

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## Police Commissioner Visits CI and Vows to Renovate Range

By KAREN NANI



Photos by MATTIA PANZA and JANE PROTZMAN

NYPD Commissioner William J. Bratton addressed a crowd of over 100 residents at the City Island Civic Association meeting on July 28, 2015, at P.S. 175 (photo above). He gave an exclusive interview to *The Current's* editor, Karen Nani, prior to the meeting (top right photo) and posed with the Civic board (bottom right photo, l. to r.): Jane Blanks, Fred Ramftl, Barbara Dolensek, John Doyle, Tom Smith, Mr. Bratton and Bill Stanton. He answered questions from the audience about traffic and Rodman's Neck and then took time for some photos with Islanders.

Two-time New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner William J. Bratton was the guest speaker at the meeting of the City Island Civic Association on July 28, 2015, where he received an enthusiastic welcome from more than 100 residents. He focused on several issues of importance to Islanders, including the Rodman's Neck firing range, summer traffic and staffing at the 45th Precinct, but he bypassed some complaints raised by a few hecklers and protesters.

The Commissioner arrived at P.S. 175 for the meeting with his wife, Rikki Klieman, about 7:15 p.m. and headed directly to the principal's office to meet with Bronx police brass, including Borough Commander Larry Nikunen and outgoing 45th Precinct Commanding Officer James McGeown. Mr. Bratton was introduced to Captain Danielle Raia, the new commander of the precinct and the first female officer to lead the 45th.

He also granted an exclusive interview to *The Current* before addressing the larger assembly. When asked what his impression of City Island was, he responded candidly that he had never been here before but that "it looks just like it did in the movie," referring to the film *City Island* starring Andy Garcia and Julianna Margulies.

Given his famous zero-tolerance policing policy with respect to petty crimes, this reporter joked with him about being called to the principal's office, which usually follows bad behavior at the City Island School.

Commissioner Bratton then discussed plans for the Rodman's Neck police firing range and the noise from gunfire that has plagued Islanders for over 30 years. "I know that many residents were hoping the range would be moved to College Point, Queens, along with the police academy, but the budget for that project was cut." He explained that while \$1.5 billion was originally allocated for the project in 2007 under Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Commissioner Ray Kelly, the budget was halved, "so that only the academy and classrooms were relocated to Queens."

However, the commissioner reiterated his commitment to renovating and soundproofing the existing range, first reported in the April 2015 issue of *The Current*. "Rodman's was damaged by Hurricane Sandy and also needs to be modernized. We have requested \$115 million in capital funds from New York State to renovate it into a state-of-the-art training facility."

The renovation would include covering

the outdoor range (but not enclosing it), reducing the sound of gunfire by 80 percent, rebuilding the berms and constructing all new modular buildings. "We already have funding for the architectural designs and plans to be completed this year. The capital funds will be in next year's budget."

When asked what the timetable is for completion of the entire project, the commissioner estimated two and a half years from the start of construction with completion between 2019 and 2020.

This reporter reviewed the many promises made by the NYPD over the last 25 years regarding Rodman's Neck, including barrier plans laid out in 1993, renovation plans tied to New York's bid for the 2012 Olympics, lead remediation (which only occurred after a lawsuit was filed), and the 2007 plan to move the firing range to Queens. When asked why City Islanders should believe the NYPD this time, he told *The Current*: "They are going to have to depend on my optimism that this will happen. I have approved the plan, the mayor has approved the plan and we have the support of the City Council."

The Commissioner was then introduced to the larger audience by Civic Association president Bill Stanton, himself a former NYPD officer. Mr. Bratton began with the positive news that the City Council, represented by Councilman Jimmy Vacca who was onstage at the meeting, had approved the "best budget ever" for the police department, enabling the hiring of 1,300 new officers and counter-terrorism specialists by this time next year.

According to Mr. Bratton, this will translate into more time for officers to spend in the community working with residents like those on City Island. He also declared 2015 as "the year of technology" and described plans to acquire 35,000 smart phones and portable computer tablets with custom apps for officers that would allow them to stay in the field longer and submit reports online via the NYPD network. A new GPS system will also be installed over the next three months, enabling precinct supervisors to locate officers in the field and insuring more uniform police coverage in all neighborhoods.

He then reiterated his plans for the firing range at Rodman's Neck. "The range is in horrible condition, and we owe it to our officers to give them a state-of-the-art training facility." He promised the audience that a renovated range with new soundproofing would be completed by 2020 and that 80



percent of the noise that bothers Islanders would be eliminated. "In addition, we have to protect the range from the storms of the future."

After the commissioner completed his introductory remarks, Mr. Stanton began to pose questions to Mr. Bratton that had been previously submitted to the Civic Association. Before the first one could be asked, a heckler shouted at the commissioner about "killer cops," but Mr. Stanton regained con-

trol of the meeting and the heckler was escorted out of the building.

Mr. Bratton addressed questions about traffic congestion on City Island. He admitted that it took him extra time to get to the meeting because of traffic on City Island Avenue, which drew murmurs from audience members, "now you see what we go through." He pledged support for the 45th Precinct's plan for extra traffic agents during the summer

*Continued on page 5*

## Civic Association Hosts Bus Meeting with MTA

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On July 30, more than 35 City Island residents met with representatives of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to register complaints regarding the poor service they were experiencing on the Bx29 bus from Pelham Bay Station to City Island. The meeting was organized by the City Island Civic Association, in response to a flood of complaints that appeared on the Civic Facebook page during the months of May, June and July.

Louis Angel Rodriguez, assistant general superintendent, and Arthur Roscher, superintendent of Bronx operations, patiently answered a number of questions and complaints. They explained that the schedule posted at the bus stops on City Island were in fact from 2014 and did not reflect the current schedule, which had changed slightly. The real problems, however, seem to be that the bus drivers do not adhere to the updated schedules, leaving commuters to miss buses going to and from work.

The MTA reps recommended that riders access the smartphone app MTA Bus Time, which gives the location and arrival time of specific buses. They also explained that the dispatcher at Pelham Bay Station should be able to give accurate information. Several

residents complained that the dispatcher in the past had been very rude and uninformative, but were happy to learn that the individual in question had been reassigned to another location. Both Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Roscher assured the group that complaints would be responded to very quickly.

In addition to the poor service, complaints were also raised about the confusion regarding the destination of the Bx29 bus, which makes a loop to Bay Plaza as well as City Island. Buses are not clearly marked and have been confusing, especially to visitors to City Island who find themselves in Co-op City.

Several requests were made, to which the MTA reps had insufficient information or authority to answer, so the Civic has asked for more data in order to be able to monitor complaints. Bus service to City Island stops at midnight and does not begin again until 5 a.m. Because of this, many restaurant workers are forced to take taxis to get to and from work. Another request is that City Island be given a dedicated bus rather than sharing the route with Bay Plaza. The Civic Association will follow through on these requests with the MTA and will also continue to monitor bus complaints through its Facebook page.

**BRIEFLY...**

**CITY ISLAND UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN:** The free Holy Rosary Pre-K, which will open in September in the St. Mary, Star of the Sea School building, still has openings. Registration is on-going; for more information, call 718-652-1838 or visit [www.buildboldfutures.org](http://www.buildboldfutures.org).

**CROSS STREET DEDICATION TO BILL CLANCY:** On Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m., Cross Street will be given an official overlay as Commander William G. Clancy Way. Everyone is asked to gather at 10:30 a.m. to insure a prompt start. All are welcome!

**SHIP AND YACHT BUILDERS OF CITY ISLAND** are celebrated in a major new exhibition at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street. Curated by Barbara Harrison, the show features photographs and commentary on the extraordinary period in City Island's history when yacht and shipbuilding were at their peak. Here are all the old yards, the brilliant craftsmen who worked there, the methods of construction they used and the famous sailing and motor yachts they produced, as well as the military vessels constructed during wartime. The museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [cityislandmuseum.org](http://cityislandmuseum.org) or call 718-885-0008.

**HUTCHINSON RIVER AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY CLEANUP:** Join the Hutchinson River Restoration Project on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to clean up the shore of the river and the shoreline of the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary. Canoes will be provided by the Urban Park Rangers; gloves and water will also be provided, and the Turtle Cove Golf Center will provide free parking. Meet at the bus stop at the southwest corner of City Island Road and Shore Road and wear old clothes, sunscreen and a hat. For more information or to register, contact Eleanor Rae at 718-885-9653 or [HutchinsonRRP@aol.com](mailto:HutchinsonRRP@aol.com), or Toby Z. Liederman at 718-885-3423 or [tobyzliederman@gmail.com](mailto:tobyzliederman@gmail.com).

**THE MANOR CLUB OF PELHAM,** located at 1023 Esplanade, Pelham, New York, is inviting women, young and old, of City Island to an informational open house for prospective members on Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Take a tour of the club's historic building and learn about its rich history and its afternoon and evening programs, activities and events. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 914-738-1528.


**JOIN CITY ISLAND'S CULINARY CLUB:** The first meeting of the Culinary Club will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, where the format and scheduling of future meetings will be discussed. On Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. the club will explore the Asian grocery store in Parkchester, followed by dinner at Sabrosura, an Asian-Latin fusion restaurant at 1200 Castle Hill Avenue. Visit [www.sabrosurany.com](http://www.sabrosurany.com) for more information.

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**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during July and August 2015. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 4 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – ASSAULT
- 1 – CRIMINAL CONTEMPT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 2 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from July 1 to Aug. 16, 2015.

7/2 – At 3 p.m. on Bridge Street and City Island Avenue, the gate on a commercial construction site was broken and property was removed from a storage bin during a burglary.

7/5 – An incident of criminal mischief occurred at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 9:40 p.m. A verbal dispute among several men resulted in a broken door. Some glass items from the

establishment were also thrown during the altercation.

7/15 – Police are investigating an incident of aggravated harassment on Pilot Street at 8:45 p.m. A female resident received threatening phone calls from an unknown male.

7/28 – An Island female reported an incident of grand larceny on City Island Avenue at 1 a.m. An unknown perpetrator allegedly removed her purse after she left it unattended at a commercial establishment.

7/30 – Police from the 45th Precinct responded to a report of an emotionally disturbed person on Reville Street at 11 a.m. The man allegedly entered a neighbor's backyard and tried to jump a fence causing damage to the fence.

7/31 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 57, on City Island Avenue at 10:50 p.m. and charged him with assault. A verbal dispute became violent when the perpetrator allegedly slapped an off-Island female in the face.

8/7 – At 3:25 p.m., a Ditmars Street resident reported an incident of criminal contempt. She received threatening phone calls from a relative from whom she had an order of protection.

8/8 – An off-Island male reported that an unknown perpetrator fled the scene of an accident after crashing into his vehicle, causing damage to the rear bumper.



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# Father Knapp Joins St. Mary's

On Sunday, Aug. 23, parishioners at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church received a letter from their new pastor, Fr. John M. Knapp, introducing himself to the community.

He told the congregation that coming to St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Assumption parishes was "in a way like coming home." He grew up in the parish of St. Frances de Chantal, where he went to elementary school, and is well acquainted with Pelham Bay and City Island. After high school he went to Iona College and in 1982 entered St. Joseph Seminary. He was ordained deacon and priest in 1986.

After serving in several parishes for some seven years, he returned to the Bronx, where he served as pastor of Our Lady of Solace for 14 years. For the last three years

there, he also served as administrator of St. Dominic's, which gave him experience serving two parishes at the same time. Most recently he was pastor for eight years at St. Gabriel's in the west Bronx, which recently merged with St. Margaret of Cortona.

In closing his letter, he asked his new parishioners to be patient as he settles in to his new position at both St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Assumption, as well as the OLA school, which has a new principal this year.

As of press time, Fr. Knapp was expected to speak at all the Masses at St. Mary's on Sunday, Aug. 30. His appointment officially takes effect on Sept. 1. Fr. Michael Chalinor, who will be leaving for a position in Port Chester, was assured by the Archdiocesan advisory board that St. Mary's will also have a full-time resident priest.



Photo by TOM SMITH

The Civic Association Facebook page came alive on the morning of Aug. 12, 2015, when Island residents saw that a casket was lying in the street in front of Pelham Cemetery and began posting questions about how it got there and whether or not it was empty. The empty vault had been literally dropped off by a delivery truck in preparation for a burial to be held later in the day, presumably because the cemetery was locked. This type of coffin, which does not readily decompose, is not allowed in Pelham Cemetery, however, and was later removed.

# City Island Bridge Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

At last, the temporary bridge has officially connected City Island to the mainland now that all of the spans have been installed. The remaining work includes auxiliary features of the bridge, such as utilities. The contractor is installing two temporary water mains (a 16-inch main on the north side of the bridge and a 12-inch main on the south side), along with a gas main and electrical and communications lines.

At the same time as the utilities are being put in place, street lighting and drainage are being installed on the temporary bridge. A series of protective fences along the inner and outer parts of the pedestrian walkways is nearly complete. The approaches to the temporary bridge will be completed and

fresh asphalt will be put on the surface of the roadway. The project team estimates that they will complete this work and have the bridge open to traffic in late September.

Apart from the work on the temporary bridge, the contractor will resume the remediation at Turtle Cove beginning Sept. 15, 2015, in conjunction with the replacement of the aged conduit beneath City Island Road that began earlier this year. The contractor will install the new box culvert for the south half of the conduit. This will involve staging a new traffic pattern, in which automobile travel will be reduced to one lane in each direction on the west-bound side of City Island Road. This work is projected to be complete in December 2015.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The band Alive N Kickin' turned in a great performance at City Island's Ambrosini Little League Field on Monday, Aug. 24, as part of the 2015 edition of the Summertime Symphonies series sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein, and was enjoyed by a large crowd of City Islanders.

# SPARKLING SUMMER

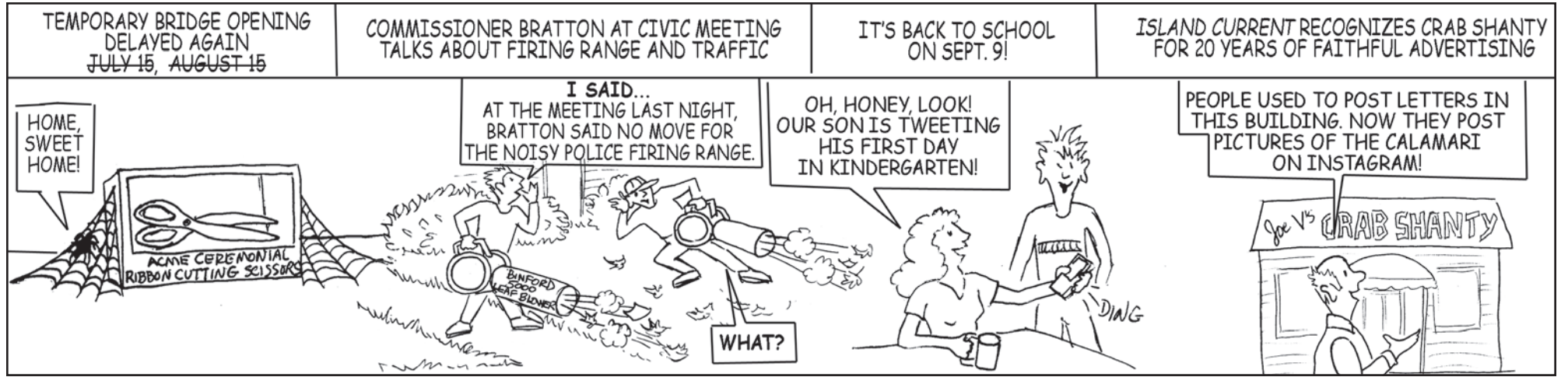


Photos by GILES BATES and KAREN NANI

The summer of 2015 featured brightly illuminated skies starting with the annual New York Salutes America fireworks extravaganza on June 25, sponsored by State Senator Jeff Klein and Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. (top photo). Islanders Emily and Reno Leni (middle photo) enjoyed the pyrotechnics launched from a barge off Orchard Beach, while Earley Street residents took in the many July 4 celebrations across Eastchester Bay.

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**Mute Swan Problem**

Copies of the following letters were received by The Current. For more information about mute swans, see the article published in the July/August 2015 issue.

To Rodney J. Rivera  
Special Assistant Region 2 (NYC)  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

On Saturday afternoon, July 11, my adult daughter was randomly attacked by a male mute swan approximately five yards from shore on Hawkins Street Beach in City Island. She suffered lacerations to her head and trauma. Being an experienced swimmer, she did not drown. Witnesses threw rocks and tried to distract the swan, but it wouldn't stop its attack. Luckily my daughter had the sense to swim to a residential dock and to hide under it. A fellow Islander helped her up onto his dock and put hydroperoxide on the wound. A doctor was called, and she was prescribed antibiotics and painkillers. She was very close to requiring stitches.

These mute swans come yearly to nest on the shore of Ditmars Street, approximately four beaches over from where my daughter was swimming. Most of the time they do not cause a human health hazard, but this year was different. These swans are being fed by residents who live along the shore.

I spoke to the family that lives at the end of Fordham Street, explaining the attack not only on my daughter but also on a jet skier that same day. He refused to stop feeding them on his waterfront property, which puts all of the members of the West Fordham Street Beach Association in jeopardy, including the children as well as the neighboring beach residents.

It is imperative that we work together for the safety of the residents as well as the swans to develop a conservation plan to lower the risk of getting injured in the future. This is the first vicious attack that I have seen although I have been living on City Island my whole life.

The swans need to be removed, relocated or distracted from the nesting area. As a safety reminder I have posted a notice in our local community reminding all residents not to swim alone. Swimmers and children must beware of the mute swans and their cygnets. This male is overprotective and is widening his territory. An inspector or behavioral specialist should come out to inspect our shorelines and the vicinity of the nests yearly.

I would greatly appreciate a prompt response. Thank you.

**Joanne Valletta**

To Mrs. Valletta:

Thank you for your e-mail and concern with this issue. I spoke with our wildlife folk and was told the following:

The mute swan is an exotic species that was released into New York State. DEC does not relocate this species because it only transfers the problem to a new location. Feeding this bird is not recommended. Feeding will concentrate a large number in a small location. During the breeding season the bird is very aggressive toward people, boats or objects that approach the young. This behavior will stop once the young are older.

The residents must come together and agree to make changes in how they respond to this animal. No feeding, keeping the bird at a distance during the breeding season and removing anything that could serve as a nesting location.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or additional information you may have.

**Rodney J. Rivera**

**Saying Goodbye to Trader John**

To the Editor:

Giving the eulogy for my father, John Persteins, on Aug. 5 at City Island's St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, partly because I was responsible for providing closure for family members, but also for so many other people from so many walks of life. For those who could not make it to the funeral, I have submitted the text of my eulogy below. Although it is highly personal, I believe there are many folks out there who would want to hear what I had to say.

My father was the most human human being I have ever known. He was smart, inspirational, imperfect, complicated, stubborn and well intentioned. Sometimes you would sit in his presence and admire him. Sometimes you would be in his presence and want to grab him by the shirt and say "John, what the heck were you thinking?"

People often ask me what it was like to be John's son. I know he considered me to be his favorite number 1 son, because he always told me so. John Anthony was his favorite number 2 son. My father gave us a life somewhere between the television shows "Silver Spoons" and "Hee-Haw." He often told me that "the world was my oyster," and he let us do things I will never ever let my children do.

On the "Silver Spoons" side, we had used Cadillacs, real arcade games at home, heads of wild animals on the walls and massive Fourth of July parties. He let me open my own toy store in one of his storefronts when I was around 10 years old. I also sold brass key chains, paperweights and things like that from a table outside the Trader John store. He threw me an amazing college graduation party on the boathouse dock; afterward a college friend said it reminded him of a party from "The Great Gatsby." During my wedding, my dad helped organize my bride's grand entrance by boat to the boathouse dock.

That high life, however, was combined with a healthy dose of "Hee-Haw." We had the mandatory chickens. We listened to Hank Williams, Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers. We had a pick-up truck with a big hole in the passenger side floor. We had cars filled with everything but people. We had the jeans jackets bought with Marlboro miles that were given to my dad, because bar tabs did not need to be paid for with cash. By the way, I made really good money in the small businesses that I told you about, but all the money went back to my dad. I was not only John's son; I was also an employee and a bank.

Once my dad thought it would be a good idea for me to go to grammar school wearing a baseball cap that had a pile of fake poop on the lid; the hat said something that I cannot mention here, but the word meant "poophead." That was the time when his sister, my aunt Ena, who also happened to be the school's principal, wanted to grab my dad by the shirt and ask him what the heck he was thinking. My dad tried to teach me about the birds and the bees by bringing home and popping an adult film into the VCR. That was when my mom wanted to grab my dad by the collar for some choice words.

If you think being John's son was complicated, can you imagine being married to him? My father certainly tested the limits of his wedding vows "in good times and in bad." He always enjoyed telling the story about when he used his one and only phone call "from the clink" to call my mother, who promptly hung up on him. That is only one of many stories. Mom, thank you for putting up with dad for so long.

I often joke that my father lived in the wrong place. Rather than New York City, he should have lived by a lake in Kentucky or on a route number in Delaware near the coast, where boats were king, cars without mufflers were cool and piles of metal in a front yard were considered sophisticated yard art. I am extremely grateful to my dad for providing me with a life in a small town. As he always said, "God bless America."

John Persteins was well known to many people from many places. His home was this tiny island, but people from all over the country, and the world, made time to see John, people from California and Alaska, Germany, Turkey, Brazil and Ireland, to name just a few. He loved to meet people and listen to their stories. He traveled the world through their eyes. You will find quotes from John in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Timeout New York. John, more than any other person, made City Island a destination; he put it on the map.

My dad was more than well known; he was also well liked. He was a friend and an inspiration to many people, a man who often turned the other cheek, a man who did not judge people by their appearance or ethnicity. Most importantly, he always welcomed the people who were alone, the strays, the people who were down, the people whom society wanted to forget.

I know that some people considered my father to be a villain, a target and a problem that needed solving. I have struggled with this knowledge every day of my life and the toll those people have taken on our family. I want those folks to always remember this:

John Persteins lived his life as a true Christian should.

John went by the nickname Trader John, or Trader and TJ for short. But as you know after visiting his original Trader John store to find a shackle, or the boat house to buy a specific size hook, or his antique store for something completely random, my father did a lot more collecting and buying than he did selling. My father really was a hoarder.

My father hoarded more than things. He hoarded life experiences. Take solace in the fact that my father lived nearly 73 years, years that were chock-full of experiences. He opened his first business when he was 19. He was a lobsterman until the shooting started. At one point he was a chauffeur for a Dutch ambassador. The list goes on and on and on.

As he got older, he considered the most important experiences of his life to be those with his three grandchildren, my sons Joseph, Alexander and Marshall. John gave the boys adventures and fired their imaginations. He had the best toys for them: surfboards, canoes, skateboards, musical instruments and, of course, dull pocket knives, rusty saws and axes with dangerously loose axe heads. Nearly every Sunday my boys spent time with Grandpa John and Grandma Dee. In the summer, he loved watching them fish and swim. He even got in the water a few times to throw them off his shoulders. In the winter he loved playing cards, building models and doing puzzles with them. In his final days away from home, all he wanted to do was remember his grandsons by picturing them playing in the water and fishing on the dock and by reliving the sound of their laughter.

In the end, nature took its course. My dad always wanted nature to take its course. This is certainly a sad time for all of us. City Island will never be the same. Our lives have changed in some way forever. Dad: sit, drink and, finally, rest in peace.

**Waldo Persteins**



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# City Island After-school Program

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, a new after-school program will start at the City Island Community Center at 190 Fordham Street for students entering kindergarten through sixth grade. The program is sponsored by MMCC (Mosholu Montefiore Community Center), whose staff will walk the children from P.S. 175 at the end of the school day to the Community Center. Parents will pick up by 6 p.m. The program will include a snack of juice and cookies followed by varied programs, including arts and crafts, dance, drama, karate, active and quiet games, help with homework and school projects. During school holidays and vacations, all-day activities and trips will be available at the

MMCC main building at 3450 Dekalb Avenue in the Bronx (pickup and return available for an additional fee).

The annual fees for the program will be payable from October to May and are as follows:

5 days a week: 8 payments of \$300 (\$75 a week)

4 days a week: 8 payments of \$259 (\$64.75 a week)

3 days a week: 8 payments of \$247 (\$61.75 a week)

A 10% discount is available for siblings. The program will run through Friday, June 24, 2016.

For more information, call MMCC City Island at 718-882-4000.



Photo by STEPHEN NUZZO

On July 21, 2015, Council Member James Vacca visited the P.S. 175 summer camp, which is run by the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF). SASF is an organization that is funded by the New York City Council and operates throughout the city. During the visit, Mr. Vacca was delighted to meet with the camp counselors and to see the kids in action.



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

Retired detective Mattia Panza had a photo op with Police Commissioner Bratton.

## Commissioner Visits CI

*Continued from page 1*

months, but he acknowledged the uniqueness of the island's geography: "one way in, one way out will result in traffic."

When it comes to crime prevention and control, the commissioner emphasized the necessity for cooperation between the 45th, the NYPD Narcotics Division and the community when it comes to arresting drug dealers and repeat offenders. He said that this would be especially important given the proliferation of a new, synthetic form of marijuana being distributed by dealers all over the city.

Commissioner Bratton's approach to re-

ducing crime in the cities where he has been police commissioner (New York, Boston and Los Angeles) has been the subject of many articles and books, including "Turnaround: How America's Top Cop Reversed the Crime Epidemic" by Peter Knobler.

Mr. Stanton wrapped up the meeting with a "personal" presentation of his own recently published novel, "Badge of Evil," to Mr. Bratton and his wife, who joined him on the stage.

Before the commissioner left P.S. 175 and headed to dinner at Artie's Restaurant, he took time to pose for photos with the Civic Association board members, 45th Precinct commanders and officers, and individual residents such as retired NYPD detective Mattia Panza.

## HART ISLAND REVISITED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Sunday, July 19, after five years of legal battles, relatives of individuals buried in potter's field on Hart Island were finally allowed to visit the gravesites of their loved ones, thanks to a class-action lawsuit brought on their behalf by the New York Civil Liberties Union against the Department of Corrections (DOC), which administers the island. Prisoners from Rikers Island bury the dead in mass graves, which are not marked, although exact locations are recorded in a database of burial records.

Until the lawsuit was announced on July 8, relatives who received permission to visit the island were allowed to visit a gazebo near the dock but not the actual gravesites. Weekday visits by ferry were allowed once a month, but now visits will be allowed one weekend day a month for relatives, who may bring up to four people with them, not necessarily relatives. Visitors must still surrender their cell phones and provide identification; relatives must provide proof of their relationship to the deceased.

Hart Island has been used as a cemetery for well over a century, and it is estimated that there may be as many as a million burials there. Since it was purchased from the Hunter family by the city of New York in 1864 for \$75,000, it has been used as a Civil War prison, a quarantine hospital, a reformatory, an insane asylum, a drug-rehabilitation center and a prison. Once a village with as many as 2,000 residents, many of them prison and hospital personnel, Hart Island was abandoned in the 1980s and public access was no longer allowed. The buildings that still stand on the island, several dating back to the 1880s, are deteriorating and unsafe, one of several reasons given by DOC for restricted access. There are no longer any utilities on the island, and parts of the island have been damaged by storms.

Laurie Grant, whose stillborn daughter was buried on Hart Island without her knowledge, filed an unsuccessful lawsuit five years ago to gain access to the gravesite, but the DOC made it clear that it was "not in the habit of giving solace." The present DOC commissioner told the New York Times that he pledged to help "enable access to the cemetery on Hart Island in a compassionate and safe manner," and Ms. Grant was one of about 20 visitors who made the trip on July 19. She told *The Current* that there were five different groups on the trip, each one taken to the appropriate gravesite by van, chaperoned by two corrections officers. She reported that weeds had been mowed, the area cleaned and flowers placed by the gravesites, although the visitors had to show identification, surrender electronic devices and were not allowed to take photographs.

Although this loosening of restrictions is certainly an improvement over the previous conditions set by the DOC, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley is still determined to introduce legislation to the City Council that would transfer jurisdiction for Hart Island to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The bill is now in the committee on Fire and Criminal Justice, of which Ms. Crowley is chair, and will be the subject of a public hearing once it reaches the City Council.

Ms. Crowley recognizes that Parks is not sufficiently funded at this time to restore and rehabilitate Hart Island, but she believes that this transfer of jurisdiction would change the way in which the island is managed. She told *The Current* that burials could be handled more appropriately by another service, private or public, at no greater cost to the city. Melinda Hunt, president of the Hart Island Project, which has been advocating for many years for a change of jurisdiction and greater accessibility, has stated on numerous occasions that both the burial process and the record keeping as administered by the DOC are a century out of date with current practices elsewhere.

Although the City Island Civic Association voted to support the bill, along with most Bronx City Councilmembers and Community Board 10, a group on City Island has circulated a petition opposing the transfer of jurisdiction, largely on the basis of their concern that the island not become a public park/recreation area that would draw excessive traffic to City Island and open up the island to use inappropriate for a cemetery.

Councilwoman Crowley told *The Current* that while she supports the idea of visitation to the island, she has not advocated for it to become a recreational area. Nearby Pelham Bay Park provides recreational facilities for the public, whereas, she pointed out, Hart Island would remain accessible by only one ferry and one dock. If funds can be raised or appropriated in the future, Parks is certainly better equipped than the DOC to manage the landscape on the island and to make decisions regarding the historic structures, which are mostly in serious disrepair and pose a hazard to visitors.

Representatives of the Civic Association say that the primary reason they support the change of jurisdiction is to protect it from future development of the sort that New York City has proposed several times in the past, such as an incineration plant, a prison and a homeless shelter. Establishing Hart Island as parkland via alienation would give it a legal status that could protect it in perpetuity from future development. They point out that many areas in Parks Department jurisdiction are not used for recreational purposes, and the Bronx representative of the Mayor's office noted at a recent Civic meeting that the funding to make Hart Island suitable for recreation would be astronomical and well beyond the reach of the city at this time or in the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, the DOC's recent expansion of visitation may give City Islanders a sense of how much traffic is likely to be created by visitors to Hart Island. At this time, weekend visits are restricted to once a month and at hours when traffic to City Island is minimal.

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# Crab Shanty: Still Thriving After All These Years

By BILL STUTTIG



Photos courtesy of the VALENTI FAMILY and THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The exterior of the Crab Shanty in 1990 soon after Joe Valenti bought the business.

The following interview is the second in a series of profiles devoted to local individuals and businesses that have helped to support The Island Current by placing ads in virtually every issue for more than 20 years.

For 38 years, the Original Crab Shanty at the northwest corner of Tier Street and City Island Avenue has been operating as a consistent, stalwart provider of quality seafood, despite competition that keeps growing and changing with tastes and times.

Crab Shanty was originally founded by Sam "Sammy" Chernin in October 1977 as an expansion of his growing City Island seafood empire, which began in the late '60s with the establishment of the Fish Box at Rochelle Street, which still thrives today.

Joseph Valenti, a loyal long-time employee of Sammy's who served for many years as general manager of the Crab Shanty and several other Chernin-owned restaurants on the Island, was finally offered the chance to fulfill his dream of owning his own restaurant in 1990. Sam Chernin, according to Joe's stepchildren Michelle and Robert Howard, sold the Crab Shanty to Joseph 25 years ago.

Joseph lived that dream for more than two decades until he passed away in 2012. Since then, Michelle and Robert, along with his widow, Sharon, have been keeping his dream alive by running the Crab Shanty just as their late father and husband ran it, as a family restaurant that offers good quality seafood at affordable prices.

In a recent interview, Michelle told *The Current* that running the restaurant presents its challenges today, some challenges that were not present 25 years ago and others that were always part of the business.

Unlike most other seafood restaurants on City Island, the Crab Shanty is small, operating out of the building that housed City Island's Post Office for many decades more than 37 years ago. (Historical sidebar: before the Post Office, the building was first a livery stable and then a silent movie house called

the Scenic Theater and Nিকেlette.) "I heard that Sammy originally wanted to call the restaurant 'The Post Office,' but the government would not allow it." So it was dubbed the Crab Shanty, in homage to its modest size and the casual New England-style menu and decor it has featured since the 1970s.

The relatively small size and location make the Crab Shanty one of very few seafood restaurants on City Island that does not offer a waterfront view, either full or partial. Despite these built-in disadvantages, the restaurant thrived under Mr. Valenti for more than two decades, and it continues to succeed under the guidance of his two stepchildren.

"The menu has basically stayed the same since 1990," says Michelle, "We still specialize in lobster and crab and seafood along with basic American food such as steaks. Since 1990, City Island has changed. It has become a lot more populated and a lot more popular with off-Islanders." But with the Island's popularity come increasing competition, changing tastes and a great deal more traffic.

"I feel the competition does not present a problem to us," Michelle adds. "I say all the time that if they are busy, then we are busy, and that is the way it continues to be. There is enough business for everyone. I grew up on City Island, and while the Island is not exactly the same as when we grew up, the character of the Island remains the same. My stepfather always believed in supporting the community. He sponsored Little League teams and contributed to school events and other causes, but he also employed many City Island residents, which we continue to do," she notes. "Some of them have been with us since the beginning."

The present-day challenge is the rising price of food, especially seafood, and the restaurant must be able to offer the customer the best-quality food while keeping prices affordable. "Our profit margin keeps shrinking," Michelle says, "but we have to stay affordable in order to continue to serve our



Before it was a restaurant, the building at the northwest corner of Tier Street and City Island Avenue served as City Island's Post Office.



Joe Valenti and his wife, Sharon, outside the family-run business.

loyal customer base, which includes many City Islanders who have been coming for decades."

Although the Crab Shanty has been a regular advertiser in *The Island Current* since Joseph Valenti bought the restaurant in 1990, Michelle says: "We have never really studied the effect that advertising has had on our business, but I can say that we have a

loyal and large City Island customer base." She and her brother told *The Current* that during the summer months, when the crowds are large, the City Island residents stay away, but during the off season they come back, because they like the quieter, friendly atmosphere. In a way it is the local customers that allow the restaurant to continue to operate during the colder off-season months.

"We don't have a water view, so we rely on the friendliness and the family-owned feel for people to want to come here and be comfortable, unlike the larger establishments" Michele explains. Robert adds: "We are trying to uphold the tradition that my stepfather started, which is that of a small, local restaurant."

"Many, many customers walk through the door and remember my father," Michelle reports. "If he could look down on us now, I would hope that he thinks we are making him proud. We are trying to uphold his traditions. His number-one priority was his customers, to try to make everyone happy and have everyone leave here with a smile. That is what we strive for every day, to keep his legend going, while offering the same quality food and giving people a reason to come back again and again."



## Bartow-Pell Events

**September First Friday!** Music + Bronx Trolley on Friday, Sept. 4, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with music by Irish singer/songwriter Mary Courtney. This remarkable singer and guitarist will play an engaging mix of traditional Irish music with a progressive social conscience from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy the music, explore the mansion, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. The free Bronx Trolley makes an hourly loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island starting at 5:25. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

**Summer Chamber Music** on Sunday, Sept. 20, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. What better way to say farewell to summer than with a late afternoon concert by award-winning classical guitarist and composer Jay Kauffman? Tickets \$20. Afterwards, concert goers can save 20 percent on dinner at Pelham's Bistro Rollin. Be sure to mention the concert when you make your reservation. Bistro Rollin, 142 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, 914-633-0780.

**Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day.** Saturday, Sept. 26, 12 to 4 p.m. Bartow-Pell once again participates in Museum Day Live, an annual event hosted by Smithsonian Magazine in which museums across the country open their doors for free. Enjoy

guided tours at quarter past the hour. Visit [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday) for details and to get your free pass. Free.

**Birding at Bartow.** Sunday, Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m. Join avid bird watcher and founder of the City Island Birds website Jack Rothman on a trail walk as the fall migration gets under way. Be on the lookout for raptors, hummingbirds, a variety of warblers, shore and wading birds, sparrows and songbirds, all returning to their winter residences. Meet at parking lot. Free.

**Local Author Spotlight.** Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. Historian Marisa Berman will talk about her new book "Historic Amusement Parks of Long Island." When Long Island became a suburban paradise after World War II, ambitious entrepreneurs created dozens of amusement parks that went on to provide decades of fun and laughter. Reception and book signing in the Orangerie after the talk. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; members free.

**October First Friday!** Music + Bronx Trolley on Friday, Oct. 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. BPMM and the Bronx Music Heritage Center present the Eugene Marlow Heritage Ensemble, a contemporary world music quintet that records and performs original compositions and arrangements of traditional Hebraic melodies in various jazz, Afro-Caribbean, Brazilian and classical styles. Enjoy the music, explore the mansion, stroll the garden and savor light refreshments. The free Bronx Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island starting at 5:25 p.m. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students; members free.

**Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Day.** Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help make the grounds of BPMM look as beautiful as they can be. Long sleeves, pants and sturdy footwear are strongly recommended. Light refreshments available. Registration requested. Free.

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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.

### Current Calendar

#### SEPTEMBER

Thurs., Sept. 17, **Community Board 10 Meeting**, Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 19 and 20, **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Sat., Sept. 26, **Cross Street Dedication to Bill Clancy Sr.**, 11 a.m.

Sat., Sept. 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: pasta with meatballs or meat sauce.

Tues., Sept. 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

#### OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 2, 3 and 4, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 22, **Pelham Cemetery Shareholders meeting**, 7:30 p.m. American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue.

#### Pelham Cemetery

The cemetery will hold its annual shareholders (plot owners) meeting on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion post (550 City Island Avenue). All plot owners are encouraged to attend, as we will be discussing maintenance and fundraising initiatives for the cemetery.

Pelham Cemetery is a unique and beautiful part of City Island. Plot owners and their family members are encouraged to visit and look after the graves of their loved ones. We have plots for sale, both for burial and cremains. Anyone interested in purchasing a plot can contact us at 718-885-3036.

**Bill Clancy**

#### City Island Republicans

We may be in need of poll workers for the upcoming season. Anyone interested should call Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695. Again, thank you to all of those who signed our petition and helped us qualify the County for another two years.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (TBE), "your shul by the sea," at 480 City Island Avenue is a stimulating non-denominational place for observance of Jewish traditions. Our style of service is Jewish renewal, deeply spiritual, innovative and open-minded. The congregation is led by our clergy, Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Rabbi David Evan Markus, with music by Your Band by the Sea. Events begin promptly, so please come 15 minutes before listed times. Services are followed by a celebratory oneg, light refreshments. Reminder: for the health and comfort of all, please refrain from wearing perfume or cologne.

Please join us for FREE High Holy days services. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Sept. 13, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Friday, Sept. 18, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Yom Kippur morning service; 1 to 4:30 p.m. afternoon meditation, yoga, etc.; location TBD; 5 to 8 p.m. Yom Kippur closing service and Break-Fast.

Friday evening September Shabbat Services: Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. "Back to Shul"

Ki Tavo, clergy-led; Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m., congregant-led; Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah, clergy-led; Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m., congregant-led.

#### Other Events:

Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Bikkur Cholim training led by Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel; Sunday, Sept. 27, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sukkot Potluck Dinner.

All TBE members and friends interested in praying for and supporting others who are ill or need home contact are requested to please join our Chessed Committee. Please send questions and comments to [ertopol@aol.com](mailto:ertopol@aol.com) (Dr. Ellen Ruth Topol). If you want prayers for yourself, family members or friends, please send an e-mail. We welcome any member, friend and family of the City Island community to contact us to be placed on our prayer list as well.

Oneg sponsorship: Sponsoring an oneg (refreshments) for a Shabbat or holiday service is a wonderful way to honor an important occasion (e.g., birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, life cycle event) and give back to the community. For more information, call Violet Smith 718-885-0978 or e-mail [violetsmi@aol.com](mailto:violetsmi@aol.com).

For further information, visit our website at: [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

**Ellen Ruth Topol**

#### Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

We would like to remind all members that 2015 dues are now past due. They are \$30 and can be mailed or dropped off to the Post and placed into the SAL Box. Any member unpaid for more than two years will be dropped from the rolls.

New members are always welcome. If you are a male descendant, step-descendant or adopted descendant of a veteran set forth in the dates set by Congress, we would love to have you as a member. Stop by the Post to pick up an application.

All retired flags should be deposited in the red, white and blue mailbox next to the flagpole.

It's party time! When booking your next party, consider the Legion Post. Members receive a discount rate on all hall rentals.

Billy Clancy Jr. is once again the vice commander for the New York State SAL Detachment for districts 1 and 9.

Past Commander Todd Davis is back at the Post after recent surgery.

**Fred Ramftl Jr.**

#### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Although Sunday, Sept. 20, has been designated as Catechetical Sunday throughout the country, we will celebrate it on Sunday, Sept. 13, because our outdoor Mass has been scheduled for the weekend of the 20th. At the 10 a.m. Mass on the 13th, we will commission our catechists for the work they will do in our religious education program throughout the year.

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 16, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and grades 4 through 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registrations should be sent to Sr. Bernadette as soon as possible. All students can obtain forms from the rectory or in the vestibule of the church. New students must present a copy of a baptismal certificate if he or she was not baptized in St. Mary, Star of the Sea. No registrations will be accepted on the first day of class.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will reopen officially on Thursday, Sept. 17. Come and check out all the fall selections.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, we will hold our annual outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's school yard. This is always a very special occasion, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Our monthly holy hour will resume in October, on Friday, Oct. 2, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Beginning Sept. 1, Fr. John Knapp, formerly pastor of St. Gabriel's Church in



Photo by LUCIA KIM YEW

Trinity United Methodist Church held its annual worship and picnic at the beach on Aug. 9, 2015. Pastor Ezra Yew led the service, and former Pastor Susan Chadwick provided the sermon. The weather was great, and a wonderful time was had by all who attended.

Riverdale, will become the pastor of the newly merged parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption/ St. Mary, Star of the Sea. The two parishes will become one entity. Undoubtedly, there will be changes, which will begin to be addressed when Fr. Knapp arrives, and we strive to work out the challenges that await us. We welcome Fr. Knapp and look forward to working with him.

Fr. Michael Challinor has been assigned to Our Lady of Mercy in Port Chester, where he will work with the Salesian Fathers in merging the four Catholic parishes of Port Chester into one parish.

**Sr. Bernadette, osu**

Cemetery at 12:30 p.m. for a brief 9/11 memorial service, and then we will move to Trinity Hall for a regular meeting and refreshments.

Our chapter enjoyed two day trips this past summer. On Wednesday, July 15, we traveled to Mohegan Sun, and on Wednesday, Aug. 19, we tried our luck at the Sands in Pennsylvania. A good time was had by all.

We hope to see everyone back after the summer. We have plans for a fun-filled October Fest and of course our annual Penny Auction in October. Come and bring a friend. New members are always welcome.

**Rosetta Woods**

#### St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The thrift shop will reopen on Thursday, Sept. 17, with our new fall and winter collection. Exciting new bric-a-brac and our usual complimentary coffee and tidbits. We will be open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and enjoy.

**Arlene Byrne**

#### Grace Episcopal Church

A bit more history: In the mid-1800s, Reverend Robert Bolton and his wife, Anne, had nine daughters, one of whom was named Adele. When Adele and her sister Nanette followed in their father's footsteps to spread the gospel, Nanette did so at Christ Church in Pelham, where her father ministered, and Adele did so on City Island. At that time, there was no bridge to the island; according to Grace Church records, Adele had to be rowed from the mainland every Sunday to minister to a fledgling parish. "Finding the population of the island rapidly increasing, and growing up without the fear of God before their eyes, Miss Bolton determined to exert herself and appealed to her acquaintances for help, which was liberally responded to."

Her fund-raising efforts and the donation of land by Mr. George Washington Horton led to the construction of Grace Church in 1862. The builders were ship carpenters from the David Carll Shipyard (which was on the site now occupied by Consolidated Yachts). Their work is evident in the church's hand-hewn beams and rafters.

#### Worship Schedule:

Holy Communion Rite 2, Sundays at 10 a.m. with Priest-in-Charge Ruth Anne Garcia. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship.

Contemplative prayer service meets on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church. This quiet evening service includes scripture reading, reflection and meditation.

#### New Grace Church Music Ministry

Members of the Grace Church choir are rehearsing hymns and popular music to perform at rest homes and rehabilitation centers in the area during 2016. The choir could use the help of more voices and cordially invites those in the community who like to sing to join them in this music ministry. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com).

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to these and other events. Please visit our website at [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

**Sandy Dunn**

#### AARP Chapter 318

AARP 318 meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Sept. 2 is our first meeting after the summer. We will have installation of new officers at this meeting.

On Sept. 16, we will meet at Pelham

#### REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings  
on City Island

##### Narcotics Anonymous:

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

##### Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

Trinity United Methodist Church: 718-885-1218

Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

##### Overeaters Anonymous:

Saturdays at 11 a.m., Grace Episcopal Church: 718-885-1080

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

We are happy to announce beginning dates for classes in early September. Please call or email the instructors to register or to find the start date on other classes listed without specific start dates.

Annual membership to the City Island Community Center is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Please consider joining. To join the Center, to request our brochure and for up-to-date information, visit [www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org), or call 718-885-1145 or "Like" us on Facebook!

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center's main room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting.

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**Art For Children:** Begins Sept. 19. Ages 7 to 12. Saturdays, 10:30 to 12 noon. Explore drawing, painting and sculpture: Study Van Gogh, Picasso and da Vinci with Lorraine Cantori. Call 914-552-5268 to register for the new series.

**Jill's Playgroup:** Begins Sept. 23. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Preschool children are invited to have fun and socialize with other children. No charge, but donations are appreciated. For information, call Jill at 917-330-0922.

**Irish Dance for Children:** Begins Sept. 14. Mondays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hard shoe step dancing for all ages at the intermediate level. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Tiny tots, ages 3-6, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Beginner/Intermediate soft shoe. All classes taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information or to enroll, call Kim at 718-885-3501.

**Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep:** For high school prep or just for fun! To enroll, call Geri Smith at 718-885-1503.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Adult Irish Step Dance:** Begins Sept. 14. Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The art of Irish dance and a fun-filled workout with Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information or to enroll, call Kim at 718-885-3501

**Aerobics with Mary:** Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

**Belly Dance/Shimmy By the Sea** with Kristin, aka Gypsy Curves, Sundays, 4 p.m. \$20 per class; the sixth class is free. Call Kristin Amezcua at 646-625-1575 for beginning date and for information.

**Chair Yoga with Michael:** Fridays, 9:30 a.m. Stretch and flex with an easy combination of yoga, tai chi and pilates. For beginning date and more information, call Betty at 718-885-1095.

**Chess Club:** Thursdays, 7 p.m. Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. Call Bill at 718-541-3995.

**City Island Civic Association:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Join your community in action.

**City Island CSA:** Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m. Community Supported Agriculture Group providing organic fruits and vegetables. For information, contact [laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com) or call 917-238-0529.

**City Island Culinary Club:** Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Have fun with other people who love to cook and with chef Michael Proietti. For start date and information, call Michael at 646-296-3102.

**Parenting Group:** Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We laugh, we cry and we learn from one another. Join us as we share our experience, strength and hope on this journey of parenthood. For information, call John Scardina at 718-885-9305.

**Weight Watchers Meetings:** Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. with Debbie. Trim down and be healthy with the support of a great group. It is never too late to join. The new series begins mid-September. For more information, call Elena at 718-885-2268 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

**Yoga with Jo Ann:** Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. \$10. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and, if possible, a yoga blanket. The first class is complimentary. For more information, contact Jo Ann at 917-853-4719 or [joannngny@aol.com](mailto:joannngny@aol.com).

**Zumba with Julia:** Want to lose that belly fat? Well, here is your chance to Zumba with Julia. It's a high-energy Zumba workout for an hour with toning. Saturdays, 10:15 a.m. \$10 per class. For more information, call 917-601-5514.

**Zumba with Letti:** Thursdays, 6 p.m. Letti's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. \$10 per class. For more information, call Letti at 917-292-4228.

**Patty Grondahl**

**American Legion Post #156**

The next regular meetings will be held on Monday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Dues for 2016 are now due. They are \$50.

The Post's annual clam bake will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m. The \$55 per person includes beer, wine, soda and well liquor. Music will be provided by Jeff Hanlon and his band.

The corner of Cross Street and City Island Avenue will be named in honor of past Commander Bill Clancy on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10:30 a.m. A reception will be held at the Post after the ceremony.

Ray Olmeda and Ray Gonzalez are recovering from recent surgery. Mike Jawski and Mike Treat are getting back to their routine after recent hospital visits.

Thanks to Steve McKeever and James Doyle for helping to try fix the air conditioner in the bar.

Thanks to Lenny from Knuckleheads tavern in Pelham Manor for helping with the delivery of a motorized wheelchair to Throggs Neck Post #1456.

The Post's Pumpkin Sale will be held from Oct. 2 through Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We are running a 50/50 to replace the windows in the building. Chances are \$100 each and the winner receives a \$5,000 prize.

The Legion triangle will be dismantled any day now because of the bridge construction project.

We want to thank all of our flag stewards for their hard work throughout the year and to remind everyone to stick to their schedules. All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post in the mailbox by the flagpole.

We have space for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call Joe Goonan at 718-885-1637.

Any retired veterans willing to help out around the Post should call John Muhlfeld at 718-885-0639. Help is greatly appreciated.

We are always in need of new members. The Post pays the dues of members who are on active duty. Younger people are necessary for the continuation of the Post.

The Post would like to thank the City Island Community for their continued support!

**John Muhlfeld**

**Hutchinson River Restoration Project**

HRRP will host its sixth annual sanctuary cleanup and celebrate the river's namesake, Anne Hutchinson, for her 424th birthday on Sunday, Sept. 20, starting at 9 a.m. and continuing until about 3 p.m.

The Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest salt marsh habitat in New York City outside of Jamaica Bay, and loads of bottles, bottle caps, plastic, tires, fishing lines and other debris await the event volunteers. The sanctuary is only accessible from the river, with canoes provided by the Urban Park Rangers, and water and cleanup supplies are provided by the Pelham Bay Park Administration. All debris is counted at the shore processing point and registered with American Rivers and the American Littoral Society, supporters of the cleanup. For those who stay ashore, there is plenty of shore cleanup to be done.

We will meet at the southwest corner of City Island Road and Shore Road (at the bus stop). Free parking is being provided by Turtle Cove Golf Center, a short distance across from the meeting-point. Wear old clothes, sunscreen and a hat; gloves and water will be provided. The Golf Center is also providing complimentary tent space, picnic tables and cold water after the cleanup, and food is available there for purchase.

Contact HRRP President Eleanor Rae at 718-885-9653 or [HutchinsonRRP@aol.com](mailto:HutchinsonRRP@aol.com), or birthday coordinator Toby Z. Liederman at 718-885-3423 or [tobyzliederman@gmail.com](mailto:tobyzliederman@gmail.com).

com. Registering beforehand is suggested, but not necessary: Come and do your part to keep our beautiful river and sanctuary clean and to celebrate the river's namesake!

**Toby Liederman**

**Ladies Auxiliary**

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer. Our first meeting will be held on Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. All ladies should have received their newsletter with all of this year's meeting dates, which are Sept 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 4 (a Wednesday, as Tuesday is Election Day) and Dec. 1. It is very important to have a great show of attendance since there are many new topics to be discussed.

The Post will also be hosting the clam bake on Sept. 12. The price is \$55 per person (contact the Post for more details). Hope to see you all soon,

**Laura Booth**

**PSS City Island Senior Center**

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m., catered by Scavello's (IGA). Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your e-mail to [pattis@pssusa.org](mailto:pattis@pssusa.org).

Sept. 7: Closed for Labor Day

Sept. 11: Grandparent's Day Recognition—fried shrimp, baked potato, garden salad, garlic bread and a special dessert

Sept. 21: Health Fair—flu and pneumonia shots, hand massage (reflexology), BMI, balance testing, fire safety, health information table, center informational table, vascular ultrasound

Sept. 23: National Falls Prevention Awareness Day—call for more information.

**September Physical Exercise:** The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi DVD; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Zumba at 9:15 and Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 10:15. Arthritis Workshop classes are free. The suggested donation for all other exercise classes is \$3 each.

**September Programs:** Mondays: Learn Canasta at 10:15; Individualized Computer Instruction at 1 p.m.; Guitar Lessons also at 1 p.m.; Tuesdays: Conversational Spanish at 10:15; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; and Haircuts by Brenda on Sept. 9 and 23 for \$10; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Bingo at 1 p.m. on Sept. 10; Birthday Party Sept. 17; Fridays: Book Club at 1 p.m.

**Information, Referrals and Assistance**

Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

**Caregivers Support**

If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful, including respite, escort assistance and help with shopping. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

**Transportation Services**

Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:30 and include Shop Rite, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmers Market, Trader Joe's, Empire City and more. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island and \$2.50 off-Island shopping trips. Limited availability is open for Off-Island doctor appointments. You must call the office one week before the appointment and be approved. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

**Patty Attis**

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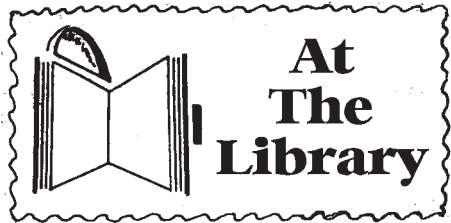
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**What's Going On In There?**  
The **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will present an exhibition called "Artist's Choice" from Sept. 11 through Oct. 11. There will be an opening reception on Friday, Sept. 11, from 7 to 10 p.m. Artists who would like to take part in the exhibition may call 718-885-1403 for an appointment to bring in your work. All work has to be framed and ready to hang. There is a \$20 hanging fee for each framed piece and a 30 percent commission will be deducted from the asking price.

**Starving Artist** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) welcomes fall with some special performances in September. Join us for a Saturday night blues party with Bennett Harris (Sept. 12, at 8 p.m.), followed by songwriter couple Nick and Cheryl, who will make their debut on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 3 p.m. The John Guth Trio will feature harmonica artist Howard Levy on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 8 p.m., and Opera Night at Starving Artist will star award-winning soprano Melissa Primavera and City Island's own Freddie Lando on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8 p.m. (admission: \$20). For more on our schedule, visit [www.StarvingArtistOnline.com](http://www.StarvingArtistOnline.com).



**At The Library**  
**PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**  
718-885-1703  
Our hours are: **Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Circle Time:** Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy interactive stories, songs, and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers in the neighborhood. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come-first serve basis the day of the program. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

**Read & Play:** Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. There is a limit of 15 children and their caregivers per session. Space is limited on a first come-first serve basis the day of the program. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

**Family Movie Night: Into the Woods:** Monday, Sept. 14, at 4 p.m.

**Craft-A-Way:** Drop in at any time throughout the day and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2-11. Friday, Sept. 25, between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**After School Lounge:** Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Honor a Hero:** In memory of 9/11, participants will have the opportunity to write letters or draw pictures to give to our local firefighters expressing their gratitude for their service. Ages 9 through 12. Friday, Sept. 11, at 3 p.m.

**My summer was so....** Participants will have the opportunity to sit in a circle setting and share their summer stories with their friends. Friday, Sept. 18, at 3 p.m.

**Board Games:** Friday, Sept. 25, at 3 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Time to Spare:** Strategies to Eliminate Clutter. This presentation offers participants strategies to eliminate clutter, prepare for mishaps, save money and maximize time. Presented by Daphne Kohavy. Saturday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m.

**Are You Prepared For A Disaster?** The American Red Cross is offering a free one-hour presentation on disaster preparedness for the community. Thursday, Sept. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

**Computer Q & A:** Ask questions about how to use computers. "How do I turn a computer on?" "How do I set up my own e-mail account and e-mail family and friends?" "How do I copy and paste text and pictures?" How can I sign in to use a computer at the library with my library card?" Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Résumé Writing Workshop and Online Job Search:** Staff will be here to help you look for employment and get your résumé into top form for the competitive job market. It is recommended you bring along a flash drive to save your work. Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

**One-On-One:** Computer and Tablet Assistance. Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns.

**Author Talk:** Come spend an evening at the library talking with Bill Stanton, one of the authors of the bold new thriller "Badge of Evil." Sept. 21 at 6 p.m.

**Saturday Afternoon Movies:** Saturday, Sept. 19, at 1 p.m. **Five Flights Up** Saturday, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m. **Mortdecai**

Please check our flyers and call us in advance in case of any unscheduled changes, additions or cancellations. For events in other branches, please check our website at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).



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 listings below, supplied by Janie Blanks, represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
417 City Island Ave.	5/29/15	\$925,000	multi-family
101 Buckley St.	6/5/15	\$439,000	single family
72 Hawkins St.	6/24/15	\$528,000	single family
180 Terrace St.	6/29/15	\$327,500	single family
170 Schofield St.	7/2/15	\$150,000	condo
45 Schofield St.	7/17/15	\$449,000	single family
33 Tier St.	7/29/15	\$395,000	co-op

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**Back to School Classics**

September means back to school, which has been the subject of many fine films. A lovely, young Maggie Smith gives an Academy Award-winning performance in the title role of **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** (1969), set in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1932. Miss Brodie is a teacher in an upper-class private school for girls. Although at first she seems to be just an exuberant, unorthodox teacher, her control over the impressionable young girls becomes subtly scary, with ultimately serious consequences. She tells everyone she is in her prime and has dedicated her life to her profession, but all the while, she carries on with one married teacher (Robert Stephens) and leads on another (Gordon Jackson). She believes that she is the perfect role model for "her girls" and is aghast when it is suggested that this is not so.

**Carrie** (1976), written by Stephen King, stars Sissy Spacek in the title role as a shy naïve teen at the mercy of her religious zealot mother (Piper Laurie) and the taunts of high schoolers played by Billy Nolan (John Travolta), Sue Snell (Amy Irving), Chris Hargensen (Nancy Allen) and Tommy Ross (William Katt). When she is pushed too far at her senior prom, Carrie unleashes telekinetic terror on her small town.

**In Back to the Future** (1985), the best friend of high schooler Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) is an eccentric scientist, Doc (Christopher Lloyd), who is working on a time machine. Marty's parents, Lor-

raine (Lea Thompson) and George (Crispin Glover), are at the mercy of bullying middle-aged Biff (Thomas F. Wilson), George's supervisor. When Marty and Doc are accidentally zapped back into the 1950s, Marty inadvertently interferes with the budding romance of his then teenaged parents. He must find a way to reunite them, or he will cease to exist.

Teaching today's high school youth can be quite a challenge, brilliantly depicted in the classic John Hughes film **The Breakfast Club** (1985). Five students have violated high school rules in one way or another; so they must suffer through a Saturday detention under the watchful eye of Mr. Vernon (Paul Gleason). The students include arrogant tough guy John Bender (Judd Nelson); the insecure neurotic Allison Reynolds (Ally Sheedy); a jock from the wrestling team, Andrew Clark (Emilio Estevez); prom queen Clare Standish (Molly Ringwald); and the class brain Brian Johnson (Anthony Michael Hall). They discover they have more in common than they initially thought.

Edward James Olmos delivers an outstanding performance as math teacher Jaime Escalante in **Stand and Deliver** (1988). Trying to teach calculus to Latino students at an East Los Angeles high school requires considerable ingenuity, and Mr. Escalante certainly has that. He dares his students to do well, assuring them that if they are not willing to try, they should "go to wood shop, make yourself a shoeshine box, you're gonna need it." Lou Diamond Phillips is excellent as the most difficult student, who is won over when the teacher sneaks him an extra set of textbooks to keep at home so he won't have to be seen carrying them in school.

In **Dead Poets Society** (1989), Robin Williams stars as John Keating, an outstanding prep school teacher who attempts to inspire his students to think for themselves. This is not appreciated by Headmaster Nolan (Norman Lloyd) of Welton Academy, who believes that 1959 is not a time for free-thinkers. Excellent performances are also given by Robert Sean Leonard as

Neil Perry, a sensitive and intelligent young man who is cursed with a completely overbearing and controlling father (Kurtwood Smith), and Ethan Hawke as Todd Anderson, his shy, new-to-the-school roommate, who flowers under Keating's tutelage. This serious, thoughtful film about the stresses and confines of formal education is one of Williams's very best and most memorable dramatic performances.

Set in the 1950s, **School Ties** (1993) features Brendan Fraser as David Greene, a public high school football star from Scranton, PA, who is recruited for St. Matthews Academy, a prep school for the elite, purported to be a stepping stone to Harvard. Accepted rather easily by his roommate, Chris Reese (Chris O'Donnell), and all of his friends, David finds that he must keep the fact that he is Jewish a secret, for fear of ostracism. When the school's honor code is broken, David becomes embroiled in a very difficult struggle.

Michelle Pfeiffer plays an ex-marine turned teacher named LouAnne Johnson in **Dangerous Minds** (1995), which is based on the real-life experiences of the author of "My Posse Don't Do Homework." LouAnne uses Bob Dylan lyrics and karate to engage the interest of her students, and she bribes them with candy and trips to an amusement park. The students' stories are heart-rending, with fine performances by Bruklin Harris as brilliant pregnant Callie Roberts; Renoly Santiago as shy Raul Sanchez, who would be the first in his family to go to college; and Wade Dominguez as Emilio Ramirez, the too-cool-for-school dude.

Music teachers make for enjoyable viewing, especially in the case of Richard Dreyfuss's character in the title role of **Mr. Holland's Opus** (1996). A creative man, he wants to write music but has to teach in order to support his wife, Iris (Glenne Headly), and his (ironically) deaf son (Nicholas John Renner at 6, Joseph Anderson at 15 and Anthony Natale at 28). The high school principal (Olympia Dukakis) is very supportive of the music program. Jean Louisa

Kelly is perfectly lovely as Rowena Morgan, an aspiring Broadway star who captures Mr. Holland's heart. This is a lovely film with many poignant moments.

Set in Seattle, **Ten Things I Hate About You** (1999) is the story of the Stratford sisters, Bianca (Larisa Oleynik), who is younger and popular, and her shrewish brainy older sister, Katarina (Julia Stiles), who is an iconoclast and never dates. Two guys want to take Bianca to the prom: sweet shy Cameron James (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and conceited handsome Joey Donner (Andrew Keegan). Unfortunately, Bianca's father (Larry Miller) has forbidden her to date until her sister Kat starts going out. Cameron hatches a plot to persuade bad boy Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger) to ask Kat to the prom. Ledger has a showstopping scene in which he sings "I love you baby" over the P.A. system, having bribed the school's marching band to accompany him.

My favorite in this category is **Finding Forrester** (2000), which stars Sean Connery as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who befriends a black teenager named Jamal Wallace (Rob Brown). Forrester watches Jamal and his friends play basketball from his window overlooking the court below in the projects, and eventually the two meet because of a dare by Jamal's friends. Although Jamal is brilliant and a fine writer, he has been an underachiever in high school. His athletic prowess and high SAT scores, however, cause him to be offered a scholarship to a private academy, where he challenges snobbish English professor Crawford (F. Murray Abraham). Anna Paquin is Clare Spence, who is assigned to accompany Jamal about the private school. How aging Forrester and teen-age Jamal learn from each other is inspiring, especially when it comes to the concepts of integrity and loyalty, commodities not often found in the cinema these days.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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# Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



## George Arthur Chadwick

George Arthur Chadwick passed away on July 10, 2015, at the age of 64, less than a year after he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

George was born on May 14, 1951, to Islanders June (née Fenton) and George Chadwick of Fordham Street. He was their second child and first son. He graduated from P.S. 17 on City Island in 1965, attended DeWitt Clinton High School and went on to SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler.

His first post-college job was at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, CT, a firm known for its standards of excellence in the design, construction and life-cycle support of submarines for the U.S. Navy. However, since his job there was land-based, George soon moved on because he wanted to be on the water, not behind a drafting table. It was about this time that a brand new government agency was establishing itself: the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). George became NOAA's first chief engineer on their first ship, the *George B. Kelez*. The *Kelez* was based out of Norfolk, VA, and after several years of service there, George Chadwick met his wife to be, Beverly Bachman.

George then went on to be the chief engineer on the NOAA ship *Ferrell*, where he remained until she was decommissioned in 2002. George took that opportunity to retire and moved with his wife and daughters, Autumn and Sarah, from Chesapeake, VA, to Watkinsville, GA.

He was very well read and could carry on informed discussions on almost any topic. He had a life-long fascination with astronomy and at a young age had built and hand-ground the lenses for his own telescope. He was also a very talented woodworker, having built many beautiful pieces of furniture for his home and as gifts for family members.

George was predeceased by his daughter Autumn in 2000; she was 18 years old. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; his daughter Sarah; his sisters the Rev. Susan Chadwick, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, and his brothers, Robert and Peter Chadwick—clam diggers all.

His memorial service was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on City Island on Aug. 15, where the service was

presided over by his sister Susan. The family has asked that those who may be inclined make donations in his memory to Trinity.



## John Joseph Persteins

John Persteins, a longtime City Island resident known to many as Trader John, died of cancer on July 31, 2015, at the age of 72.

He was born on Sept. 26, 1942, the son of Waldemars and Alice Persteins (née DeStefano) and the younger brother of Ena Ellwanger, former teacher at City Island's P.S. 17 and principal of P.S. 175. John was as close to being a clam digger as one can get without being born on City Island; his parents moved to City Island when he was a few months old. They lived on what was then Orchard Street, now Hawkins Street. John and his wife, Lena, raised their family at 289 Paulis Place on City Island.

John was a student at P.S. 17 and can be seen in class pictures on display in the schoolroom of the City Island Nautical Museum. He attended Gompers Vocational High School in New York City, where he was president of his class, and then on a scholarship attended City College for one year before embarking on his career as a small business owner. John owned or managed several businesses on City Island starting before he was 20 years old, including but not limited to the Trader John store on City Island Avenue, the Viking near Pell Place, an antique store on the corner of Schofield Street, and the Boat Livery at the north end of City Island Avenue.

John Persteins is survived by his wife, Lena (nee D'Amelio); his sister, Ena Ellwanger of New Rochelle; his two sons, Waldo Persteins of City Island and John Anthony Persteins, currently living in North Dakota, as well as his three grandchildren, Joseph, Alexander and Marshall Persteins. John was laid to rest next to his parents in Pelham Cemetery on City Island.

## Stanley Ray

Stanley Ray, a 32-year resident of City Island, passed away on Aug. 7, 2015, at the age of 82, at his home in Pennsylvania.

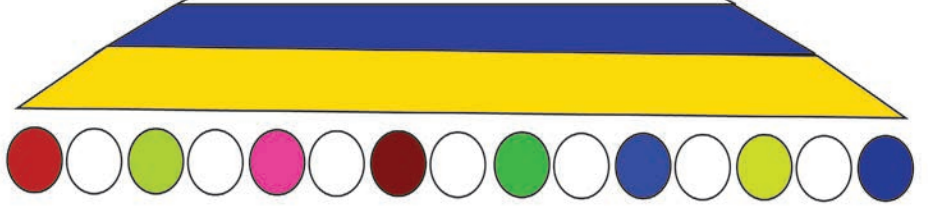
His love of sailing and the water brought him to GG Marina, and he always considered City Island his home even after he left. He raised his family on Long Island Sound.

Stanley is survived by Marie, his wife of 62 years; his children, Michael and Nancy Ray, Christine and Sil Giannini, and Katherine and Michael Pastorino, and 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

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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

SEPTEMBER 2015									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0127	8.66	0804	-0.86	1352	8.87	2041	-0.85	Tue 01
02 Wed	0221	8.34	0856	-0.58	1446	8.64	2142	-0.57	Wed 02
03 Thu	0322	7.91	0955	-0.16	1547	8.29	2250	-0.22	Thu 03
04 Fri	0435	7.49	1104	0.28	1704	7.94	2359	0.09	Fri 04
05 Sat	0555	7.21	12.17	0.62	1825	7.74			Sat 05
06 Sun	0107	0.26	0707	7.16	1326	0.77	1936	7.73	Sun 06
07 Mon	0210	0.30	0811	7.28	1429	0.73	2037	7.84	Mon 07
08 Tue	0307	0.25	0908	7.50	1527	0.59	2133	7.99	Tue 08
09 Wed	0400	0.16	0959	7.74	1618	0.42	2223	8.12	Wed 09
10 Thu	0448	0.10	1046	7.94	1705	0.28	2308	8.18	Thu 10
11 Fri	0532	0.11	1129	8.05	1748	0.21	2350	8.14	Fri 11
12 Sat	0611	0.19	1208	8.07	1827	0.23			Sat 12
13 Sun	0028	8.02	0645	0.34	1243	8.00	1859	0.32	Sun 13
14 Mon	0100	7.84	0709	0.52	1306	7.90	1921	0.43	Mon 14
15 Tue	0118	7.66	0712	0.64	1312	7.84	1927	0.49	Tue 15
16 Wed	0128	7.55	0728	0.65	1333	7.88	1952	0.53	Wed 16
17 Thu	0154	7.49	0801	0.70	1405	7.92	2028	0.60	Thu 17
18 Fri	0230	7.42	0840	0.81	1444	7.92	2110	0.73	Fri 18
19 Sat	0313	7.32	0924	0.97	1529	7.86	2157	0.90	Sat 19
20 Sun	0401	7.20	1013	1.15	1618	7.76	2249	1.05	Sun 20
21 Mon	0454	7.11	1108	1.29	1714	7.67	2348	1.12	Mon 21
22 Tue	0554	7.11	1208	1.31	1816	7.64			Tue 22
23 Wed	0055	1.04	0700	7.26	1317	1.14	1923	7.73	Wed 23
24 Thu	0213	0.75	0809	7.58	1435	0.74	2032	7.96	Thu 24
25 Fri	0328	0.29	0915	8.03	1552	0.16	2138	8.25	Fri 25
26 Sat	0427	-0.20	1012	8.49	1654	-0.43	2238	8.52	Sat 26
27 Sun	0519	-0.61	1104	8.87	1749	-0.92	2332	8.68	Sun 27
28 Mon	0608	-0.87	1154	9.10	1842	-1.20			Mon 28
29 Tue	0024	8.68	0657	-0.93	1243	9.14	1935	-1.25	Tue 29
30 Wed	0116	8.51	0746	-0.79	1334	8.99	2029	-1.08	Wed 30
OCTOBER 2015									
01 Thu	0211	8.21	0838	-0.46	1427	8.68	2128	-0.72	Thu 01
02 Fri	0312	7.83	0937	-0.01	1528	8.25	2230	-0.29	Fri 02
03 Sat	0422	7.47	1044	0.45	1644	7.84	2336	0.12	Sat 03



**All's Well That Ends Well**

Regular readers of this column will recall the nesting common terns of Eastchester Bay that we wrote about in July. We wrote then about our expectation for much drama to come, and, as it turned out, we were not disappointed. It was touch and go there for a while, however, especially when it came to the fledging phase of the tern chick's development. It did not have the luxury of dry land to fall back to when it attempted to fly those first few times. We watched it in the water, instead, struggling to get out with both parents at its side imploring it upward, showing the way.

In the end, we are happy to report, it survived. We watched it take flight alongside its parents, as well as on its own, with more and more comfort and control. We watched it learning to fish by its parent's side on a neighbor's dock. We watched it strike that familiar tern pose, steadfast into the wind, at the nesting site. And then one day the family of three was gone. We would like to believe that they were reunited with a nearby colony, perhaps the

one on David's Island, but who can be sure about such a thing?

Another thing that we could not be sure about—until recently, anyway—was what shore birds such as terns and gulls do for drinking water. As it "terns" out, both are equipped with special nasal glands called salt glands that allow them to actually drink salt water. The glands remove the excess salt after it enters the bloodstream. From there it is excreted through the nares, which are holes in the birds' beak.

To prove this, a study was performed in 1983 where, according to Susan Scott, "researchers force-fed a black-backed gull 10 percent its body weight in seawater, 3 percent salt." This is, she said, "the equivalent of a human drinking about 2 gallons of seawater, which would quickly kill us. Our kidneys can't get rid of that much salt. The gull's salt glands, however, excreted all the excess salt in three hours."

Of course, both terns and gulls are capable of drinking fresh water as well. Salt glands are just one more fascinating example of nature's adaptable ways.

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## A "BELOVED COMMUNITY" ON CITY ISLAND?

By JOHN SCARDINA

*Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.*

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I try to walk the circuit of City Island Avenue every day. Depending on the time of day, which may vary from 5 a.m. (when I have to drive to Long Island that day) to 12 noon (when I am taking a break from my morning of computer work) to after dinner (when I realize I haven't gotten any exercise that day), there is a cast of characters who are also getting some exercise and fresh air. We nod and smile and have our own little "connection" as we pass one another. This reminds me that we are a community.

Lately I was disturbed to see some graffiti on the apartment buildings near the post office. Written in magic marker at the end of some "rules" for the building was: "no welfare cases." This is immensely disturbing to me; does someone believe they have the right to decide who lives on our island?

A "beloved community" for Martin

Luther King Jr. would include equal access to the basic necessities of life: jobs, housing, education, parks, voting and commerce. That would constitute the "quantitative" change in our lives that King talked about. It would also mean that we would be kind to each other and also correct one another when individual behavior becomes discriminatory: racist, sexist, ageist or classist. That would constitute a "qualitative" change in our souls.

We have four places of worship on the island, three churches and a synagogue, and I know that many people attend services at one of these venues. I also believe that no place of worship on the island would condone comments like "no welfare cases" written on their buildings, let alone on apartment buildings on our main thoroughfare. Yet the comments remain, and all of us and all of our weekend visitors get to see this whenever we walk past.

I invite the individual who wrote those words to enter into dialogue with me about their views. I also invite each of us to be sure that such words do not become the norm on City Island.

## IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY

Euphorbia Martini - Ascot Rainbow

### EDITING THE GARDEN

I recently became aware of how many times throughout the gardening year I add and subtract plants in the gardens I've been working on, which really amounts to reshuffling the deck. I imagine this is very much like editing a column or a book. The editor's art is to pare a sentence down to its essential elements, adding, removing and cleaning it up, just as I do in the garden.

Each season it is good to assess and decide which plants must be tweaked. Plants that have finished blooming can be cut back to reveal more space, and plants that have not performed well can just be tossed. Light pruning of some taller varieties can help their shape, and staking plants that tend to flop over helps with the overall effect.

I also feel that a garden needs annuals to be inserted periodically. This adds excitement and color. Cosmos need poor soil to flower, and zinnias should be sown directly in the ground, for if you transplant them they will return to singles instead of doubles.

A garden is ever changing. A minimal garden composed of boxwood and grasses is static, but it can be visually satisfying as well as easy to maintain. No editing required. But if your garden is filled with herbaceous plants, then you have many tasks at hand.

We all want larger gardens but, really, is this a blessing or a curse? I often hear the cry "I wish I had room for more plants." Sometimes a large tree or plant has died and we bemoan its fate, but actually it gives us an opportunity to refresh the area with something new. It is nature's way of editing. It is hard to keep up with the ever-changing seasons, but with a bit of hard work and artfulness, the garden can stay good looking and interesting throughout the year.

In my early spring garden I planted white lily tulips, white orlaya (a lacy thing, a filler) and bluebells. When this was finished, I scrapped everything to reveal the phlox and rudbeckia that was underplanted among them. For September and October the Japanese anemone and asters will take center stage, and the grass pennisetum hameln pulls it all together. Rounding out the cycle, I will be thinking about which bulbs to plant for the return of spring.

If you don't have asters in your garden, then this is the time to plant them. They bloom from the end of August through October giving the garden a sensational look. Not the pompom types from Home Depot but the airy, graceful asters that will naturalize and reseed. Aster violet queen, aster blue bird, aster lateriflorus horizontalis (forgive the high-falootin' Latin) and the tall purple, red, beauty "Andenken an Alma Pötschke." These mix well with tall grasses like calamagrostis Karl Foerster. Come to the craft fair on Sept. 15 and I will have small ones for sale.

The weather is changing and this is the best time to plant shrubs. Your local nursery Better Gro Garden Center on Bruckner Boulevard is loaded with beautiful things. If you have grasses, let your gardener know not to cut them until March. Their beauty is for winter as well as autumn. Also, leaving them as is protects them from winter dieback.

So back to the editing. Should I leave the thistles for winter interest? YES!

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design.

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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.

Happy birthday to Mike Rauh, in training for his 38th New York City Marathon! Also having a September birthday is our nephew Dan Wright.

Happy birthday to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan. Welcome to your new home on Centre Street. Love, Judy.

Birthday wishes to King Avenue's Stephen Vaughan on Sept. 16.

Chase Bank welcomes Lawrence Nti, our new bank manager, and Sharon Wilson, banker. They are both a very nice addition to the branch. We welcome them to City Island.

Birthday greetings on Sept. 26 to Kevin Lenz and to Jonathan Mullin on Sept. 27.

Congratulations to Rupert Hart Deese of City Island who received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from California's Harvey Mudd College on May 17, graduating with distinction and departmental honors. Rupert attended Bronx High School of Science.

Hunter! You're two! The best happy birthday to our little whirlwind of a grandson, Hunter Ribaldo, with hugs and kisses. Have a wonderful day. Love you so much, Nonni and Pop Ribaldo.

Happy 80th birthday to Carroll Street's Tony Grimaldi on Sept. 19. "Mr. G," an avid walker for 20 years, can be seen walking daily on City Island Avenue and averages eight miles a day. His wife of 58 years, Betty, and his children, grandchildren, entire family and friends wish him all the best on this birthday milestone. We



Tony Grimaldi

love him very much!

It's a boy! Welcome to the world, Kainalu James Noonan, born June 5. Proud parents are Liam and Marisa Noonan of Schofield Street and thrilled grandparents are Frank and Maria Ferrara, James Noonan and Suzanne Mason.

Happy birthday to Stephen Swieciki who turns 29 on Sept. 2. All our love, Mom and Dad, Bobby and Maria.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Bay Street's Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate their 67th anniversary on Sept. 5.

Birthday greetings on Sept. 5 to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire, with best wishes from the Swieciki family.

Happy birthday wishes on Sept. 28 to Tina Ruggiero, with love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday(s) to Bay Street's Ben DiGregorio, Jean Anderson and Bob Swieciki, who all celebrate on Sept. 12.

Welcome and G'day to Tier Street's newest residents, Davina and Alek Porock.

Maria Swieciki



On July 25, 2015, friends and family of the late John Gilder got together for the sixth annual Lawn Party at the Morris Yacht & Beach Club. About 100 people came out for food, drinks and raffles to grow the scholarship fund at Fordham University and continue sponsorship of a City Island Little League team named in John's memory.

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