when the immigration service decides to investigate whether or not this is a bogus marriage.

Bed of Roses (1996) is the story of flower deliverer Lewis (Christian Slater), who falls in love with high-powered businesswoman Lisa (Mary Stuart Masterson). This modest romantic drama is very sweet, as Lewis shows Lisa a simpler way to live. The scenes of the faces of those receiving flowers are priceless.

In **Spring Forward** (1999), trying to put himself back together after serving prison time for robbery, Paul (Liev Schreiber) takes a job as a parks employee in a small Connecticut town. His co-worker, Murph (Ned Beatty), is a generation older than Paul and is dealing with the impending death of his very ill son. Paul is hot tempered but spends time with Murph, and the two engage in many conversations that calms Paul as he begins to embrace his new life.

Based on a true story, **Greenfingers** (British, 2000) is the story of sullen prison inmate Colin Briggs (Clive Owen), whose life is changed when he is introduced to gardening. The thriving prison garden attracts the attention of flamboyant and renowned gardening expert Georgina Woodhouse (Helen Mirren), and she offers to sponsor the inmates in a prestigious flower show at Hampton Court.

Saving Grace (British, 2000) is a hilarious British comedy in which Brenda Blethyn appears as Grace Trevelyan, a cheerful upper-class housewife and gardening enthusiast whose husband dies, leaving her destitute. Out of desperation and with the help of her oddball Scottish gardener, Matthew (Craig Ferguson), Grace puts her green thumb to work and converts her greenhouse into the biggest marijuana farm in Cornwall. Unfortunately, the scheme is threatened by a French drug lord (Tcheky Karyo).

Bread and Tulips (Italian, 2001) is a sweet Italian film set in Venice. When Rosalba (Licia Maglietta) is accidentally forgotten by her family upon the departure of their tour bus from a roadside restaurant, she decides to hitchhike home, but on a whim goes to Venice instead. Stranded, she is taken in by a somber waiter named Fernando (Bruno Ganz), who lives next door to Grazia (Marina Massironi), a "holistic beautician and masseuse." Rosalba gets a job in a florist shop, while at home her husband, Mimmo (Antonio Catania), grows increasingly agitated at the interruption in his routine. He hires the bumbling Costantino (Giuseppe Battiston), a plumber and amateur detective, to track her down with entertaining results.

In **Something New** (2006) African-American career-minded Kenya McQueen (Sanaa Lathan) is set up on a blind date with architect Brian Kelly (Simon Baker) but backs out when she realizes that he is white. Impressed with his work on a friend's mansion, McQueen decides to hire Kelly to design her new garden—

and he sweeps her off her feet. But when her friends introduce her to Black executive Mark Harper (Blair Underwood), McQueen must choose between the type of man she always dreamed she wanted and accepting what life offers her. Alfre Woodard appears as McQueen's snobbish mother, and the discomfort of different races being together is interesting and feels realistic.

Conversations with My Gardener, a.k.a. *Dialogue avec Mon Jardinier* (French, 2007), is the story of Dupincau (Daniel Auteuil), a successful Parisian painter who is weary of Parisian life and is on the verge of divorce. He decides to return to the country to live in his childhood home. There he decides he needs someone to make a real vegetable garden again out of the wilderness it has become and hires a gardener (Jean-Pierre Darroussin), who happens to be a former school friend. A warm, fruitful conversation starts between the two men.

Set in 2035, **The Martian** (2015) stars Matt Damon as Mark Watney, a botanist who is left behind on Mars after a violent storm and is presumed dead. His team is led by Commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain), who is dealing with the guilt of leaving him behind but remaining responsible for the lives of five other crew members. With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and resilience to survive by growing food. He also must find a way to send a signal to Earth that he is alive. Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring him home, while his crewmates concurrently plot a daring, if not impossible, rescue mission.

Set in 17th-century France, **A Little Chaos** (2015) is a romantic drama in which Alan Rickman has a featured role and for which he served as director. It tells the story of Sabine (Kate Winslet), a

talented landscape designer who is building a garden at Versailles for King Louis XIV (Rickman). Court intrigue abounds as Sabine struggles with class barriers and becomes romantically entangled with the court's renowned landscape artist André Le Nôtre (Matthias Schoenaerts).

The Gardener (Canadian Documentary, 2016) is a documentary about Les Quatre Vents, the Canadian estate of Frank and Anne Perkins Cabot, a magnificent private garden in the Charlevoix region near Quebec City. Directed by their son Sebastien Chabot, Les Quatre Vents is a tribute to the glory of horticulture in all its forms and relies on previously recorded narration by Mr. Cabot, who died in 2011. He had the garden planted using ideas he garnered from gardens in exotic locales he had visited on his travels to Nepal, European cities and the Far East. The result is a dazzling series of separate outdoor scenes, including a Japanese garden that was years in the making and a Chinese moon bridge set on a reflecting pond.

This Beautiful Fantastic (British, 2016) is a gentle story set against the backdrop of a beautiful London garden. It centers on the unlikely friendship between Bella (Jessica Brown Findlay), a reclusive young woman who dreams of writing children's books, and her next-door neighbor, Alfie (Tom Wilkinson), a grumpy loveless widower who happens to be an amazing horticulturalist. Facing eviction because of her neglected garden, Bella asks Alfie for help. The supporting cast includes Alfie's personal cook, Vernon (Andrew Scott), a befuddled and adorable inventor named Billy (Jeremy Irvine), a disapproving head librarian (Anna Chancellor) and Alfie's personal physician (Eileen Davies). This is a charming, beautifully photographed modern fairy tale about love and gardening.

Enjoy the Spring, stay healthy and happy viewing...



SCHUYLER HILL
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Photo by REINA MIA BRILL

During March 2023, the Inishfree School of Irish Dance performed at P.S. 175, the American Legion and the Morris Yacht Club on City Island. They also marched in the Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade. Pictured above are (l. to r.): Thora Treiber, Grace Riordan, Gia Ciccone, Julia Sessa, Emma Riordan and their instructor Caitlin Kelly. Irish dance classes are taught Monday evenings at the Community Center. For more information, go to www.inishfreeny.com.

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Community Parenting: It Takes a Village

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

I grew up in a working-class neighborhood on Long Island. We had a lot of kids on our block, and often I was outside the house when I wasn't in school. My father did shift work at a sugar refinery in Red Hook, and so my family's life revolved around what shift he was on that week.

Every adult who had kids on my block was spoken to as "aunt" or "uncle." I might have lunch with my best friend, David, at "Aunt Gloria's house," and David might show up for dinner at my house because my mother ("Aunt Rose") was making her famous hand-cut French fries. In addition, if there was a fight or a misdeed on the block, my mother usually knew about it before I got home. If I was involved, any of the adults on the block might confront me about my behavior before my mother really let me have it. That was the culture.

On to City Island, where a recent event has been stuck in my mind. I was walking south on City Island Avenue on a Sunday morning when I saw a group of middle school (high school?) boys walking toward me. One of them was carrying a plastic orange traffic barrel, which he had clearly taken from some site up the street. The scene seemed obvious to me—that this was not a good idea—but I said nothing

to the boy carrying the barrel. One of the boys asked about my birding, since I had binoculars around my neck, and I gave a quick response. I wasn't sure if the boy was being sarcastic, and I didn't want to engage: I was on my own schedule and in my own head. I just walked home. I regret that now quite a bit.

As my friend Denise often has said, I need to "tell on myself" and get humble about my shortcomings. To use the language that we often hear in schools these days, on that Sunday morning I was a "bystander" and not an "upstander." I chose my own comfort level and did nothing. It was almost as if I had given the boy permission to move that barrel. Who knows where that barrel ended up?

That would never have happened when I was a kid. Even now we see signs everywhere telling us, "If you see something, say something." And still I said nothing.

It is an often-quoted line these days: "It takes a village to raise a child." Do we on City Island aspire to be a "village" in that way? Do we help to "parent" other people's kids when the opportunity is right? Wouldn't that make us a safer and more compassionate community?

There is a large cultural dialogue going on right now in our society, about politics, history, values, and the like, but most of us can agree that kids need to learn right from wrong from responsible adults. This incident seems pretty clearcut to me. I will try to act better when confronted by incidents like this, and maybe you can try that as well.

If you want to talk more about this, drop me an e-mail at johnscardina@hotmail.com. Just put "community parenting" in the subject line, and I will read and respond.

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Photo by STEPHEN MARSHALL

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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).
HH = hours; MM = minutes
Tide chart by Tom Smith

MARCH 2023										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
26	Sun	0330	7.66	1021	0.04	1614	6.73	2207	0.74	Sun 26
27	Mon	0423	7.24	1118	0.58	1716	6.41	2259	1.26	Mon 27
28	Tue	0531	6.89	1221	1.02	1824	6.26			Tue 28
29	Wed	0018	1.64	0646	6.71	1324	1.27	1928	6.31	Wed 29
30	Thu	0134	1.79	0752	6.72	1422	1.32	2026	6.51	Thu 30
31	Fri	0236	1.70	0850	6.86	1514	1.24	2118	6.79	Fri 31
APRIL 2023										
01	Sat	0329	1.47	0940	7.04	1600	1.07	2204	7.07	Sat 01
02	Sun	0414	1.16	1025	7.20	1639	0.89	2244	7.29	Sun 02
03	Mon	0454	0.82	1103	7.29	1712	0.71	2317	7.45	Mon 03
04	Tue	0528	0.50	1133	7.33	1737	0.54	2336	7.60	Tue 04
05	Wed	0555	0.20	1152	7.35	1755	0.37	2351	7.79	Wed 05
06	Thu	0621	-0.05	1213	7.38	1820	0.21			Thu 06
07	Fri	0018	8.00	0651	-0.24	1244	7.40	1853	0.13	Fri 07
08	Sat	0052	8.18	0727	-0.30	1322	7.35	1931	0.17	Sat 08
09	Sun	0132	8.25	0808	-0.22	1404	7.23	2013	0.34	Sun 09
10	Mon	0216	8.19	0854	0.00	1452	7.03	2101	0.62	Mon 10
11	Tue	0306	7.98	0947	0.33	1546	6.79	2155	0.97	Tue 11
12	Wed	0402	7.67	1050	0.67	1649	6.59	2259	1.28	Wed 12
13	Thu	0506	7.34	1222	0.86	1810	6.55			Thu 13
14	Fri	0028	1.39	0628	7.13	1356	0.72	1953	6.84	Fri 14
15	Sat	0218	1.05	0815	7.24	1502	0.37	2101	7.34	Sat 15
16	Sun	0328	0.43	0927	7.54	1559	-0.03	2157	7.84	Sun 16
17	Mon	0425	-0.21	1024	7.81	1649	-0.36	2246	8.25	Mon 17
18	Tue	0517	-0.74	1114	7.97	1736	-0.56	2331	8.50	Tue 18
19	Wed	0606	-1.07	1201	7.98	1820	-0.60			Wed 19
20	Thu	0014	8.58	0652	-1.15	1245	7.86	1901	-0.46	Thu 20
21	Fri	0055	8.50	0737	-1.01	1328	7.63	1940	-0.18	Fri 21
22	Sat	0135	8.29	0821	-0.67	1411	7.34	2015	0.21	Sat 22
23	Sun	0214	7.98	0904	-0.19	1455	7.03	2046	0.65	Sun 23
24	Mon	0253	7.62	0948	0.34	1542	6.75	2118	1.09	Mon 24
25	Tue	0337	7.25	1035	0.85	1637	6.54	2200	1.50	Tue 25
26	Wed	0429	6.92	1129	1.27	1740	6.45	2255	1.83	Wed 26
27	Thu	0546	6.68	1229	1.54	1844	6.49			Thu 27
28	Fri	0023	2.01	0702	6.60	1327	1.64	1942	6.65	Fri 28
29	Sat	0143	1.93	0804	6.65	1419	1.58	2033	6.88	Sat 29
30	Sun	0241	1.67	0855	6.77	1504	1.42	2118		Sun 30



Whale Watching

We have been reading lately of dead and dying whales washing up on Tri-State area beaches, and we couldn't be more upset. According to the New York Times, 13 of the 24 whales that have washed up along the East Coast since last December have done so on the beaches of New York and New Jersey. That's more than half! Not knowing why it is happening makes it worse, because that means it will probably continue. Some have attributed this sorry episode to climate change, while others have been pointing the finger at what is being done to combat climate change.

Anyone who has seen one of these gentle giants up close probably worries less about who or what is to blame than about being denied these magical close encounters going forward. Our first-time whale watching was out of Provincetown on Cape Cod. We got on a boat, spent about two and a half hours getting to where the whales were, and we saw one, maybe two, from a distance. Then we spent another two and half hours on the boat to get home. And yet it was one of the most magnificent experiences we have ever had, one we could not recommend strongly enough.

These days, you don't have to go far to see whales. There is a whale-watching

cruise called Seastreak that leaves from NYC's east side starting in May. There have been sightings right here in Long Island Sound, and a neighbor swears he saw one in Eastchester Bay. The whales in our area are mostly humpback whales. Some of the other whales that may be seen in NYC waters include the finback, minke, and North Atlantic right whale—a "critically endangered" species, one of which was photographed by the Throggs Neck Bridge in 2021. The default whale for identification purposes, though, is the humpback. The fin on the back, unusually small but easy to spot, is the giveaway.

Humpbacks are the default whale in other parts of the world, too. For example, we understand that the Cabo San Lucas part of the Pacific Ocean is teeming with humpbacks as we write this. But the whale that people generally go to Mexico to see is the gray whale. We hear that there are remote places along the Baja coast where people in small boats called pangas can actually touch a gray whale. There are examples online of people actually kissing them!

Here on the East Coast, we don't need to kiss our whales. But we sure would like to think that they will always be there, alive and well, whether we are watching for them or not.



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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Although it is invasive, *Petasites japonica* makes a great groundcover, and it looks fabulous mimicking waterlilies in the car park at Monet's garden at Giverny.

Covering Ground

Now the budding trees of spring are casting their shimmering veil over the landscape. Shoots break through the crusty earth, and if we had planted groundcover, our shrubs would be skirted and decorated. Covering the soil with groundcover plants will save a great deal of time and expense in the long run. It also ties the garden together if used with restraint and repetition.

Mulching is essential to suppress weeds and hold moisture in, and plants can accomplish this as well. If you plant groundcover this year, mulch in between the plants to keep the weeds from getting

in and around them. Lay down crushed bark or shredded cedar bark mulch. Water the garden after you mulch, because, like peat, cedar bark absorbs a lot of water. Three inches of mulch will suppress weeds all season, but if you love self-sowers, leave it thin in those areas.

Here are some beautiful combinations that will not disappoint with groundcovers: ajuga in the dark leaf form with daffodils and daylilies; the grass (and this is a tongue twister), *hakonechloa* "all gold" with hellebores for shade; mats of violets or violas beneath viburnums or any deciduous shrub; tulips emerging from blankets of blue forget-me-nots; boxwood globes

among English ivy plants as if floating on a sea of green; ferns for shade, which give the garden age and delicacy. For full sun/poor soil, try artemisia "silver brocade" around roses. Silver plants look beautiful with small grasses such as *stipa tenuissima*. City Island has just the right soil for the silver lavender, thistle, artemisia and santolina.

Many plants you would not think of as weed suppressing serve that purpose when planted in numbers. Dwarf carnations look stunning underneath roses, for example. You could also use herbs, such as thyme or the fragrant oregano. Sedums would also be a lovely choice. As I age I think with relief of a small garden with ground cover and shrubs, which leaves more time for other endeavors, like resting, and is easy on the knees.

Because it is spring, here are some remarks on yellow. Gardens, like rooms, benefit from color schemes, and I love the freshness of a yellow garden complemented with green and dotted with white. The common sunflower, although an an-

nual, has perennial cousins, a group that includes helianthus, heliopsis, helenium, rudbeckia, coreopsis and inula. I once made a garden just of daisies starting with ox eye and shasta and ending with heliopsis and helenium. Their beauty with grasses evokes naturalness and combined with late-blooming asters can take you through October. Rudbeckia, pennisetum grass and white phlox "David" make a beautiful long-lasting picture. When daisies are surrounded with a boxwood border, they act as a delicate filler, burgeoning out of their stays. Yellow is especially lovely with blue: bulbs of muscari grape underneath the forsythias; chinodoxa with white azaleas.

Daisies are round with a button eye. Combine this shape with a tall rocket, an elegant spire. Verbascums are good and come easily from seed, also foxtail lilies, delphiniums and salvia superba caradonna. Shape, color, bloom time! This and knowing your soil and what will thrive in it will bring you success.

Spring is here!

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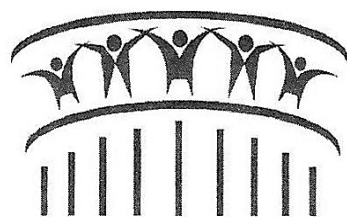
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Photo by KAREN NANI

A gaggle of new visitors has been spotted at the Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue.



Photos by RICK DeWITT and MARK NANI

A peek back at some special moments from last Easter as Islanders prepare for Holy Week and Passover commemorations early in April.

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Obituaries

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Joanne DiMarco

Longtime City Island resident Joanne DiMarco passed away on Feb. 20, 2023, at the age of 83 in Winter Haven, FL, surrounded by her family.

Joanne was born in the Bronx on July 5, 1939, to Anthony and Jeanette (Ragazzo) Gerbino. She grew up in New York City and attended Christopher Columbus High School in the 1950s. She married Domenick DiMarco, on Nov. 22, 1959, and after spending a few years in Con-

necticut in the 1960s, Joanne and her family planted roots on City Island on Bay Street. Her family grew with the birth of their children, Stephanie and Christopher.

Joanne loved working as a school administrator at I.S. 180 in Co-Op City for many years through the 1990s, where she loved helping the students and teachers. She and Dom moved to Florida in 2006 to enjoy their retirement years.

Nothing was more important to Joanne than her family and her many friends. She was a devoted mother, grandmother to her four grandchildren, and wife to Dom for 63 years. She was an adventurer and loved traveling to many places near and far. She enjoyed cooking for her family and boating from City Island on Long Island Sound. In Winter Haven, FL, Joanne attended St. Matthew Catholic Church. Her selfless attitude, devotion to her family and grandchildren, heart of gold, Bronx street smarts and laughter will never be forgotten.

Joanne is survived by her loving family, her husband, Domenick; her daughter, Stephanie Brusco-Barker (Alton) of Tampa, FL; her son, Christopher DiMarco of City Island, and four grandchildren, Jennifer (Jon), Jessica (Gregory), Christopher Jr. and Julia.

A celebration of Joanne's life and funeral services were held on March 4, 2023, at Kersey Funeral Home in Auburndale, FL, with many of her friends and her family in attendance.



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CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS: Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, postcards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED: Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. www.kaleidoscope280.com.

AVON REPRESENTATIVE: Full line of cosmetics, jewelry, clothes and much more. Call Emily Leni at 718-885-2430 for a catalog, or view my website on avon.com/eleni. (My rep name is Erminia Leni).

CHRISTIAN, THE HANDYMAN, IS BACK... Reliable, professional, and affordable home repairs. Serving the City Island community for over 15 years. Free estimates cheerfully given. Friendly and honest, low rates. Carpentry, painting, power washing, sheetrock, doors and windows, kitchen and bathroom light fixtures, fences, faucets, holiday decorations. Call Christian at 718-679-2396.

SPRING IS HERE! I will clean your house, office or boat. City Island references available. Call Margaret 917-287-1132.

BOAT SUPPLIES: BURCK'S BOAT STORE, 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559. Open 8a.m. Customer parking.



Photos by KAREN NANI

The traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper returned to Grace Church on Feb. 21, 2023, after a pandemic hiatus. Enthusiastic pancake servers (top photo, l. to r.) Sarito Aponte, Peter Klopfer and Eileen Marcus kept the large crowd well fed the night before Ash Wednesday.

Your Ad Could Be Here

Colon polyps. Stop them before they go bad.

Colon cancer almost always starts with a polyp. Get the polyp early and stop colon cancer before it even starts. And that's for both men and women. Just get a test from your doctor. 1-800-ACS-2345 or cancer.org

Colon cancer. Get the test. Get the polyp. Get the cure.

Ad Council American Cancer Society

City Island Yacht Club

Open House
April 15 10:30am-3:30pm
 Racing, Club Boats, Learn to Sail, Cruising

City Island Junior Sailing 2023
Full Day Program 9am-4pm (With optional extended care.)

- Classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced, grouped according to skill.
- All instructors are certified by US Sailing, the national organization of sailing, and have First Aid/CPR training.
- For children, ages 8-16. Scholarships available!
- Swimming proficiency required.

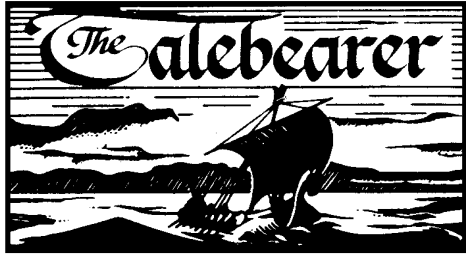
2023 Session Dates

June 26-30	Session I	Intro and Race Team
July 3-21	Session II	Race Team and Adventure Sailing
July 24-Aug 4	Session III	Race Team and Adventure Sailing
Aug 7-11	Session IV	Race Team and Adventure Sailing

Students can participate in the **CIYC New York City Junior Championships July 10-11, 2023**

Contact us at: cityislandyc.org/JuniorSailing
 email jrsailing@cityislandyc.org, or call (347) 692-0696 (Jr. Sailing Office)
 CIYC, 63 Pilot St., City Island, NY 10464

Learn more at the CIYC Open House!



Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Photo by PAUL NANI

Clam digger Carol Gauss McKenna (left) will celebrate her birthday on April 14 followed by a May birthday for her sister Melinda Gauss Halligan (right). Their cousin, Island resident Karen Rauhauser Nani (center), wishes them both many more.



Theo James Cherry was born on March 8, 2023.

Susan Strazzera would like to wish her big sister, Lisa Henning Ferraro, a very happy 85th birthday on April 25.

Best wishes to Elizabeth and Ken Farnum of Minneford Avenue on their 32nd wedding anniversary on April 20, and a very happy birthday to Elizabeth, who celebrates on April 22. With love from Mom and Deb.

March Madness! Congratulations to Priscilla Piri on her closing the St. Clair's CYO basketball season with 228 points. Continue working hard and best of luck on your AAU season! You rock! Love, Mom and Dad.

Long-distance birthday wishes to

clam diggers Eric Rauhauser on April 2 and Carol Gauss McKenna on April 14. Eric will celebrate in Santa Cruz, CA, and Carol will blow out candles with her husband, Bob, in Pennsylvania.

Happy birthday to Leah Nani on April 30. Leah will have cake with her City Island family, including her in-laws, Karen and Paul, husband, Roger, and son, Luke.

Birthday greetings on April 23 to the Sailmaker's Judy Iovieno, with love from Maria, Bob and kids.

Happy 30th birthday to David Butterworth on April 30, with love from your family.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to clamdigger Tara O'Connell and Joel Agruso, who wed on Oct. 27 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Tara is the daughter of Patricia O'Connell and the late Dennis O'Connell. Joel's mother is Joanne Agruso of Long Island, and Joel's father and stepmother are Marlene and Joel Agruso, also of Long Island. The happy couple honeymooned in Kenya.

Welcome to the world on March 8 to Theo James Cherry! Proud parents are Julia Hayes and Warren Cherry. Proud



Clam digger Tara O'Connell wed Joel Agruso on October 27, 2023. Tara was congratulated by her City Island friends and former P.S. 175 classmates (bottom photo, l. to r.): Lyn Calta, Christine Kovach, Kasi Leigh Lydon, Kristina Hein, bride Tara O'Connell Agruso, Ashley Grey, Elaine Matos, Casey Higginbotham, Michelle Gallo and Kerry Carr.



Happy second birthday to Henry Allen Rodstrom.

grandparents are Susan McGowan and Danny Hayes.

Kudos to Islander Brenda Prohaska, who was featured on the front page of the New York Times on March 18 for rescuing abandoned fish all over New York City. Her efforts began during the pandemic, when she responded to a call for help on behalf of 300 goldfish in

the basement of an abandoned building in Queens, adding a new career to her already busy schedule as teacher, beautician and active volunteer here on the Island.

Happy birthday on April 22 to Anne McIntyre, with love from the Butterworth family.

Happy birthday to little Henry Allen, who turns two on April 23, with love from Mom and Dad and the Rodstrom and Allen families.

Happy birthday on April 26 to Peggy Eberhart with love from the Butterworths.

Happy 15th birthday to our son, Thomas Riordan; your kindness shines bright always. And congratulations to our daughter Grace Riordan on your confirmation April 29. We are so proud of you both. Love always Mom, Dad and Emma.

And from the Swieciki and Iovieno families, a very happy birthday to Maria Iovieno Swieciki, who turns 70 on April 25. We love you!

Maria Swieciki



Islander Priscilla Piri was a top scorer on her Saint Clair's CYO basketball team during the 2023 season.

MOVING? PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO: ISLAND CURRENT, P.O. BOX 6, CITY ISLAND, NY 10464. Includes fields for OLD and NEW address, name, city, state, zip, and apt. #.

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