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AOC MEETS CI

By KAREN NANI



Photos by ARACELIS BATISTA and courtesy of CITY ISLAND INDIVISIBLE

U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (center, top photo) held a town hall meeting at P.S. 175 on June 29, 2019. Close to 200 people turned out to hear the first-term representative known as “AOC.” The City Island Indivisible group sponsored the town hall (bottom photo), and one of the leaders, Barbara Zahm, introduced AOC to the crowd (top right photo).



The City Island Indivisible group welcomed U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to a town hall meeting at P.S. 175 on June 29, 2019. Close to 200 residents, other Bronx constituents and members of the media came out on the steamy Saturday afternoon to ask questions of the first-term representative known as “AOC.”

Moderators Barbara Zahm and New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj began the meeting officially after the congresswoman received a standing ovation from the crowd as she stepped onto the stage. In her introduction, Ms. Zahm explained that after the 2016 election, she and other Islanders wanted to become more politically active, so they formed City Island Indivisible. The group’s mission is to support progressive action on issues such as health care, environmental protection, women’s rights, voters’ rights and public education.

In early 2018, the group heard about a challenger for the 14th congressional district held by 10-term incumbent Joseph Crowley. They invited Ms. Ocasio-Cortez to speak to their group on June 19. “We were excited by her authenticity and intelligence. She is a third-generation Bronxite and an organizer who told us that, among other issues, income inequality in the United States inspired her to run for office,” Ms. Zahm told the crowd.

She then gave an overview of the congresswoman’s accomplishments, including

her election as the youngest woman ever to serve in Congress at the age of 29, and her progressive platform: Medicare for all, a federal jobs guarantee, a proposed Green New Deal, free public college, and a 70 percent marginal tax rate for incomes above \$10 million.

After accepting the microphone from Ms. Zahm, the congresswoman said she was delighted to return to City Island and advocate for families in the local communities she serves. She takes pride in the diversity of her district, including the urban areas, the shoreline sections (like City Island), and her many different constituents who speak 200 different languages. “It’s a blessing to represent you all!”

Before taking questions from the audience, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez explained that Congress was in the middle of “appropriations season” and they hold the “power of the purse.” This is particularly important when it comes to healthcare and the opioid crisis which she acknowledged is a critical issue in her district. Despite the contentiousness between Democrats and Republicans often reported in the media, “we don’t have to water down our values to achieve bipartisan consensus and work with Republicans to get things done.” She cited an amendment that passed with bipartisan support to add \$20 million to the Health and Human Services budget for rehabilitation services for



those with opioid addictions.

The congresswoman then responded to several questions about healthcare reform. She used the opportunity to dispel what she called “myths” about Medicare for all and the “public option” for health insurance. “I have heard the rumor about hospitals closing if Medicare for all becomes enacted. This is inaccurate. Most hospitals are now paying to cover treatment for the uninsured which is enormously expensive. If everyone has

coverage, hospital costs would be reduced overall.”

Island resident Laura Quagliariello asked about whether Medicare for all amounted to socialism and would result in long lines and waiting times for doctors. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez countered with “Republicans have been crying about ‘socialism’ since President Roosevelt instituted the social security system. It’s a distraction. Healthcare

Continued on page 7

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

By KAREN NANI

After 35 years with four traffic signals on City Island Avenue, there will be at least one and possibly two new lights added as safety precautions. The first traffic signal will be put in place by early next year at the corner of Bowne Street and City Island Avenue. The second one is proposed for the intersection of Pilot Street and the avenue.

The Bowne Street traffic light request started in February 2017, when Islander John Doyle submitted the request. “I heard about several accidents near that corner, so I filed with New York State (under the Freedom of Information Act) for the accident reports,” he told *The Current*. He received the Department of Transportation (DOT) records and learned that 22 accidents had occurred at the Bowne Street intersection since 2010, resulting in 18 injuries. “The highest number of accidents were in 2010 (six) with the second highest being three accidents annually in 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017,” he reported.

At the time he placed the request, Mr. Doyle was on the board of the City Island Civic Association, but he filed as an individual. As recorded in the minutes of the February 2017 meeting of the Civic Association, members questioned the need for the additional signal, especially during the non-summer months, and voted to oppose the traffic light at Bowne Street. Members were concerned, and still are, that speeding traffic will increase on Minneford Avenue, as even more drivers take that route to avoid the additional light, thus adding to the number of accidents on that residential street. Also of concern is that summer traffic agents will be spread even thinner by the need to post two agents at that light in addition to those already posted at the other traffic lights.

According to Civic officer Tom Smith, the Civic Association has proposed remov-

ing the light at Cross Street if a light is added at Bowne Street, since the closing of St. Mary’s School has reduced the need for the Cross Street light. An alternative would be putting that light on a sensor so that it changed only when a car was exiting Cross Street. That proposal has been made to DOT by the Civic Association; the decision is pending.

In the meantime, DOT completed its study of the Bowne Street intersection and found that the corner met their criteria for “preventable accidents.” DOT Commissioner Nivardo Lopez informed Mr. Doyle of the results in a letter in July 2019. “We completed a study and are pleased to inform you that a traffic signal has been approved at this location [City Island Avenue and Bowne Street]. Installation will be performed by contract and the work is tentatively schedule to be completed by Jan. 31, 2020.”

Mr. Doyle announced the DOT decision at the July meeting of City Island Rising. “Hopefully, this installation contributes toward a safer intersection. Between the odd angle of the east side of Bowne Street where it meets the avenue, traffic from Seafood City and the potential traffic if the catering facility is completed, I think there is a need and DOT agrees.”

In response to concerns about delays, especially during non-summer months, Mr. Doyle believes the lights will be synchronized to keep traffic moving and if needed, Islanders can request the light be changed to a flashing yellow during lower traffic months.

Meanwhile, other Islanders have expressed concerns about safety at the corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue. Island resident Bob Carmody, owner of City Island Realty One, launched a petition ask-

Continued on page 3

BRIEFLY...

THE CITY ISLAND OYSTER REEF SOCIAL will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at 21 Tier Street on City Island, a fundraiser to support the re-establishment of an oyster reef in the waters around City Island. Come enjoy an educational boat trip, oyster shucking demonstrations, silent auction items, wonderful Island cuisine donated by Island restaurants, libations, music, and more. Cost \$50 per person, payable online through PayPal's City Island Historical Society account, by sending a check marked Oyster Reef to the Historical Society at P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464, or by paying at the door.

FALL FAIR: The 2019 Fall Arts and Crafts Fair sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15. Taste delicious fare from City Island restaurants and browse the wares of many vendors who line City Island Avenue between Bay and Carroll Streets from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

REGISTRATION FOR CUB SCOUTS is on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall. The Cub Scout program meets most Tuesdays from September to April and is open to all children from kindergarten through the fifth grade. For more information, e-mail Greg Clancy at cubscoutpack211@aol.com.



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45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during June, July and August 2019. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 2 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 - CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
- 2 - RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
- 2 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 4 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF GRAFFITI
- 5 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI)
- 2 - ASSAULT
- 1 - DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE

Police provided details on the following arrests and incidents for the period from June 20 to Aug. 7, 2019.

6/24 to 6/30 - Multiple acts of criminal mischief graffiti were reported along City Island Avenue. Unknown person(s) vandalized mail, electric and traffic control boxes with graffiti.

6/25 - An off-Island male, 20, was arrested for speeding 49 mph in a 35 mph zone on City Island Avenue at 2:47 p.m. After stopping the vehicle, police found the driver was operating it with a suspended license.

6/26 - At 4 p.m., police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 28, and charged him with reckless endangerment and menacing. The perpetrator allegedly slashed the tires of a vehicle owned by an off-Island female and waved a silver pocket knife at the victim.

6/27 - Police arrested an off-Island female, 38, and charged her with DWI at 11:30

p.m. on City Island Avenue. The vehicle was pulled over after being involved in a traffic accident.

6/30 - On Carroll Street at 4:30 p.m., a female Islander observed a vehicle swerving onto the sidewalk. It struck and killed a dog, then fled the scene of the accident.

7/2 - A male Island business owner told police that he was assaulted by an unknown person who punched and sprayed him with pepper spray at 11:45 a.m. on City Island Avenue.

7/6 - Police stopped a vehicle with illegally dark-tinted windows on City Island Avenue at 2:26 a.m. and arrested an off-Island male, 37. The driver had an odor of alcohol on his breath, no driver's license, and was carrying a sharp instrument.

7/10-7/16 - Police made multiple arrests for DWI on City Island Avenue. On 7/10, an off-Island male, 52, was observed driving on the wrong side of the street at 1:03 a.m. On 7/13, an off-Island female, 39, was speeding 80 mph in a 25 mph zone at 2:56 a.m. Also on 7/13, a male, 59, was arrested for DWI and criminal possession of a forged license plate.

7/21 - An off-Island male, 30, was arrested on City Island Avenue at 1:04 a.m. and charged with assault after pushing a victim to the floor following a verbal argument at a commercial establishment.

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Photo by MIKE RAUH

On Friday, July 19, 2019, the bridge finial that had been placed in Catherine Scott Promenade was suddenly removed from that site and installed in the Legion Triangle across the street. A spokesman for the Department of Transportation (DOT) reported that in transferring jurisdiction for the Promenade from DOT to the Parks Department, Parks had asked that the finial be removed. The Triangle belongs to DOT, which considered the move a temporary one, but Pete Del-Debbio, commander of the Legion post on City Island, agreed with many in the community that the triangle might be a good permanent location for this remnant of the beloved old bridge.



Photo courtesy of COUNCILMAN MARK GJONAJ

This summer, the City Island Civic Association appealed to Councilman Mark Gjonaj for help in getting the Parks Department to remove abandoned boats and debris from along the shorelines on and near City Island. Thanks to his efforts, the eyesores were removed in August.

RED LIGHT

Continued from page 1

ing DOT to consider a signal at this intersection.

“The residents of Pilot Cove Manor and the City Island community are making a request that you consider the installation of a traffic light or safety measure . . . be installed at the intersection of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue,” the petition read.

Mr. Carmody told *The Current* that requests had been made in the past but were denied based on studies by the DOT that this intersection is not busy enough and does not justify installing a light.

“We know that this intersection can become very busy because there are numerous facilities in or near that location, including Pilot Cove Manor for senior citizens; Grace

Episcopal Church, which is also the location of the PSS Senior Center and the City Island Theater Group; the Pickwick Terrace apartment building; and Scavello’s on the Island,” he said in a letter to the editor (see April 2019 issue of *The Current*).

Mr. Carmody, and others who signed the petition, believe that seniors have a hard time crossing the avenue without any traffic measures to help slow down fast-moving vehicles. He has asked DOT and NYC Councilman Mark Gjonaj to study the intersection again and “help our community save lives.”

Mr. Doyle summarized the DOT process for deciding whether to add new signals to New York roadways. “It’s not a popularity contest. DOT has specific safety criteria, and if an intersection meets these criteria, including ‘preventable accidents,’ they install a traffic signal.”

Orchard Beach Pavilions Get Additional Support

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT and NYC PARKS DEPARTMENT

In the summer of 1937, the Orchard Beach pavilions opened to the public (bottom photo). Designed by Aymar Embury II, who was Parks Department Consulting Architect at the time, the structure was an Art Deco monument combining modern and classical features and was designated a New York City Landmark as “among the most remarkable public recreational facilities ever constructed in the United States.” Today the pavilions are in very poor condition, but thanks to funding from government officials, most recently announced by the Bronx Borough President (top photo), the pavilions are to be restored to their original beauty.

Two years ago, at the ceremony opening Orchard Beach for the summer, elected officials announced that \$50 million had been allocated to the restoration of the pavilions at the beach, which have deteriorated to the point where they can no longer be accessed by the general public. The funding included \$20 million allocated by Mayor Bill de Blasio, \$10 million each by Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie and Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. Mr. Díaz announced in July 2019 that he was investing an additional sum of \$6.1 million in capital funds to the project.

“Orchard Beach is one of the jewels of not only our borough but all of New York City, and it has the potential to be an even greater tourist attraction thanks to this forthcoming renovation. A revitalized Orchard Beach will undoubtedly attract visitors from all over the region, if not the world,” Mr. Díaz announced. “This investment is part of our ongoing commitment to our grand vision for a new Orchard Beach, one that will help the Bronx Riviera grow as both an economic engine for our bor-

ough as well as a destination point for visitors from across the region.”

Orchard Beach is the Bronx’s only public beach and draws visitors from across the city, seeing 1.9 million total visitors in 2017. Mr. Díaz believes that, when renovated and reopened, the Orchard Beach Pavilion will once again become an amenity to thousands of beachgoers. Currently, Orchard Beach serves as the home to the annual “New York Salutes America” boardwalk festival and fireworks extravaganza, the “Hoops in the Sun” basketball tournament, as well as the Bronx Summer Concert Series hosted by the Borough President. “We have so many great events, based out of Orchard Beach, that bond our community,” he said in announcing the additional allocation. “But there is also so much untapped potential for Orchard Beach. Our investment will allow for us to be able to build first-rate concessions, top-notch performance spaces and the ability to host even more top-notch events. Renovation of Orchard Beach will allow the area to evolve into the economic engine it once was and could be once again.”

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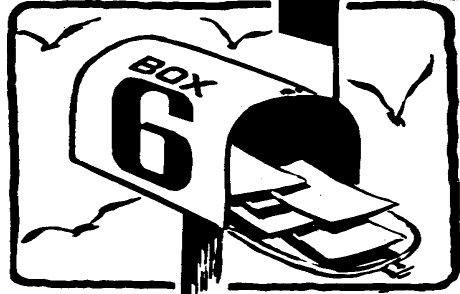
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| <p>AND MY GREEN NEW DEAL WILL ADDRESS RISING SEAS, ENSURE CLEAN AIR AND DRINKING WATER AND...</p> <p>SOUNDS GREAT, BUT I HOPE SHE HAS A POWERFUL HARRY POTTER MENDING CHARM TO HELP HER OUT!</p>  | <p>SOON WE MAY BE ABLE TO SING THAT SONG FROM WHEN WE WERE KIDS. "KEEP YOUR EYES TO LOOK UP..."</p> <p>PILOT CI AVE.</p> <p>"...KEEP YOUR EARS TO HEAR. WALK UP TO THE CORNER WHERE THE COAST IS CLEAR. AND WAIT, AND WAIT, AND WAIT, AND WAIT UNTIL THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN!"</p>  | <p>SAYS HERE THEY MIGHT INCLUDE A COCKTAIL AND WINE BAR. ALSO, JAZZ CONCERTS IN THE SOUTH YARD.</p> <p>NICE, BUT WHAT ABOUT OTHER KINDS OF MUSIC?</p>  | <p>I PROPOSE INSTALLING CARDBOARD CUTOUTS OF CROWDS OF PEOPLE ON THE EASTERN SHORELINE OF HART ISLAND. THAT WAY, LATE NIGHT JET SKIERS CAN STILL BLAST THEIR MUSIC, ZOOM AROUND, AND STILL FEEL MACHO IN FRONT OF SOMEONE.</p> <p>VROOM! VROOM!</p>  |



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

Yield Means Yield

To the Editor,

On July 11, coming through the traffic circle from Orchard Beach, my car was very nearly t-boned by a car entering the circle through the yield sign from City Island Road. This is not the first time this has happened to me, or, I'm sure, to many other drivers.

The intersection in question is very clearly signed, and the law related to the Yield sign is equally clear. However, few drivers (including the one that almost hit me) seem to pay attention to the signs, including the first sign on City Island Road indicating an upcoming traffic circle, the second one announcing a yield ahead, and the third, a full-size yield sign.

Clearly it's time that City Island residents and merchants insist the current signs be replaced with a stop sign that would require cars coming into the circle to come to a complete stop.

A stop sign at this intersection should have little impact on the expected flow of traffic. When there is no traffic in the circle, chances are there is little traffic coming in from City Island Road either; hence, there would be no traffic backups even when cars come to a full stop. When there is oncoming traffic in the circle, drivers from City Island Road are supposed to come to a full stop (according to the law related to yield signs), and, therefore, there should be no additional delays or backups coming into the circle.

We have given the current plan a long enough trial. It's not working!

Kathy Lonergan

Thank You Music Lovers!

To All the Music Lovers and City Island Rocks Family and Friends,

Sincere thanks to the following generous sponsors of the music in Hawkins Park this summer, listed in no particular order: City Island Diner/McGowan/Hayes Family; Skip and Louise Giacco/Lickety Split (who provided electricity for the equipment); Seafood City/Danny P./Dino E.; Sammy/Seashore Restaurant; Maria Sipas A-Quality Glass and Shades; Man Overboard/Mike G.; Scavello's on the Island; Anthony Roccamo/Accountant; City Island Civic Association; City Island Realty One/Bob Carmody; Ted Pryor Esquire; City Island Pharmacy/Anthony D'Angelo; Carmine DeDonato/Accountant; Haim Joseph/City Island Marina; Paul & Mark Gjonaj; The Healing Force/Francesca Vitale.

Thank you also to all the performers and to everyone who attended the shows. This year was a huge success. We hope to continue these events every summer, as they have helped make City Island an even greater place to visit and, of course, live. The music shows bring our neighboring communities together as well as those in our own little piece of heaven. Many old friends have reconnected and many have made new friends.

Don't forget the City Island Chamber of Commerce Arts & Craft Fair on Sept. 14 and 15. Live music from the Lickety Split Band and Friends.

Bob Carmody



Photo by MATT PANZA

This summer Hawkins Park was filled with music on Sunday evenings. This performance by Innuendo took place on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019.

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Sound Pollution on the Sound

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

For the past three years, noisy boats on Eastchester Bay and in City Island Harbor (between Hart Island and Belden Point) have been causing problems for Island residents, but this year, in response to a new committee of the City Island Civic Association, local law enforcement has stepped up to the challenge and has made great progress in lessening the disturbance. The Civic meeting on Tuesday, July 30, was crowded with Islanders, as well as visitors from Spencer Estates and Country Club, who are also troubled by the noise and came to hear what the NYPD had to report.

The Civic's Water Safety Committee has been working with the Harbor Unit of the New York Police Department, as well as the 45th precinct and the Coast Guard, to address the issue of boats rafting up at night in Eastchester Bay. The ear-shattering sound of music amplifies as it travels over open water, as does the noise produced by large numbers of Jet Skis that cause dangerous conditions as they race around the bay at speeds up to 90 mph often after sunset, which is against the law.

In addressing the Civic meeting, Officer Erik Hansen of the NYPD Harbor Unit answered many questions relating to efforts to disband the rafted boats and control the Jet Skis. Officer Hansen was accompanied at the meeting by his partner, Officer Paul Hessian, and other representatives of the Harbor Unit, as well as officers from the 45th Precinct, including the NCOs (neighborhood coordination officers) who cover City Island, Jessica Griesinger and Jason Williamson. Officer Hansen explained that on July 20, in response to calls for help, the NYPD, the Coast Guard, two Fire Department boats, and an NYPD helicopter, among others, broke up a rafting of many motorboats with hundreds of passengers partying near Cuban Ledge in Eastchester Bay. And the NYPD plans to continue monitoring the situation, issuing summonses, and dispersing rafted boats.

John Sheridan, head of the Civic's committee, expressed his gratitude to the officers for their coordinated efforts to deal with the issue. He told *The Current*, "Our committee was formed to address the issue of the extra loud music that emanates from certain boats in our area, music that is blasted through the afternoon into the evening and often after midnight, a problem that began three years ago. Members of our committee, as well as homeowners on the Country Club side of the bay, have personally witnessed the offending boaters entering and exiting Evers Marina. The coordinated efforts of the NYPD's Harbor Patrol on the water and the 45th Precinct on land are finally beginning to make a difference, but there is much work still to be done, and the members of this committee are determined to see it through to a conclusion that is reasonable, legal and permanent."

Residents on the east side of City Island have also been harassed by boaters and Jet Ski operators, who have been gathering very close to shore in areas where there are no mooring fields. These operators play loud music and make a lot of noise, but they are quick to disappear when the police show up.

On July 29, 2019, the New York Times published an article that seemed to celebrate the behavior of the gangs of Jet Ski users in New York City, calling them "bikers of the surf" and featuring "the man who seemed to be in charge," James Reichelt, a "tattooed handyman." Mr. Reichelt "rides a lime-green Jet Ski with a Jolly Roger insignia painted on the front and a Jolly Roger flag flying in the rear. He first became known for his huge boat parties, where friends and strangers would lash their boats together and hop from vessel to vessel." In 2006, he founded the New York City Pirates, one of at least seven teams of waterborne thrill seekers in the New York City area."

According to the author of the Times article, in 2018, "at one of the massive boat parties Mr. Reichelt hosts in the Bronx's Pelham Bay, he and many of the Pirates witnessed a man smash full speed into an anchored vessel in the middle of the night." The accident actually took place at a dock at Evers Marina, which was not named, nor did the author mention the fact that anyone with \$25 can pay to launch a boat or a Jet Ski at Evers or that operators of personal watercraft (PWC), such as Jet Skis, are required to have a boating certificate in the state of New York. According to residents who live near the marina, Evers Marina does not have room to hold many Jet Skis, so operators often park their vehicles and trailers on nearby side streets, causing noise and disruptive behavior late at night.

The owner of the marina, Charlie Evers, a resident of City Island now in his mid-70s, told the New York Times in a profile published in 2014 that he has no employees; "I like buying machines; it's cheaper than paying employees," he told the Times, "as he picked up trash, collected dock fees and addressed one complaint after another from boat owners." He has told friends that he would like to sell the marina, but so far he has had no offers. The police have visited the marina several times, but business has continued as usual, although, thanks to the efforts of the NYPD, the boat rafting has been discouraged, at least for now.

Those who observe rafting, loud music from the boats or Jet Skis speeding after dark are encouraged to report these incidents. The Harbor Patrol can be reached at 718-765-4100, and a follow-up call should be made to the 45th Precinct by calling 718-822-5411 and selecting the option for the front desk. These reports should also be conveyed to the Civic Association by emailing city.island.civic@gmail.com.

50 YEARS AFTER THE SUMMER OF '69



Photos by RICK DeWITT, MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER, MARK GILDER, KAREN NANI and MATT PANZA. The summer of 2019 included lots of reminiscing by Islanders who were around when Neil Armstrong landed on the moon and the Woodstock music festival took place in upstate New York 50 years ago. This year, new memories were made during the annual "The Bronx Salutes America" fireworks celebration on June 27, co-hosted by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and New York City Councilman Mark Gjonaj (top right photo). Fireworks also lit up the sky off Pell Place on July 4 (top left). Another memorable Gilder Scholarship barbecue, including raffles, was held at the Morris Yacht Club on July 27 (middle photo). Friends and family of the late John Gilder raised thousands of dollars to fund scholarships at Greenwich High School, Fordham University and the City Island Little League team named in John's memory. Concerts in Hawkins Park celebrated classic rock 'n roll and other musical genres, including the performance by Sue Kawczynski and Innuendo on Aug. 4 (bottom photo). An Uncle Sam replica watched over all the Island festivities (inset).

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*Exhibitor spots available

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ClubFit's new location at 466 City Island Avenue between Bowne and Beach Streets.



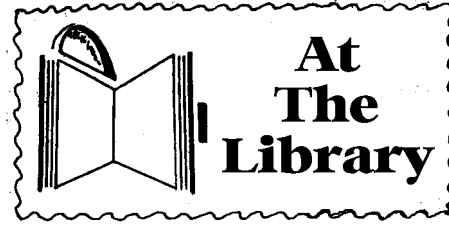
Regular customers at **Art of Beauty**, 413 City Island Avenue, will notice the newly painted light blue walls and may wonder about the change. Rosemarie Escobar, who has worked there for four years, and her business partner Juan M. Mejia are delighted to be the new owners, having recently purchased the business from Louise del Giudice. Except for the wall color, however, there will be few changes. Annemarie and Eva will be on staff and the hours will remain as before: Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. To make an appointment, call 718-885-3831, and be sure to congratulate Rosemarie.

On Friday, Sept. 13, **The Artist** (formerly the Starving Artist Café, 249 City Island Avenue) will present an End-of-Summer Comedy Show at 8 p.m. (get there early to be sure of a seat). Admission is \$10, and a jar will be passed around to show your appreciation for the comics. Mark Larsen is a writer, poet, comic and Yankee fan; he has performed at the Broadway Comedy Club, New York Comedy Club and Greenwich Village Comedy Club (Mark Larsen 9028 on Facebook); Lisa Harmon has performed at all the major NYC clubs and many comedy festivals, and she has a weekly show at Phoenix Bar in the East Village (www.lisaharmon.net). Joanna Briley, known to some as Miss Swipe, is the friendliest and likely the funniest token booth clerk; she has performed at Gotham Comedy Club, Caroline's on Broadway, Stand-Up New York and many other clubs. Now she produces her own show: Laff Tracks Comedy Showcase which is monthly. She wrote, produced and performed "Swipe This: My Life in Transit!," which received great

reviews, and she co-founded the Black Women in Comedy Festival (Joanna Briley on Facebook). Melissa Diaz is a comic, writer and actress from the Bronx who co-produces two comedy shows. Bunga's Den on the first and third Wednesday of every month, and a monthly comedy/variety showcase at New York Comedy Club every second Friday of the month (www.melissadiazcomedy.com). The show is curated and hosted by Mindy Matijasevic, comic, actress, writer, human being, woman, mom, ex-wife, and originator of "Divorced Divas of Comedy" (on Facebook). Her comedy aired on WBAI-FM's feminist radio show "Joy of Resistance," and she has performed at clubs, cafes and special events. Mindy regularly blogs at <https://getyourpoemon.wordpress.com> and www.SheSoFunny.org.

ClubFit, which has been getting Islanders in shape for eight years, has moved to a new location at 466 City Island Avenue, between Bowne and Beach Streets. As a fitness studio, Club Fits offers one-on-one and shared personal training sessions, for either half an hour or a full hour. Owner Giovanni Turcios and his wife, Maria, work with each client based on their personal needs to devise a fitness plan. They also offer Urban Warrior boot camp classes dedicated to all fitness levels. Stop by their new, fully equipped studio or call them at 914-258-5075.

Instruction, critique and inspiration in personal writing, creative non-fiction and memoirs given by **Clementina Esposito** at Mary Colby's Studio Gallery, 276 City Island Avenue, next to Clipper Coffee, on Sunday mornings from 9:20 to 11 a.m., once a month. Class begins on Sept. 8. The price for four classes is \$240, paid upfront; there is a six person minimum, so please act quickly. Clementina Esposito was rigorously trained in both business and creative writing and worked as an English professor for 20 years before starting her own business as a communications and writing coach. Call or e-mail her at 917-859-9731 or clementina@clementinaesposito.com.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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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 stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11 a.m.

Play-Doh Time: Have fun exploring sensory dough as well as making your own creations with Play-Doh by kneading, rolling and molding it! Ages 2 to 5. Play-Doh does contain wheat products. Every Thursday at 11 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. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 to 5. Friday, Sept. 13, at 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Self-Care September: September is National Self-Care Awareness Month. On Wednesdays after school, take care of yourself and experience a moment of calm in your hectic schedule. There will be a different activity each Wednesday from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Sept. 11: Meditation with Zentangle; Sept. 18: Touch and See Relaxation Time; Sept. 25: Cardboard Circle Weaving

After-School Lounge: Come to the library after school for a chance to get a head start on your homework before unwinding online! Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Unwind: On Fridays, at 3 p.m., we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! Sept. 6:

Mindfulness Moment; Sept. 13: Wii and Board Games; Sept. 20: Intro to Bullet Journals; Sept. 27: Wii and Board Games

SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

Writing Aloud Workshop: Created by N.Y. Writers Coalition in 2003, the Writing Aloud Reading Series unites NYWC's community of writers and activists with some of the nation's most prominent literary figures. In venues like the Brooklyn Commons, Greenlight Bookstore and the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MoCADA), stories that were once silenced are heard by new audiences in New York City. Workshop leader John Maney will read the work of Rahaan Thomas in partnership with PEN America, and there will be a special feature from the Project X slam team. Thursday, Sept. 12, at 5:30 p.m.

Mensa Mondays: Doing puzzles has been linked to improved memory, better problem-solving skills and even lower stress levels. Let us help you work off those Monday blues by providing you with riddles, crosswords, word searches and number puzzles to train your brain! Every Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 12 participants, registration required. Thursdays, Sept. 5 and 19, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Mondays, Sept. 9 and 23, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resumé Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length, at 1 p.m. Sept. 7: "The Recruit"; Sept. 14: "The Public"; Sept. 21: "Berlin, I Love You"; Sept. 28: "The Avengers" (the original 1998 version).

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!

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AOC on CI

Continued from page 1

is a human right and we shouldn't be arguing about this. No one should be unable to afford life-saving drugs like insulin and all co-pays should be \$0. A single payer system would also cover mental health, dental and vision costs along with regular doctor visits and prescription drugs."

At one point, she asked the audience members who are covered by private insurance either through their employer or other source, if they are really happy with Blue Cross/Blue Shield or Aetna or whichever insurer they use. Few raised their hands. "This is the reality. Most people love their doctors, but not their healthcare insurance company. If we strengthen Medicare, then the administrative costs are eliminated and we don't have these companies in our lives anymore. If we do it right, we can retrain the employees of these insurers so no one loses their job."

Islander Charlene Schulz asked about how to control prescription drug prices without stifling research and development (R&D), an important contribution of U.S. pharmaceutical companies. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez agreed that more money should be put into R&D, and she supports a ban on stock buy-backs by pharmaceutical companies (done to keep the stock price high), which would free up more money for research. She also said that companies making profits from drugs originally discovered by the National Institutes of Health, a federal agency, should have to give the profits back to consumers in the form of lower drug prices.

Environmental issues were a hot topic during the town hall (all puns intended). The Congresswoman was asked how to make sure City Island is not harmed by the Army Corps of Engineers studies to protect Manhattan against rising seas as a result of global warming. She pledged her support to inquire into the studies on behalf of City Island and other smaller coastal communities in her district. She told the crowd that the larger issue is the climate crisis, and

explained that her resolution known as the Green New Deal includes proposals to address rising seas, insure clean air and drinking water, and reduce health issues caused by pollution.

"Parts of the South Bronx have the highest rates of asthma in the country and 30 percent of the cases are the result of lead in the old buildings. In fact, there are public schools in the Bronx with higher levels of lead in the drinking water than Flint, Michigan," the city whose toxic lead levels drew national attention. She cited the 911 Victims Compensation fund (signed into law in July) as an example of healthcare intersecting with environmental issues where Democrats and Republicans were working together to achieve success.

On local issues, the Congresswoman was asked what she would do to help small businesses and stop the increasing number of empty storefronts on City Island and elsewhere in New York City. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez was among those who fought against the Amazon headquarters deal for Queens claiming that the city was giving too many tax breaks to the huge company. She told *The Current* that high rents set by greedy landlords was one of the main reasons for failing local businesses. She supports legislation by the City Council to regulate landlords and prevent overcharging for retail and residential space.

The Town Hall meeting lasted over two hours, and the Congresswoman answered more than a dozen questions from audience members. She then graciously posed for both group and individual photos with Islanders who wanted to meet her one-on-one. After leaving the building, she and members of her staff had a meal at Johnny's Reef and visited several Island shops, including 239 Play! and Starving Artist.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez encouraged all her constituents to send their comments to her office by visiting her website (<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact>), calling her Washington office at 202-225-3965, or visiting her Parkchester location at Assemblymember Reyes's office, 1973 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462.

Voices From the Past.... and the Present

By MARY McINTYRE



Photos by TOMMY BREEN

For the City Island Nautical Museum oral history project, Dottie Payne (above left) and Greg Clancy read interviews with their relatives, Alice Payne and William Clancy ("The Chief").

Three volunteers at the City Island Nautical Museum have spent countless hours over the last year editing transcripts of interviews done in 1984 about life on City Island. The interviewees talked about their school experiences on the Island, what it was like growing up in the City Island community and working in the boatyards or making sails, as well as memories of how historical events (wars, storms, etc.) affected City Island.

The work of the volunteers culminated in the production of audio recordings during the weekends of Aug. 10 and 17, when family members and readers from the City Island Theater Group brought to life the interviews from 1984. Family members who read excerpts included Dot Payne reading for her mother, Alice; Greg Clancy reading for his grandfather, William Clancy (The Chief); Greg Italiano reading for his father, Tony Italiano; and David Stark reading for his grandfather, Harry Chernoff (The But-

ton King).

Other readings include excerpts from interviews with Buddy Pontecorvo, Leo Keane, Skippy Lane, Myra Walsh, Louie the Clip, Elsa Gilbert Kroepke and Faye Schmahl Jordaens, to name a few.

The next phase of the project is focused on editing the audio tapes and placing historic photographs where they relate to the texts. These pictures from the Island's past have been collected from Tom Nye's amazing collection, as well as from families and friends.

The videographers James and Tommy Breen will be putting the texts, audios and photographs together in four documentaries that will be viewed on flat screen TVs in four of the museum galleries. When they are ready for viewing, the museum will have a reception to celebrate the launching of this important part of City Island's history.

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American Legion

Pumpkin Sale

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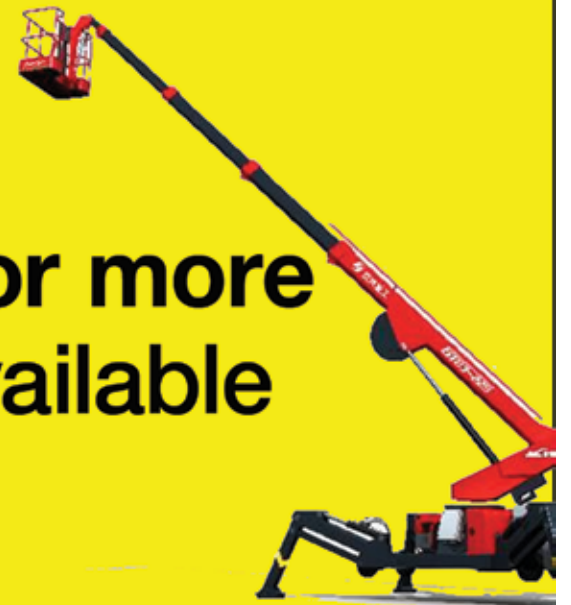
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Photos by MATT PANZA

On Aug. 8, 2019, New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi returned to City Island and addressed a meeting of City Island Rising at Man Overboard.

Once Upon a Summertime

By ANDREW "BABA" BENNARDO

It was just another beautiful summer day on City Island in 1976. There wasn't a cloud in the clear azure sky. This was the Bicentennial anniversary of our nation, and everyone was painting the fire hydrants on City Island Avenue red, white and blue. I was 14 years old, living on William Avenue between Fordham and Hawkins.

This was a City Island beach day, with sun, sea and sand. It was all free and all mine! So I leaped out of bed, washed, brushed, inhaled some cornflakes, completed my chores and scurried outside to play. I was officially a free man.

First I called my buddies, my posse. We were inseparable and we played any kind of game and every sport imaginable. Whiffle

ball, stickball (with a fire hydrant serving as first base), stoop ball, running bases, two-touch football and basketball with a hoop in my backyard. We played baseball behind P.S. 17 (now the Nautical Museum) and my favorite, the backbreaking folly known as Johnny Ride a Pony. At night we would sneak back outside after dinner to organize massive matches of manhunt or hide-and-go-seek, racing through the streets like lunatics amidst swarms of lightning bugs.

The 1970s were a simpler time on City Island. Neighbors seldom locked the doors to their houses or cars. If a fight broke out or if one of the kids was injured, a neighbor would invariably come to the rescue. We all looked out for one another; it was an unwritten City Island code. I wouldn't trade in my upbringing on C.I. for anything.

We knew we were different from most other kids growing up in the Bronx. We were special. We were surrounded by water. There was no reason to open the fire hydrants in our neighborhood to cool off on a hazy, hot summer day. Clam diggers were blessed with their own beaches at the end of every street; they were our oasis. Neighbors and families gathered together as the kids frolicked in the water. I will never forget the scenic views adorned with seagulls flying overhead and the captivating smell of the briny sea air.

I fondly remember the grand old bridge, crowned with its four signature green finials and its familiar sign that greeted visitors with "Welcome to City Island, The Seaport of the Bronx." But City Island was more than a seaport; it provided an outlet, a respite for countless New Yorkers. Visitors have journeyed to the Island from all corners of New York City, seeking refuge from the stresses of daily urban life, and they continue to flock to my beloved hometown. For me, the City Island Bridge draws symbolic parallels to legendary Ellis Island where my ancestors passed through during the early 1920s on their way to the New World in search of a better life.



Photos by PAUL NANI

A fire at the Lobster Box restaurant, one of the oldest buildings on City Island, on July 25, 2019, caused damage to parts of the roof and inside the restaurant (photos above). The electrical fire started in the neon sign above the side entrance to the Lobster Box and spread into the façade over the entrance. After a 911 call at 12:30 p.m., five units responded, including City Island's firetruck 70 (Ladder 53 was out on another emergency call, according to NYFD Battalion Chief William Bonasera). Restaurant owner Bill Lambos told *The Current* that the fire started in the letter "B" in the neon sign. Inside the building there was water damage and a hole in the ceiling underneath the façade. The fire was contained by 1 p.m., and the Lobster Box was open for business within days in the main dining room, which was not damaged.

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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. 5, **45th Precinct Community Council meets**, American Legion Hawkins Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 14 and 15, **Fall Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Tues., Sept. 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Sept. 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage with peppers and potatoes.

OCTOBER

Fri., Sat., and Sun., October 4, 5 and 6, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

American Legion Post #156

Our next meeting is Sunday, Sept. 8, at 1 p.m. (please note the time change), our first meeting back after the summer break. We will open nominations and proceed with our elections. Dues are \$55 for the 2019–20 year. Please drop them off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope.

The hall is available for your next party; we can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox, by the Post's flagpole.

Post 156 will be the host post for the Bronx County Visitation, which serves as an opportunity to meet with fellow legionnaires of Bronx County and your Department of NY Leadership for the 2019–20 year. Please consider attending the Visitation Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Morris Yacht Club; the social hour will be 5 to 6 p.m.; buffet dinner (with beer, wine and soda, followed by coffee and dessert) from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person; RSVP by Sept. 6 to Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576.

The annual Pumpkin Sale will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 through 6. Details to follow.

Please visit our website, *Leonardh-hawkinspost156.com*, for the latest information and a link so you can e-mail the Post directly. You will also find information about our 100th Anniversary and Serviceman's Dinner on Nov. 23 at Scavello's on The Island. We will be honoring a century of support and commitment to our veterans, sharing memories from our Post members and celebrating with our local community.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend! And thanks to the entire City Island community for all your support over the past 100 years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

We will reopen on Thursday, Sept. 19, featuring our all new Fall Collection of new and gently used items. We will be open Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m., and Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

Each weekday morning, Pastor Dave opens the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for people to stop and pray. During that time, we pray for the children, the schools, families and individuals, businesses and those who are grieving, as well as for the health of anyone we have heard is ill. If you would like to have yourself or someone prayed for, we have installed a prayer box on the fence in front of the church on City Island Ave. Prayer requests can also be sent to *david.jolly@nyac-umc.com*. All persons matter, and prayer is powerful.

Watch for the Budget Shop to reopen soon. Our volunteers are hard at work getting it ready. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in volunteering of time, and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Drift

As many Islanders know, the City Island Drift was born in 2018 as a result of Viacommunity Day. We are a tapestry of local volunteers sewed together from other Island organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Association, the Nautical Museum, the Garden Club and local residents whose goal is to spark projects consistent with community building and celebrating our nautical history. So far, we have organized two Viacommunity Days, an Island-wide yard sale, and more recently, launched the City Island Oyster Reef project. We also post forthcoming Island events on our Facebook page. For more information, contact *cityislanddrift@gmail.com* or like us on Facebook.

Maria Caruso

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, a place of worship and fellowship, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Sunday worship services at 10 a.m., led by Father John Covington, Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

You are invited to join Father Covington's Bible Reading Group, which meets during coffee hour on appointed Sundays. We are currently reading and discussing the Book of Judges.

New to Grace: Children's Story Time! Children of all ages are invited to listen to stories for and about children from around the world. On Sunday, Sept. 15, at 11 a.m., John Skinner will share the story about "The Great Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls."

Sunday School will resume on Sept. 15. The group meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 13, and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation during the exchange of peace.

Music Ministry: The GraceTones are enjoying their fourth year of singing at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. The group is currently seeking more sing-



Photo by MATT PANZA

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, ten new altar servers were commissioned at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Pictured (above) with Fr. John Knapp, Deacon Bill Mueller and senior servers Jordyn Knapp, Sonya Doyle and Abby Hayes are Sophia Amos, Khalin Cabrera, Matteo Ciccone, Robert Delaney, Jovanni Maiorca, Richie Mueller, Isabel Quiles, Grace Riordan, Thomas Riordan and Marissa Sanfratello.

ers to join, so if you like to sing and have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need, please contact Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail *accentfix@gmail.com*.

Grace Church will have a booth at the upcoming City Island Fall Arts & Crafts Fair on Sept. 14 and 15. Our booth will be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Stop by for some delicious baked goods made by members of the parish and friends of Grace Church.

Sandy Dunn

Sons of the American Legion

Summer is winding down and we are moving into fall, so the activities and responsibilities for members of the Sons are cranking up. We should all be planning to attend the upcoming 100th anniversary dinner to be held on Nov. 23 to honor and remember those members who through their service to the community, state and nation have given you the privilege of being a member of the Sons. As a reminder, if you have not paid your \$30 dues for 2019, please do so as soon as possible. Dues for 2020 are now being accepted.

SAL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, so come on in and get involved. Some upcoming events that you hope you will attend including arrival on Sept. 10 of the Detachment of N.Y. Sons Commander Dennis George. Later in September we will be having our annual Octoberfest. For details about these and our other events, stop by the Post. We would love to see you.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

P.S. 175 PTA

We are delighted to announce that Jessica Garcia and Kevin Fisher will serve as PTA Co-Presidents for the 2019–20 school year. Both are excited to collaborate with fellow P.S. 175 parents and also look forward to working with the new principal as soon as (s)he is appointed by the district superintendent. Assistant Principal Kathie Wiehler, a longtime staffer and very capable administrator, will have the reins in the interim. Top priority for the new Co-Presidents: An information-packed, interactive school website and significantly enhanced digital communication options for parents. Meeting dates will be published in the October issue of *The Current*. We expect that P.S. 175 is going to be better than ever and are grateful to live in such a supportive community. Welcome back to school!

Jonna Weppler

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

The new Auxiliary board will convene the Sept. 3 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion post. If you would like to research your eligibility to become a member, please contact Viki Trifari at *wik99@me.com*.

Centennial Dinner: This is the centennial year of both the national American Legion and of our own local Post 156. The anniversary dinner will be held Nov. 23, 2019.

Quilts of Valor: Quilters by the Sea completed two quilts this summer. We assembled

a third at our July Sew Saturday and hope to award all three this fall to Island veterans. For more information, contact Harlan Sexton at *harlan.sexton1@gmail.com*.

Support the Troops project: The Auxiliary is partnering with our sister group, Theodore Korony Unit 253, to ship personal supplies to troops in Afghanistan. All are welcome to help through purchases (with local drop-off bins) or funding. For more information, contact Joanne Valletta at *Jcute53@aol.com*. Needed are: drinks (Gatorade powder, juice and energy packs for water bottles); snacks (snack bars, small packages of crackers); personal care (eye drops and razors (for men and women), hand lotion, tooth paste, no larger than 2 oz., and small bottles of mouthwash); clothes (colored T-shirts sizes M, L and XL and white socks for men or women).

Here is a direct link to an Amazon page that has some of the right supplies for this program: <https://tinyurl.com/SupportTroopsCarePackages>. Drop-off locations: There are bins at the Leonard H. Hawkins Post, Island Pharmacy, Trinity Church and Morris Yacht Club. Donate toward shipping costs by writing a check payable to Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253 Auxiliary, and in the memo line write Support the Troops. Mail your check to Theodore Korony American Legion 253, Attention: Ms. Judy Lanci, P.O. Box 833, Throggs Neck Station, Bronx, NY 10465.

Harlan Sexton

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Registration should be sent to Teri Kurtz as soon as possible. You can obtain forms from the rectory or the vestibule of the church. No registrations will be accepted on the first day of class.

On Saturday, Sept. 14, we will hold our annual outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's school yard. Our catechists will be commissioned at this Mass. This is always a very special occasion, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will officially reopen on Thursday, Sept. 19. Come and check out all the fall selections.

Rose Dietz

AARP Chapter 318

We meet on the first and third Wednesday each month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church Hall. The first meetings after the summer break will be Sept. 4 and Sept. 18. These will be regular meetings.

We have two trips coming up. The first, on Sept. 11, is to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Barefoot in the Park." The cost is \$60, which includes a delicious lunch, a first-rate show and an entire room full of desserts! On Oct. 7, we will celebrate an all-day Oktoberfest at Kruckers in Pomona, N.Y. There will be food, activities and games. The cost is \$53.

If you are interested in these two trips, sign up at the Sept. 4 meeting or call Elaine Waltz at 914-632-6707 for more information. We are looking forward to seeing everyone. Newcomers are always welcome.

Carroll A. Reid



A Selected Filmography of Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise is most widely known as an action adventure star who has done many of his own stunts in the six **Mission Impossible** films to date. He stars as U.S. Government secret agent Ethan Hunt, who selects a special team for each assignment. **Mission Impossible** (1996): Framed for the murder of a team member during a botched mission and accused of selling government secrets, Hunt seeks to clear his name. The cast includes John Voight, Henry Czerny, Emmanuelle Beart, Jean Reno, Ving Rhames, Kristin Scott Thomas and Vanessa Redgrave. **MI: 2** (2000): Hunt is assigned to find and destroy Chimera, a virus engineered so that profiteers can make money selling its antidote. The cast includes Dougray Scott, Thandie Newton and Brendan Gleeson. **MI: III** (2006): Engaged to be married, Hunt comes out of retirement to assemble a team to stop an elusive arms dealer who intends to market a very dangerous weapon. The cast includes Philip Seymour Hoffman, Billy Crudup, Jonathan Rhys Myers, Keri Russell, Maggie Q, Laurence Fishburne and Michelle Monahan. **MI: Ghost Protocol** (2011): When Hunt and his team are blamed for bombing the Kremlin, the surviving agents work to avoid a nuclear war. The cast includes Simon Pegg, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton and Michael Nyqvist. **MI: Rogue Nation** (2015): Hunt and his team face down the threat of the Syndicate, an organization of rogue killer agents. **MI: Fallout** (2018): In this sequel to **Rogue Nation**, when missing plutonium cannot be recovered, the world is threatened by an offshoot of the Syndicate. The cast of films 5 and 6 includes Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson, Alec Baldwin and Sean Harris, with the addition in film 6 of Henry Cavill and Angela Bassett. Seventh and eighth films are in the works, tentatively scheduled for release in the summers of 2021 and 2022.

Going back to the beginning of Cruise's successful career, we start with his breakout role in **Risky Business** (1983), in which he stars as Joel, a high school student worried about his future. When his parents (Nicholas Pryor and Janet Carroll) go on vacation without him, his best friend, Miles (Curtis Armstrong), responds to a personal ad that ultimately results in a call girl named Lana (Rebecca De Mornay) arriving at Joel's house. While trying to impress Lana, he takes his father's Porsche out for a drive. When it lands in a Chicago lake, he desperately needs to make money for the restoration. Lana suggests that they get their friends together, because as high school students they certainly need the service her friends can provide. Joe Pantoliano appears as Lana's very unhappy pimp, Guido, and Richard Masur is a Princeton admissions officer. The soundtrack by Tangerine Dream is quite spectacular.

In **Rain Man** (1988), Dustin Hoffman stars as Raymond, an autistic savant who has been institutionalized since childhood. Cruise appears as his brother, Charlie. Neither man was aware of the other's existence, but that changes when their father dies, leaving all his money to Raymond. Charlie begins the movie as a con artist, but when the brothers take a cross country trip together, Charlie's feelings toward his brother change. Cruise gives a very special nuanced performance, which I have always thought was under-rated.

Born on the Fourth of July (1989) is the second of director Oliver Stone's Vietnam War-era trilogy of films, including **Platoon** (1986) and **Heaven & Earth** (1993). This film is a biography of real-life

veteran Ron Kovic (Cruise), a patriotic, all-American small-town athlete who shocks his family by enlisting in the Marines to fight in the Vietnam War. Suffering a dreadful injury that leaves him paralyzed from the chest down, he returns home and experiences an appalling stay in a Bronx Veterans' Hospital. Furthermore, his horrendous reintroduction to society makes him a staunch anti-war and pro-human rights political activist. The film, Tom Cruise and Oliver Stone were all nominated for Oscars, and Stone secured a win as Best Director. Many consider it Stone's best work and Cruise's best performance, which did win him a Golden Globe.

In the dramatic courtroom thriller **A Few Good Men** (1992), Cruise plays Lt. Daniel Kaffee, a Navy lawyer who has never seen the inside of the courtroom. He wants to plea bargain rather than defend two stubborn Marines, Lance Corporal Harold Dawson (Wolfgang Bodison) and Private First Class Loudon Downey (James Marshall), who have been accused of killing a fellow Marine, Private William T. Santiago (Michael DeLorenzo), at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Also on the legal staff are Lt. Sam Weinberg (Kevin Pollak) and Lt. Commander JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore). Kevin Bacon appears as prosecutor Captain Jack Ross, who wants to negotiate a plea deal. However, Dawson and Downey insist they were just following orders given by Lieutenant Jonathan James Kendrick (Kiefer Sutherland) and that the death was accidental. In the film's most memorable scene, Kaffee takes a huge risk by calling Colonel Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson) to the stand in an effort to uncover a conspiracy.

In the classic John Grisham lawyer movie **The Firm** (1993), Cruise stars as Mitch McDeere, a recent Harvard law school graduate, who has been hired by Oliver Lambert (Hal Holbrook) to work at a prestigious Memphis law firm under the mentorship of Avery Tolar (Gene Hackman). When Mitch becomes simultaneously blackmailed by Wayne Terrance (Ed Harris) of the FBI and "The Firm's" menacing Director of Security William Devasher (Wilfred Brimley), he is assisted in his survival efforts by his wife, Abby (Jeanne Tripplehorn); his brother, Ray (David Strathairn); Private Investigator Eddie Lomax (Gary Busey); and Eddie's secretary, Tammy Hemphill (Holly Hunter).

Cameron Crowe's **Jerry Maguire** (1996) stars Cruise in the title role as a sports agent with a moral quandary about his job and company SMI, and he expresses it in a vision statement that he unwisely distributes. Fired for this declaration, he decides to test his new philosophy as an independent agent. He is accompanied on his new venture by Rod Tidwell (Cuba Gooding Jr.), a second-tier wide receiver for the Arizona Cardinals and the only athlete who stayed with him; and Dorothy Boyd (Renée Zellweger), a 26-year-old single mother, who departs her account-

ancy position with SMI for a very uncertain future with her new boss. Featured are Kelly Preston as Jerry's ex-wife, Avery; Jay Mohr as Jerry's smarmy rival agent, Bob Sugar; Regina King as Rod Tidwell's wife, Marcy; Bonnie Hunt as Dorothy's mother, Laurel; and Jonathan Lipnicki who steals every scene as Dorothy's adorable son, Ray. Cruise's excellent performance garnered an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe win.

Based on a story by famed science fiction writer Philip K. Dick, Steven Spielberg's **Minority Report** (2002) is set in 2054 Washington DC, where police utilize a psychic technology to arrest and convict murderers before they commit their crime. The Pre-Crime Program is directed by Lamar Burgess (Max Von Sydow) and consists of three "Pre-Cogs," children of drug addicts whose mutations enable them to dream of future murders. Cruise plays John Anderton, the head of the DC Pre-Crime unit, who believes in the work and is upset when he discovers that there is a plan to shut it down. When he is himself accused of a future murder, he goes on the run, chased by FBI Agent Ed Witwer (Colin Farrell). Only Pre-Cog Agatha (Samantha Morton) can help prove his innocence.

The Last Samurai (2003) is a thought-provoking study of various facets of patriotism. The drunken ex-Civil War Army officer and Indian fighter Nathan Algren (Cruise) is hired by his former commander, Colonel Bagley (Tony Goldwyn), to travel to Tokyo to train imperial Japanese soldiers. Algren is forced to send his troops into battle before they are fully ready, and he faces an extraordinarily fierce opponent, Samurai Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe). The film explores the complexities of the vast differences between Eastern and Western cultures.

Michael Mann's **Collateral** (2004) is a neo-noir action thriller that stars Tom Cruise as Vincent, a hitman. Vincent has come to town to complete four jobs in one evening, and he has coerced taxi driver Max Durocher (Jamie Foxx) to work for him for the entire night. Javier Bardem is on hand as drug lord Felix Reyes-Torrena, Mark Ruffalo as narcotics detective Ray Fanning, and Bruce McGill as FBI agent Frank Pedrosa. Jada Pinkett Smith appears as Annie Farrell, a prosecutor who is a passenger in Max's cab.

Edge of Tomorrow (a.k.a. **Live Die Repeat**) (2014) is set in the near future,

when an alien race has hit the Earth in an unremitting assault. Major William Cage (Tom Cruise), an officer who has never seen a day of combat, is killed during a virtual suicide mission, but he is caught in a time loop in which he is forced to live out the same brutal battle over and over. With each painful repetition, Cage becomes better skilled at fighting his adversaries alongside Special Forces warrior Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt). Each encounter helps them get closer to defeating the enemy.

American Made (2018) is an action-adventure film inspired by the audacious life of Barry Seal, a former TWA pilot who possibly flew missions for the CIA, became a drug smuggler for the Medellín Cartel and became an informant for the DEA in order to avoid jail time. Cruise stars as Baton Rouge pilot Barry Seal, who in 1978 flies commercial jets for TWA, smuggling Cuban cigars to augment his income. He is recruited by a CIA case officer who calls himself Monty Schafer (Domhnall Gleeson) and offers Barry a chance to make better money by taking on reconnaissance missions for the CIA. Schafer is so impressed with the photos that Barry brings back to him that he assigns him a new task, being a bag man between the CIA and General Manuel Noriega (Alberto Espino) in Panama. On one mission, Barry actually meets the Medellín Cartel: Jorge Ochoa (Alejandro Edda), Carlos Lehder (Freddy Yate Escobar) and Pablo Escobar (Mauricio Mejia). Sarah Wright appears as Seal's wife, Lucy, and the couple has two children and one on the way. In this wild and crazy film, Seal's activities eventually lead to the Iran-Contra Affair.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

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Photos by MATT PANZA

Smiles and trophies were all over the field like ground balls during the closing day of the 2019 City Island Little League (CILL) season on June 29 at Ambrosini Field. Players ran for ice cream almost as fast as they rounded the bases for one last time before the summer break. With the possible end of the St. Mary, Star of the Sea basketball program (see April 2019 issue of *The Current*), CILL remains the only sports program dedicated to City Island youth. If you want to volunteer for the 2020 CILL season, contact league president Dom Esposito at cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com.



Helping Our Children Deal With Violence and Tragedies

By JOHN SCARDINA

Recent events have once again raised our level of concern for the safety of ourselves and our families. We as adults feel distress, anxiety, helplessness and concern. In addition, as parents, our initial instinct is to protect our children from the news about "bad things" that happen in the world.

However, the reality is that children's lives are regularly touched by trauma, no matter how much we might try to keep the "bad things" away. So, instead of shielding children from the dangers around us, adults should talk to kids about what is happening.

Our children often learn or know when something sad or scary happens. Then, if adults don't talk to them about it, a child may overestimate what is wrong or misunderstand the adults' silence. So be the first to bring up the difficult topic. When parents tackle difficult conversations, they let their children know that they are available and supportive.

How can we do this and do this well?

• **Think carefully about what you want to say.** Practice the words in your head: advanced planning may make the discussion easier.

• **Find a quiet moment and a casual place:** Sitting around after dinner, doing some chores together, having an ice cream on the porch—a natural time with your entire attention focused on your child is best.

• **Find out what they know.** Ask gently about a recent violent event: "Did you hear

about this?" Then listen—and listen some more—and some more....

• **Share your own feelings with your child.** Let them see you are human and that even when you are upset, you can pull yourself together and carry on.

• **Tell the truth.** Lay out the facts at a level the child can understand. You do not need to give graphic details. Feel comfortable saying "I don't know" when asked questions like "Why do people do bad things?"

• **Reassure.** Remind your children that your job is to watch out for them. Be clear that you will be available to answer any questions or talk about this topic again in the future. Reassure them that they are loved. Then just give them a hug and sit quietly for a moment.

I was asked to address a school community, including elementary school children, their parents, and their teachers, on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001, hours after the attack. I asked them to think about what they still knew about the world, even in the face of the tragic events of that day: I have a loving family; I am part of a loving school community; I am learning how to take care of myself; I can be a good friend to others; and so on. Sometimes our blessings are needed reminders that we can survive a difficult moment in our lives with the resources we already have.

Wishing you and your family an exciting, hopeful, and safe start to the new school year.

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Under beautiful blue skies, Trinity United Methodist Church held its annual outdoor service at the Fordham Street Beach Club on Aug. 4, 2019. During the service, Pastor Dave Jolly offered communion with a little help from the church's longtime former pastor, the Reverend Susan Chadwick.

Organization News

Continued from page 13

- Sept. 6: Community-led services
- Sept. 13: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David
- Sept. 20: Community-led services
- Sept. 27: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi David

Other Activities:

Sept. 21: Selichot: Our Journey of Soul, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join Rabbi David and the band for a soulful musical journey into Selichot, a service of depth and height as we prepare the High Holy Days. Our evening will begin with Havdalah, then transition through our inner layers to touch our shared central core.

Sept. 29: Erev Rosh Hashanah 5780, 6 to 8 p.m. Join Rabbi David and Your Band by the Sea for a musical welcome to Rosh Hashanah and the Yamim Nora'im (Days of Awe) for the year of 5780. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 30: Rosh Hashanah, Day 1, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join Rabbi Shohama and Rabbi David and the band for services. Shofar service will begin after noon (bring the kids!), followed by Tashlich beachside (please bring bread). Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

TBE invites the City Island community to join our yoga class on Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by Daniella Haney (Patresha Sat Inder Kaur), a certified instructor in spiritual disciplines of breath and body. Suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Dress in loose-fitting clothes: participants can take session on the ground (mats and pillows provided) or sit in a chair. Tea and cookies served afterward. Suggested freewill offering: \$10 per session. RSVP to Daniella at kyncyc@aol.com.

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

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

*Oneg Sponsorships. Onegs are joyful community celebrations, often sponsored by people commemorating special events to honor others or their own special occasions (e.g., birthday, anniversary, new job, yahrzeit, memorials, etc.) To sponsor one or to get more information, please contact Violet Smith at violetsmi@aol.com or call 718-885-0978.

For additional information, check out our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Paul Klein

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club hopes that everyone is enjoying the seasonal flowers in the planter boxes along City Island Avenue. Our beautification committee chose a selection of plants suitable for the warmer weather and, with assistance from our Helping Hands auxiliary, we have once again succeeded in making City Island a pleasant place for residents and visitors. This was made possible because of contributions to the Garden Club's beautification fund from the Island's residents and businesses.

Everyone is invited to our meeting this month on Monday, Sept. 9. Our speaker will be Maria Caruso, who will tell us about the City Island Oyster Reef and its plans going forward. This is a project that should be of interest to the community, as it will result in cleaning the water and encouraging marine species to return to our waters.

Our Oct. 7 meeting features a presentation by Jennifer Bakshi, an instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, whose subject will be "Unraveling the Mystery of Plant Names." This should be of special interest to all gardeners who are curious about botanical Latin terms.

Garden Club meetings are held monthly, except August, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. All meetings conclude with coffee, tea and fresh baked goods served by our hospitality committee.

Sharynne Wilder

City Island Theater Group

"You need three things in the theater—the play, the actors and the audience, and each must give something." – Kenneth Haigh

For 20-plus years the board of the City Island Theater Group has understood this. It always has been about striking a balance. Do we play it safe and produce a well-known play that always draws a crowd? Do we go with a lesser-known play to broaden the theater experience, to elicit stronger emotions, to provoke more discussion about difficult topics? Do we cast familiar actors whom the CITG audiences know and love, or do we focus on new talent? It is a balancing act but one that has been played well for those 20 years.

No one imagined when they hung that sheet advertising "Play On" in front of Grace Hall 20 years ago that that same small stage would be home to "Evita" and "Sweeney Todd."

In addition to its usual three stage productions a year, CITG has involved itself in many other theater "events." We worked to produce a Halloween haunted house at the Community Center, as well as at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Huntington Library was the setting for a "peek" at "View From the Bridge," with short readings and discussion with the actors about their preparations and emotions surrounding their complex characters.

The Manor Club in Pelham Manor hosted a staged reading of selected works



Photo courtesy of CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP
In April 1999, the City Island Theater Group presented its very first production, *Play On!*, a delightful comedy about an amateur theater group trying desperately to put on a play. This banner was the group's first attempt at publicity, posted in front of Grace Church hall, where the group continues to thrive, 20 years later.

has understood the meaning of "community" theater involving more than 500 actors, directors, producers, board members, costumers, costume sewers, lighting and sound designers and techs, stage managers, house volunteers, board members, play readers, photographers, set builders, painters, prop people, program and promotion designers, donors, subscribers, advertisers and, most importantly, audiences. Thanks to all of you!

Mary McIntyre

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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 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| DAY | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | TIME | HEIGHT | DAY |
| | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | HH MM | FEET | |
| 01 Sun | 0107 | 8.77 | 0749 | -0.92 | 1335 | 8.78 | 2016 | -0.86 | Sun 01 |
| 02 Mon | 0201 | 8.52 | 0838 | -0.72 | 1427 | 8.66 | 2113 | -0.70 | Mon 02 |
| 03 Tue | 0258 | 8.13 | 0930 | -0.37 | 1523 | 8.40 | 2214 | -0.40 | Tue 03 |
| 04 Wed | 0402 | 7.68 | 1029 | 0.08 | 1627 | 8.07 | 2319 | -0.05 | Wed 04 |
| 05 Thu | 0513 | 7.29 | 1134 | 0.53 | 1740 | 7.79 | | | Thu 05 |
| 06 Fri | 0025 | 0.25 | 0625 | 7.06 | 1242 | 0.86 | 1852 | 7.65 | Fri 06 |
| 07 Sat | 0130 | 0.42 | 0730 | 7.02 | 1347 | 1.01 | 1957 | 7.66 | Sat 07 |
| 08 Sun | 0230 | 0.47 | 0830 | 7.14 | 1447 | 1.00 | 2055 | 7.77 | Sun 08 |
| 09 Mon | 0325 | 0.44 | 0925 | 7.35 | 1542 | 0.89 | 2148 | 7.92 | Mon 09 |
| 10 Tue | 0416 | 0.38 | 1014 | 7.58 | 1631 | 0.75 | 2236 | 8.03 | Tue 10 |
| 11 Wed | 0501 | 0.34 | 1059 | 7.77 | 1715 | 0.62 | 2319 | 8.08 | Wed 11 |
| 12 Thu | 0542 | 0.35 | 1140 | 7.88 | 1755 | 0.55 | 2359 | 8.04 | Thu 12 |
| 13 Fri | 0618 | 0.42 | 1216 | 7.90 | 1828 | 0.52 | | | Fri 13 |
| 14 Sat | 0032 | 7.93 | 0646 | 0.52 | 1245 | 7.86 | 1854 | 0.52 | Sat 14 |
| 15 Sun | 0055 | 7.77 | 0700 | 0.60 | 1256 | 7.82 | 1906 | 0.50 | Sun 15 |
| 16 Mon | 0104 | 7.66 | 0708 | 0.60 | 1309 | 7.88 | 1926 | 0.44 | Mon 16 |
| 17 Tue | 0126 | 7.61 | 0734 | 0.57 | 1337 | 7.97 | 1959 | 0.43 | Tue 17 |
| 18 Wed | 0200 | 7.55 | 0810 | 0.61 | 1413 | 8.03 | 2038 | 0.50 | Wed 18 |
| 19 Thu | 0239 | 7.44 | 0851 | 0.74 | 1455 | 8.03 | 2122 | 0.64 | Thu 19 |
| 20 Fri | 0324 | 7.28 | 0936 | 0.93 | 1541 | 7.95 | 2212 | 0.83 | Fri 20 |
| 21 Sat | 0415 | 7.10 | 1027 | 1.14 | 1634 | 7.82 | 2308 | 1.00 | Sat 21 |
| 22 Sun | 0513 | 6.95 | 1124 | 1.32 | 1733 | 7.70 | | | Sun 22 |
| 23 Mon | 0013 | 1.09 | 0617 | 6.93 | 1229 | 1.35 | 1839 | 7.66 | Mon 23 |
| 24 Tue | 0134 | 0.97 | 0731 | 7.11 | 1347 | 1.17 | 1952 | 7.77 | Tue 24 |
| 25 Wed | 0305 | 0.59 | 0848 | 7.50 | 1518 | 0.69 | 2108 | 8.04 | Wed 25 |
| 26 Thu | 0409 | 0.08 | 0955 | 8.00 | 1628 | 0.06 | 2216 | 8.35 | Thu 26 |
| 27 Fri | 0503 | -0.39 | 1050 | 8.47 | 1726 | -0.53 | 2313 | 8.59 | Fri 27 |
| 28 Sat | 0553 | -0.73 | 1139 | 8.81 | 1819 | -0.96 | | | Sat 28 |
| 29 Sun | 0006 | 8.67 | 0640 | -0.89 | 1227 | 8.98 | 1910 | -1.17 | Sun 29 |
| 30 Mon | 0057 | 8.58 | 0727 | -0.84 | 1315 | 8.96 | 2002 | -1.13 | Mon 30 |
| OCTOBER 2019 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01 Tue | 0148 | 8.33 | 0814 | -0.58 | 1404 | 8.75 | 2055 | -0.87 | Tue 01 |
| 02 Wed | 0242 | 7.96 | 0904 | -0.17 | 1456 | 8.40 | 2152 | -0.46 | Wed 02 |
| 03 Thur | 0342 | 7.54 | 0959 | 0.33 | 1557 | 7.99 | 2253 | 0.01 | Thur 03 |
| 04 Fri | 0449 | 7.18 | 1104 | 0.82 | 1709 | 7.61 | 2357 | 0.43 | Fri 04 |
| 05 Sat | 0558 | 6.99 | 1213 | 1.17 | 1822 | 7.40 | | | Sat 05 |



RODMAN'S NECK IS BACK IN THE NEWS

One of the biggest explosions we've had around here in a long time happened on Aug. 16 at about noon. According to Officer Mark Torre of the NYPD's Bomb Squad, "explosive material" was detonated on Rodman's Neck, in the part of the peninsula commonly called the Pit. It began with an NYPD chopper circling the skies over the area and an NYPD cruiser patrolling the Bay. Presumably, both were in position to warn off unsuspecting passersby. After the detonation, both water and aircraft moved on.

Ordinarily, such an occurrence would invite no further comment beyond the usual Jeez or Holy %\$#! But this time was different. Mere hours before the big bang, the NYPD issued warnings about two suspicious devices that had been discovered in the Fulton Street subway station and then a third device in Chelsea. Here's where it gets interesting, though: while all three devices were deemed and publically proclaimed non-threatening, the public's assistance was almost immediately enlisted regarding the location of a potential suspect. And then, of course, there came the explosion at the Pit.

Since the 1930s, Rodman's Neck has been used on and off as a training ground for New York City police officers. Bombs have been detonated there, apparently, since the 1940s. After 1959, when the NYPD officially took control of the area for training purposes, including bomb squad operations, explosive material has been detonated at the Pit regularly, as City Islanders will attest. In 1976, for example, Officer Bryan Murray was killed by a ter-

rorist's bomb that prematurely went off there. For another, more recent example, the pipe bombs that were sent to CNN in 2018 were transferred to Rodman's Neck inside one of the Bomb Squad's Total Containment Vehicles (TCV's).

In fact, every recovered explosive device in the New York City area is transferred to Rodman's Neck. Once there, every effort is made to study and learn from the device while it is still unexploded. Detonation is a last resort. Which brings us back to Aug. 16. In response to questions about the explosion that afternoon, Officer Torre sought to reassure concerned residents, telling them that it was just one of those "odd coincidences." He explained that a planned detonation had been in the works for about a week, although City Islanders who signed up to receive notices about such explosions were not notified until the morning of the 16th, at about 8:30. The explosive material that many heard, he said, dated back to an incident in 2017 when a Queens man was killed by a bomb that had been delivered to his home.

On a separate and much more cheer-worthy Rodman's Neck note, the abandoned boats and docks that had been accumulating along its shores have been removed. Two weeks after the City Island Civic's board member Cathy Cebek put in a call to Councilman Gjonaj's office, the contractor hired by the Parks Department to commence cleanup was on the scene. And it only gets better: according to the Councilman's own Facebook page, "the cleanup will continue in the area." So far, he reports, "100 cubic yards of marine debris" have been removed.

It's quite the sight not to see!



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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo from ROY STRONG: CREATING SMALL GARDENS

A small parterre or partitioned garden with two spandrel sections.

Going Formal

"I grow old . . . I grow old. I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled . . . Do I dare to eat a peach?" From "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T. S. Eliot

I will dare to eat a peach, but do I dare to have a large garden to tend and weed? My hand that can no longer clip and prune shakes a definitive nay. So, after reading Roy Strong's marvelous book entitled "Cre-

ating Small Gardens," I am satisfied with my diminutive one.

Sir Roy Strong is an author and landscape designer who served as director of both the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. The story of his garden, the largest 20th-century formal garden in Britain, can be found in his book "The Laskett," a good read that at the very least will inspire you to plant a hedge or maybe even a small topiary. I was inspired by the parterres he created for his garden to

create one for my diminutive space.

The earliest forms of parterre go back as far as Pliny himself in the first century AD. The idea that started in Italy then traveled to France and Holland, enhancing the great gardens of Versailles (1661) and the botanical gardens of Leiden (1590). Roy himself designed an Italian parterre for Gianni Versace and another for Elton John. Of course, many parterres have been made on a grand scale and for royalty, but you can easily create a small one.

Parterres are meant to be looked down upon from a window high above the garden or from a raised terrace. The patterns, sometimes in the form of decorative knots, are made up of boxwood. Never use miniature boxwood, however, because they are the most susceptible to box blight disease. The true English box, *buxus sempervirens*, can be cut and shaped and kept small.

You will need a tape measure, a level, small posts and some string to accomplish a plumb design. Starting at the center, which can be paved with brick or stone, create a circle and have four small paths radiating from the center. If you follow the curve of the center circle, your four quadrants will form triangular spaces that are called spandrels. It is in these spandrels that one can plant perennials or annuals in a controlled color scheme to adorn the decorative box design. In winter, snow will fall and the garden will look confectionary, as if sugar were dusted upon it.

A parterre is a fine addition to any garden and if planted with vegetables would constitute a parterre potager. Herb gardens are also lovely laid out in this way, and they are functional for cooking, making tea, providing aromatics and even medical remedies.

The best planting months are upon us, October and November. For those who enjoy maintaining their gardens with very little effort, this is the time to select perennials, trees and shrubs. You can plant well into November and December or until the ground hardens with frost. With cooler temperatures, watering will be at a minimum, and the plants will have a few weeks before winter to spread their roots and heal in.

I will be installing box, holly and hem-

lock, even though I know that hemlock gets the woolly algid insect. Is there a more graceful evergreen for shade? I think not. Mountain laurels and camellias are indispensable for shade, and they strike a different note than rhododendrons or azaleas. I can't say enough about having evergreens in the garden, for they are the anchors, backdrops, enclosures and focal points, however you choose to use them. Winter would be a land of sticks without them.

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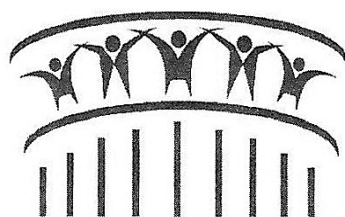
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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Patty Attis, manager of the PSS Senior Center at Grace Church, presented a service award to Lucy Brown, who has been teaching Tai Chi at the Center for over two years. Lucy has studied Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese martial art with slow and gently flowing movements, with Dr. Paul Lam, a world leader in the discipline for over 40 years. She teaches his techniques with a special emphasis on improving balance and preventing falls, especially for those suffering with arthritis.

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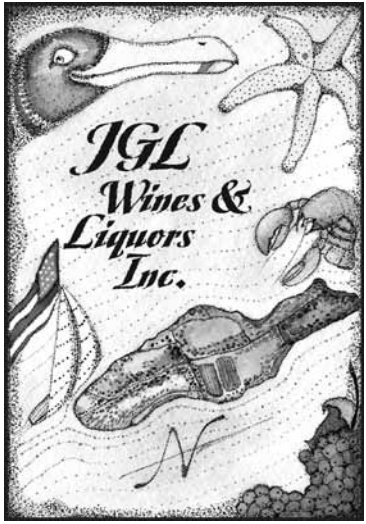
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Obituaries

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Bernard "Ben" DiGregorio

Bernard DiGregorio, known to all as Ben, passed away on July 31, 2019, at the age of 90.

Born on Sept. 12, 1928, he was a resident of Bay Street on City Island since 1967.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran during World War II. As police captain, he was the first commanding officer of the 49th Precinct, which was established in 1984; he retired in 1988. Ben was a highly recognized member of the school board in District 10 and a long-time usher at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

He is survived by Virginia, his beloved wife of 71 years; his children, Steve, David and Donna, as well as six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Upon his passing, he chose to donate his body to science. A Mass was held Aug. 10, 2019, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.



Benjamin Zitron

Benjamin Charles Zitron, a former resident of City Island, passed away peacefully at the age of 82 on Aug. 9, 2019.

He was born on Feb. 21, 1937, to Sarah (Brodsky) and Arthur Zitron and raised in Milwaukee, WI. Ben graduated from Yale University in 1959, and "For God, for Country and for Yale" was his guiding principle. He was an entrepreneur and real estate developer and lived in Manhattan before moving to City Island in his later years.

Ben was a great lover of art, ballet, symphony and Broadway. An avid sports fan, he adored the Green Bay Packers, the New York Yankees, the New York Knicks and the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.

He was predeceased by his parents and his son-in-law David Casey. He is survived by his sister, Michelle Bodner, and her husband, Gerald; his first wife, Sharon Pincus, and his second wife, Amy Zitron; his daughters Anne Casey, Jennifer Suomi and Alison Zitron, and his son, Barnett Zitron and his wife, Lindsey; his grandchildren Sam Casey and his wife, Nicole, Clara Casey, Olivia Suomi and Arthur Leo Zitron; a great-grandson, Teddy Casey, and several nephews and cousins.

Ben was buried in Milwaukee; a memorial gathering will be held in New York City at a future date.

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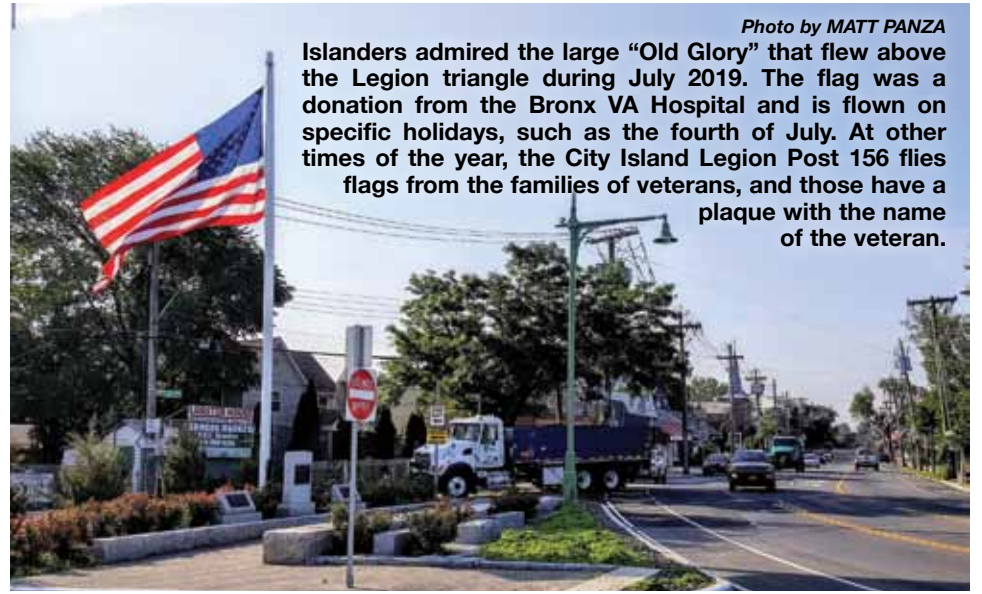


Photo by MATT PANZA
Islanders admired the large "Old Glory" that flew above the Legion triangle during July 2019. The flag was a donation from the Bronx VA Hospital and is flown on specific holidays, such as the fourth of July. At other times of the year, the City Island Legion Post 156 flies flags from the families of veterans, and those have a plaque with the name of the veteran.

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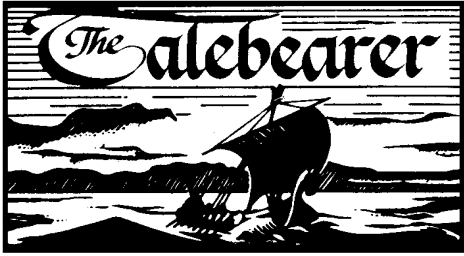
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Alaina Dietz was born on July 17 to Guy and Nina Dietz.

Islander Regina Sanglier, who teaches calligraphy and cursive writing at the Community Center for children, at the library for adults, and at the PSS Senior Center for seniors, won an honorable mention from the prestigious Washington Calligraphers Guild. Congratulations for her dedication to preserving the art of handwriting!

Good luck on Sept. 7 to all who are competing in the third annual Rob Vivolo and Dan Barry Memorial Softball Tournament. The event is being organized by Islanders Pauly Saulnier, Sarah Pryor and Timmy Byrnes, who have also headed the event in the past. The money raised by the tournament will be donated to the City Island Little League.

On July 31, more than a dozen of their Fordham Street neighbors gathered to say goodbye and offer good wishes to Ron and Pam Kuch, who are moving to Rockland County to be closer to their daughter, Kelly, and their grandchildren, Elon and Izzie. Ron is a multi-generational clam digger, and when Ron and Pam are gone, it will be the first time in well over a century that no Kuchs will be living on City Island.

It's a girl! Pell Place's Rosette Dietz is thrilled to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Alaina Dietz, on July 17. Proud parents Guy and Nina Dietz are over the moon with the new addition to their family!

The Chadwick, Juner and Guiliani clan gathered at the home of Peter and Marguerite Juner in Oriental, NC, to celebrate sister/cousin Susan Chadwick's 70th birthday on Aug. 11. The week-long celebration was punctuated by many excursions in the tiki barge built by Peter and Marguerite with the occasion in mind.

Happy birthday wishes, hugs and kisses to our Fearless Hunter, who celebrates his sixth birthday on Sept. 17. Much love from Nonni and Pop.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who celebrate their 36th anniversary on Sept. 11.

Chase Bank would like to welcome our new manager, Michael Sanchez, and say goodbye and good luck to Ravi Sookraj, who will be moving to another location.

Happy September birthday to Mike



Kristina Ciuti and Al Hein were married on August 25.



Michele Immediato and Karl Neddermeyer were wed on August 17.



Myrtice Freeman will celebrate her 80th birthday on Sept. 5.

Rauh, training once again for the New York City Marathon. Birthday greetings also go to Dan Wright and to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan. Love from Judy.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness



Photo courtesy of DAVE GUILIANI

Chadwicks, Juners and Guilianis in a rare moment of stillness during the week-long 70th birthday bash for Sue Chadwick (center front in blue bathing suit), at the home of Marguerite and Peter Juner in North Carolina.



On June 28, 2019, graduates from the Class of 1989 at City Island's P.S. 175 gathered for a 30th reunion at The Snug. (l. to r. front): Sal Conte, Harold Brill, Eddie Sinclair, Mary Ellen Masillo, Elysia Schaller and Beth Rauh. Back row: Ann-Marie Goonan, Melissa Koller and Kristen McConaghy.



On July 18, 2019, Richard Kretzmer was the veteran honored at Yankee Stadium during the seventh inning. Joining him on the field were his two sons, Philip and Stephen, and his grandson, Richard. Mr. Kretzmer served on the USS George Washington, the first operational United States nuclear missile submarine. In the stands his family and friends cheered him on.

to Michele Immediato and Karl Neddermeyer, who were married on Aug. 17 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. Proud parents are Islanders Mary and James Immediato and Karl and MaryLou Neddermeyer.

A reception at the Split Rock Golf Course was followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii.

Happy birthday(s) to Kevin Lenz on Sept. 26 and to Jonathan Mullin on Sept. 27, with love from your family.

On June 28, some alums of the class of 1989 from P. S. 175 gathered for a reunion and a good time was had by all.

Best wishes to Kristina Ciuti and Al Hein, who were married on Aug. 25. Lots of love and happiness to you both on this exciting and joyful day for our family. Love, Mom and Anthony.

Congratulations to the new altar servers at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. May God bless you all.

Happy 80th birthday to our mom, Myrtice Freeman, on Sept. 5. May you stay forever young and never stop dancing. With love from Stephanie, Clyde and all your fans.

September birthday wishes to Stephen Swieciki (9/2), Bob Swieciki (9/12), Jean Anderson (9/12), Cait O'Dwyer (9/23), Tommy Lott (9/24) and Tina Ruggiero (9/28).

Happy anniversary to Mike and Amanda Libretto on Oct. 1.

Wishing all our returning students a safe and happy school year!

Maria Swieciki

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