

The Island Current

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One Dollar



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

From the Staff of the Island Current

BRIEFLY...

HOLIDAY FAIRS ON THE ISLAND: St. Mary's annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the School Gym and the Thrift Shop. Trinity will have its Christmas fair on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Grace Church will hold its Christmas bake sale and 50/50 raffle on the same day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. And the American Legion Christmas Fair featuring baked goods, handcrafts and raffles will take place on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM is closed for the winter, but you can still buy Island-themed gifts. Visit the website www.cityislandmuseum.org to see what is available and order online or call 718-885-1616. Some gifts are also for sale at Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue. Although the museum is officially closed, anyone doing research will be welcome to do so; to make a special appointment, call 718-885-0507. And be sure to visit our Facebook page, City Island Nautical Museum. Those who wish to help support the museum, which is administered by the City Island Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, are encouraged to send donations or membership renewals to P.O. Box 82, Bronx NY 10464. With best wishes for the holidays!

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during October and November 2021. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – PETIT LARCENY
- 2 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – FOUND DEADLY WEAPON
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Oct. 21 to Nov. 18, 2021.

10/30 – On Pilot Street, a male Island tenant reported an incident of harassment at 3:30 p.m. The victim told police that his landlord put garbage in front of his door with the intent to annoy him.

10/31 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue, a female off-Islander told police that she parked her vehicle in the lot and upon return found that her DOT (Department of Transportation) permit had been removed without her permission in an act of petit larceny.

11/3 – A female employee at a com-

mercial establishment on City Island Avenue discovered two firearms at 12 p.m. The weapons were discovered when vacant deposit boxes were being checked after years of being unclaimed. The owners of the firearms are unknown.

11/4 – On Horton Street at 3 p.m., a female Islander was a victim of aggravated harassment. The victim received a threatening voicemail from an unknown person, causing her to fear for her safety.

11/13 – At 2:53 p.m. on Bridge Street, the male owner of a commercial establishment was harassed by a customer over a dispute about the bill. The customer told the owner that he was going to get his "piece" and would be back with his friends. The perpetrator did not return, and there were no further incidents.

11/14 – On Pell Place at 1:40 p.m., an Island female parked her vehicle and found there was damage to the vehicle when she returned. Unknown person(s) had fled the scene of the accident.

REMINDER

The next issue of *The Island Current* (January/February 2022) will be published and on sale at the end of January. Happy New Year!

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CHAMBER PRESENTS COMMUNITY AWARDS

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RON TERNER

Recipients of the awards presented at the City Island Chamber of Commerce gala on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, included (l. to r.): Sean Wingate of City Island Juice Bar, who accepted the New Business Appreciation Certificate; Council Member Mark Gjonaj, who received the Catherine Scott Achievement/Community Service Award; Dr. Nancy Kheck, recipient of the Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award; Sally Connolly, awarded the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award; and Matthew Cruz and Peter Cantillo, respectively District Manager and member of Community Board 10, which received the Special Community Service Award.

The City Island Chamber of Commerce marked its 111th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, with a celebration that filled the Harlem Yacht Club with more than 100 supporters, honorees and their families. Unlike earlier Chamber celebrations, this was not a traditional dinner dance, but guests were treated with elaborate hors d'oeuvres, wines and desserts, accompanied by music provided by the Lickety Split Band, and the atmosphere was lively and congenial.

Paul Klein, president of the Chamber, welcomed guests and introduced the first group of honorees who received New Business Appreciation Certificates: The City Island Juice Bar, Clam Diggers Laundromat, Lollipop Antiques, Man Overboard Sports Bar and Sea Breeze Deli. The owner of the Juice Bar, Sean Wingate, the only recipient present, gratefully accepted the certificate and thanked the community for its support during a difficult time.

Janie Blanks, secretary of the Chamber, presented the Sam Bierman Business & Community Service Award to Dr. Nancy Kheck, Director of Health and Human Services for the Bronx Borough President's Office. Nancy's son, Julian, spoke on his mother's behalf about her achievements, and Nancy herself accepted the award expressing gratitude to her family and friends. With her husband, Patrick Gannon, Nancy is also a renowned beekeeper, producer of City Island Gold Apiary and an inspiration for other beekeepers throughout the Island.

Nancy Kheck's educational achievements in science and business and her professional experience as a professor, consultant and course director at New York University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine, among others, have informed her successful work as the Bronx's Health Advocate during an especially difficult period. The challenge of improving health outcomes for residents of the borough in collaboration with the Borough President's response to the Covid-19 pandemic involved collaborating with dedicated health partners, made possible by Nancy's ability to lead and succeed as part of a team.

Maria Caruso, the Chamber's head of tourism, presented the Tom Ceretta Community Service Award to Sally Connolly, chair of City Island Oyster Reef, Inc. (CIOR), a relatively new non-profit organization that has accomplished a great deal during the three years it has been in existence. After explaining who Tom Ceretta was (a shoemaker who was for many years the president of the City Island Board of Trade and its successor, the Chamber of Commerce), Sally described the history of CIOR along with its purpose and its recent accomplishments as a community organization dedicated to improving the environment.

The goal of the organization is to restore oyster beds around City Island to clean local waters and to rebalance the fragile marine ecosystem, while engaging and educating the community in its efforts. Restaurants donate shells, and community



Dr. Nancy Kheck

volunteers prepare them for future use in reef construction. The group has engaged in educational programs with P.S. 175 and sponsored community-wide events, most recently an environmental festival, Viva La Sound, held in October. A major goal is to restore a "living shoreline" on the waterfront behind the school and Ambrosini Field, a project in which many City Islanders have played an important role. These activities are second nature to Sally, who helped develop education programs for public school students as deputy director of community affairs for the Manhattan District Attorney and has been a long-time adviser to the Police Athletic League. On City Island she was director of junior sailing at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club and served as an officer of the Little League for many years.

Skip Giacco, former president of the Chamber, introduced Council Member Mark Gjonaj and presented him with the certificate for the Catherine Scott Achievement/Community Service Award. Mark Gjonaj was quick to point out that he was especially pleased to receive the award because he has a longstanding involvement with City Island, having lived here for over a decade. He noted that his two sons are clamdiggers and that his wife, Roberta, is the nurse at P.S. 175, so he still feels like a member of the community. In addition to receiving his award, Council Member Gjonaj presented City Council Citations to each of the other award recipients.

Mark Gjonaj was the first Albanian-American elected in New York City and State. He was elected to the New York City Council in 2017, having previously served as NYS Assembly Member for the 80th District from 2012 to 2017. Before that, he was the Bronx Commissioner of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. Over the years, he has devoted significant time and energy to a number of local organizations and activities on the Island, most recently the Community Center and the City Island Historical Society. He has provided important support for City Island needs, including traffic control, sanitation collection, food service, vaccination and



Mark Gjonaj and Sally Connolly

testing facilities and more. He believes that "you can only get out of a community that which you put into it," and is dedicated to community participation in order to improve neighborhoods, quality of life and a brighter future.

The final award of the evening, a Special Community Service Award, was presented to Community Board 10, which serves the neighborhoods of City Island, Co-op City, Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck and Westchester Square. Headed by Chairperson Joseph Russo and District Manager Matt Cruz, the board is made up of volunteer community leaders and activists who are chosen by the Bronx Borough President and the local City Council Member. Community Board 10 has been instrumental in helping to resolve many issues for City Island, which is represented on the board by Maria Caruso, Peter Cantillo and Tom Smith.

Once the award recipients were honored and photographed, the music started up again, and the celebration went well into the evening as Chamber board members thanked everyone for helping to make the event a great success.



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Early Holiday Lights

To the Editor,

The Chamber of Commerce chose to put up the holiday lights along City Island Avenue this year because it has been a difficult retail year and the board wanted to get the holiday season off to an early start. Last year there were 16 strings of lights in addition to the Seasons Greeting sign, and this year there are 18 strings, beginning at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church and ending at Johnny's Reef/Tony's Pier.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Donations to help pay for the lights will be very welcome. Drop off cash or a check at the Chamber office in Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Hawkins Street. Or you may

mail donations to Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 13, Bronx NY 10464, or use the "donate" PayPal button on the Chamber website, www.cityislandchamber.org.

Paul Klein, President,
City Island Chamber of Commerce



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St. Mary Star of the Sea Church

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2021

RECONCILIATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 20
Confessions:
4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
Carols: 7:30 PM
Mass: 8:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25
Masses: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
NO EVENING MASS

NEW YEAR'S DAY/ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
8:00 AM & 5:15 PM
(NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR)

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Blue Christmas Service - 10 a.m. Saturday, December 18th

Sunday School Christmas Pageant - 10 a.m. Sunday, December 19th

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2021 Election: Islanders Return to the Polls

BY FRED W. RAMFTL AND KAREN NANI



Photo by KAREN NANI

The P.S. 175 Parent Teacher Association resumed its annual Election Day sale on Nov. 2, 2021. Along with baked goods and raffles, voters could purchase t-shirts and sweatshirts with the elementary school's new Sharks logo from (above, l. to r.) Melissa Rosado-Taveras, president, and Noelle O'Connell.

Although many Islanders voted by mail during the 2020 presidential election in the middle of the pandemic, most of the 2021 ballots were cast in person at City Island's polling site.

More than 1,100 residents cast ballots on Nov. 2 at P.S. 175 from the Island's four Election Districts (60, 61, 62 and 63). Scanners were used to accept the ballots and almost everyone obeyed mask and social distancing recommendations. While in-person turnout was lower than in previous midterm elections, the New York City mayoral race drew the most attention from Islanders.

Based on the machine and early totals, Islanders favored Democrats in most races, except for the mayoral contest. Residents cast more votes for Republican Curtis Sliwa than for the Democrat Eric Adams.

Islanders also favored two of the five Propositions on the ballot, the Right to Clean Air and Increased Jurisdiction of Civil Courts. They voted No more often on the other Propositions, Amending Redistricting Process, Eliminating Advance Voter Registration and No Excuse Absentee Voting.

The P.T.A. of P.S. 175 resumed their annual Election Day bake sale on Nov. 2, offering t-shirts and sweatshirts with the school's new Shark logo, along with raffles and baked goods.

The following table indicates the tallies, based on the machine and early voting City Island totals from the Democrat (D), Republican (R), Conservative (C), Socialist and Liberal (SL), Libertarian (LBT), and other party lines. As *The Current* went to press, absentee paper ballots were still being counted.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
Mayor		
Curtis Sliwa (R)	576	54
Eric Adams (D)	465	43
Catherine Rojas (SL)	19	2
William Pepitone (C)	14	1
Projected Citywide winner:	Eric Adams	

Public Advocate		
Jumaane Williams (D)	476	55
Devi Nampiaparampil (R)	246	28
Anthony Herbert (C)	118	14
Devin Balkind (LBT)	26	3
Projected Citywide Winner:	Jumaane Williams	

Comptroller		
Brad Lander (D)	484	46
Daby Carreras (R)	434	41
Paul Rodriguez (C)	108	10
John Tobacco Jr. (LBT)	27	3
Projected Citywide Winner:	Brad Lander	

Bronx Borough President		
Vanessa Gibson (D)	490	47
Janelle King (R)	401	38
Sammy Ravello (C)	154	15
Projected Winner:	Vanessa Gibson	

City Council		
Marjorie Velazquez (D)	535	51
Alex Mici (R)	506	49
Projected Winner:	Marjorie Velazquez	

Proposition #1: Amend Redistricting Process		
Yes	431	43
No	560	57
Projected Statewide Decision:	No	

Proposition #2: Right to Clean Environment		
Yes	676	67
No	333	33
Projected Statewide Decision:	Yes	

Proposition #3: Eliminate Advance Voter Registration Rule		
Yes	427	39
No	676	61
Projected Statewide Decision:	No	

Proposition #4: No-Excuse Absentee Voting		
Yes	443	44
No	570	56
Projected Statewide Decision:	No	

Proposition #5: Increase Jurisdiction of NYC Civil Court		
Yes	683	69
No	305	Yes
Projected Decision:	Yes	

"Strike Up the Band!"

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by GREG CLANCY

Music teacher Joe Abbatantuono teaching alto sax to young members of the new American Legion orchestra program.

A new music education program open to all children from grades 3 through 8 is being sponsored by the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion, which has partnered with Paul Effman Music, a full-service music-education provider (www.pemusic.com).

The Legion Band kicked off with an information session on Oct. 7 and has signed up 27 kids for lessons in trumpet, flute, clarinet, trombone, saxophone, bells and drums. Lessons are held most Thursdays at the Legion Post, 550 City Island Avenue, with four sessions: drums (6 p.m.), alto sax (6:30), clarinet and flute (7) and bells, trumpet and trombone at 8. Other instruments are also taught separately. The music teacher is Joe Abbatantuono, an NYS-certified music teacher who has been the band teacher for 10 years at many Westchester Catholic grade schools.

The cost is \$90 per month, although reduced rates are being offered to American Legion members and have attracted 31 new adult and youth members of both the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Greg Clancy, Vice Commander of the Legion Post, told *The Current*: "We came up with the idea of the band for three reasons: 1) to continue our mission of community engagement; 2) to fill the music void for kids on City Island, because P. S. 175 has no music; and 3) to create an activity that would get young families interested in joining the American Legion, Sons of the Legion and/or the Legion Auxiliary. We look forward to continuing our 100-year tradition of service to children and youth, as we invite young families to participate in our new music program."

For more information or to sign up, please e-mail gregclancy@hotmail.com.



Photos by KAREN NANI

The annual Holiday Tree lighting on Nov. 27, 2021, returned Hawkins Park to a festive scene with lights and carolers led by Ken and Elizabeth Farnum. Paul Klein and Talon Silver Meyers lit the tree and power was supplied by Lickety Split. The Hanukkah menorah lighting was held the following evening on Nov. 28, also in Hawkins Park. Thanks to the City Island Chamber of Commerce for these joyous celebrations. Let the 2021 merriment begin.

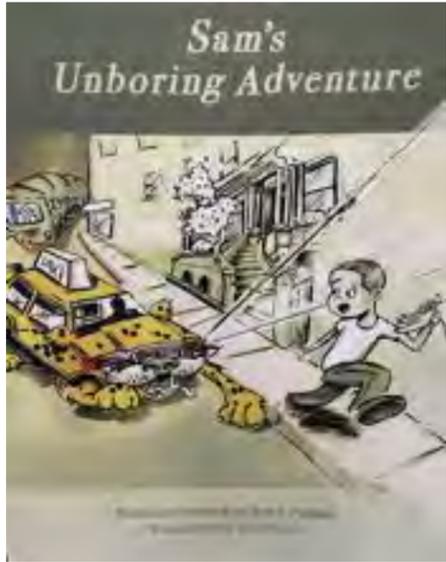
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One of the many holiday gifts for sale at Kaleidoscope Gallery is this charming children's book co-authored by Janine Franciosa, "Sam's Unboring Adventure," which follows a young boy on a wild ride through New York City and beyond.

anime inspired art and more! Monday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Twisted Stitches: A teen/tween knitting, crochet and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Presented by Students on the Sound, the City Island Library Teen Advisory Board. Thursday, Dec. 2, 16 and 30, at 4:30 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Spend December exploring the art of drawing. Each artist will be given a sketching starter kit, and together we will learn the basics of drawing and how to bring your art to the next level. Limit of 10; first come, first served. Friday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at 3 p.m.

Teen Unwind: Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles, coloring pages and anything else without a screen. Friday, Dec. 31, at 3 p.m.

DECEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS

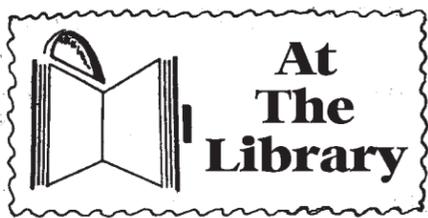
City Island Book Club: Every month, a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, Dec. 6 and 20, at 5 p.m.

Island Writers: One of the City Island Library's most successful programs returns! This is a group for anyone interested in writing either professionally or personally. Regardless of your experience level, we're here to help one another in the journey of self-expression and creativity. All are welcome, so feel free to join in on the literary fun! Registration recommended. In Memory of Anne Hutchinson. Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

One-on-One Job Support: Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you write/format your resumé and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. Wednesday, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, at 10 a.m. will be virtual. Register at <https://www.nypl.org/adults/career-employment/virtual/support>. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 10 a.m. will be in-person at the library.

What Are You Reading? Calling all avid readers! Let's come together as a community to discuss what you've been reading, and what you may want to read next! This is an open discussion for all genres, but each session will also include a presentation of titles related to a particular topic. Thursday, Dec. 2, 16 and 30, at 5 p.m. in person at the library. On Saturday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m., this program will be presented virtually with registration required.

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



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DECEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Family Storytime: This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books, as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children. Online registration required. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Dec. 3, 7, 14, 17 and 21 at 11 a.m.

DECEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

AniMonday: Love anime? Come by to learn about different anime and manga, debate about favorite characters, make

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MORE ANIMAL LOVERS FLOCK TO CITY ISLAND

BY KAREN NANI



Island resident Kevin Hills, Collections Manager in Ornithology at the Bronx Zoo, enjoys living on City Island with his wife, Becky. Kevin is among the many zoo employees who have lived on the Island over the years, including the group featured in the December 1986 issue of *The Current* (photo at right).

Over the years, a number of animal managers, curators and veterinarians have lived on City Island and made their daily commute to the Bronx Zoo. The tradition continues with resident Kevin Hills, who is currently Collections Manager in Ornithology there and has been featured on the popular Animal Planet cable television series "The Zoo."

Kevin is one of hundreds of dedicated people who care for the animals and birds at the Wildlife Conservation Society, which manages the Bronx Zoo, the Coney Island Aquarium, the Queens Zoo and the Central Park Zoo, but his journey to the Bronx began in Cincinnati, OH. "My mom loved animals; she worked at the Museum of Natural History and volunteered at the Cincinnati Zoo," he told *The Current*. "She loved feeding birds and birdwatching from our living room. I remember having Tommy Toucan jump on my arm on a trip to Busch Gardens as a young kid. Birds were always special to me."

So Kevin volunteered at the Cincinnati Children's Zoo and later got his first job there. He attended Miami University of Ohio as an undergraduate and took ornithology from "Doc" Dave Osborne. "He lit a fire under me and eventually consulted on my undergrad studies, *Geococcyx californianus*, the Greater Roadrunner predator-prey study." (Thanks to the popularity of the Roadrunner cartoons, many people Google "Is there really a Roadrunner?") As Kevin knows from his research, the answer is yes: it is a bird born to run that can outrace a human, kill a rattlesnake and thrive in the harsh landscapes of the Desert Southwest. The roadrunner plays both predator and prey roles.)

Kevin then followed his passion and worked at several zoos across the country, including the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago and the Knoxville Zoo in Tennessee. "At

that point, I got an opportunity to be the zoo director for the Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, GA. The park was built by Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's 'Wild Kingdom,' a TV program I watched as a kid."

Kevin worked with both large and small mammals at the different zoos, and he also served as a keeper in the food commissary at the Cincinnati Zoo before he began to work in ornithology. "I then moved to animal shows where I learned about behavior training. We flew hawks, macaws, parrots, owls, toucans, falcons, and I even was stalked by an emu on stage. Secretly, I had a food cup strapped to my belt in the back that the emu followed and fed from," he recalled fondly.

When his previous manager, Dave Oehler, from the Cincinnati Zoo became the Curator of Ornithology at the Bronx Zoo, Kevin followed him as the Collections Manager and has been in that position for almost eight years.

It was his boss who also suggested that Kevin move to City Island. "It was Dave's recommendation, due to the ease of access to the Bronx Zoo. And the birdwatching on City Island is amazing! Besides osprey, I have seen bald eagles, loons, lots of waterfowl and, during migration, warblers and songbirds." So with help from local real estate agent Maria Swieciki, Kevin and his wife, Becky, whom he met at Miami University of Ohio, have made City Island their home base.

Kevin follows in the footsteps of the late Dr. Emil Dolensek, Chief Veterinarian, who moved to Tier Street in 1975 and was reportedly the first Bronx Zoo employee to live here. During the 1980s the Laurels condo development on Tier Street was owned by the New York Zoological Society, which later became the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), until the zoo sold the units in the 1990s. Other zoo people who currently live on the Island include Don Boyer, Curator of Herpetology; Chris Walzer, Executive Director of Health, and Eric Sanderson, Senior Conservation Ecologist. Penny Kalk, who was Collections Manager for the Mammal Department, lived on Bay Street for many years until she retired a few years ago.

Kevin is thrilled that kids are watching "The Zoo" series today, just as he watched "Wild Kingdom" as a young boy. "Animal Planet's series follows staff members and documents the day-to-day operations of the Bronx Zoo and WCS's other parks in New York City. I appear in stories that are tied to managing the ornithology collection," he explained.

The program gives audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the Bronx Zoo and its 265-acre campus, which is located just 6 miles from City Island and 10 miles from Times Square. Kevin is delighted to be part of the show. "It is an outstanding documentation of the intricacies of caring for wildlife now and into the future. Most interestingly, I have noticed when talking



Photos by RENA HANSEN and JULIE LARSEN MAHAR © BRONX ZOO
Some of City Island's zoo people in 1986 (first row, bottom, l. to r.) Ellen Rice, Jonathan Carr, Philip Dolensek; (second row) Sue Fraser, Ellen Dierenfeld; (third row) Gail Carr holding Jennifer Carr, Chuck Carr; (top row) Emil Dolensek, Isabirye Basuma, a visiting chimpanzee researcher from Uganda, and Cliff Rice.



Photo by JULIE MAHAR © BRONX ZOO
Kevin and a colleague releasing a red-throated loon into the wild on Orchard Beach in the Bronx. The bird was injured, taken in by the zoo, treated and released.

with fans about the show that the story lines engage different generations. Children hook parents, parents hook grandparents and grandparents share the stories about zoos when they were kids. It's pretty cool to see the show generates discussions up and down family generations."

So how do he and his wife like living here? "Becky and I love City Island. We enjoy walking along the avenue and talking with our City Island neighbors and business folks. We support a lot of the businesses on the Island and can be frequently seen at Ray's, the Snug, the Black Whale or Archie's eating a good meal." Kevin is also a frequent customer at 123 Play, thanks to his "baseball card addiction that my wife allows me to participate in."

Like his boss Dave, Kevin recommends City Island as a place to live for all new Bronx Zoo staff members moving to the New York area. He explains to prospective Islanders that "in January 2018, there was a nor'easter that dumped 28 inches of snow on City Island, yet it took me only 30 minutes to drive to work!

Thank goodness, because the animals needed to be fed. It took me longer to dig my car out of the snow than it took to get to the zoo!"

Fortunately for this newspaper, he also recommends *The Island Current*. "I buy and read *The Current* monthly. It is an important source of local information. Plus, a strong local paper creates a strong local community," he told this reporter. He also appreciates that St. Mary's priests and deacon bless the animals every year on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which is always featured in *The Current*. "I have noticed that there are a few dog and cat owners on the Island," Kevin joked.

Does he plan to stay at the Bronx Zoo and on City Island? "I never planned or even dreamed of coming to New York City. Now that we're here, we have no plans to leave the Bronx Zoo or City Island any time soon."

Animal Planet's series "The Zoo" is now airing season five on Saturday nights at 9 p.m. ET (check your local cable provider for channel listings). Previous seasons are available on Discovery+. Tune in and look for Kevin when the birds fly.

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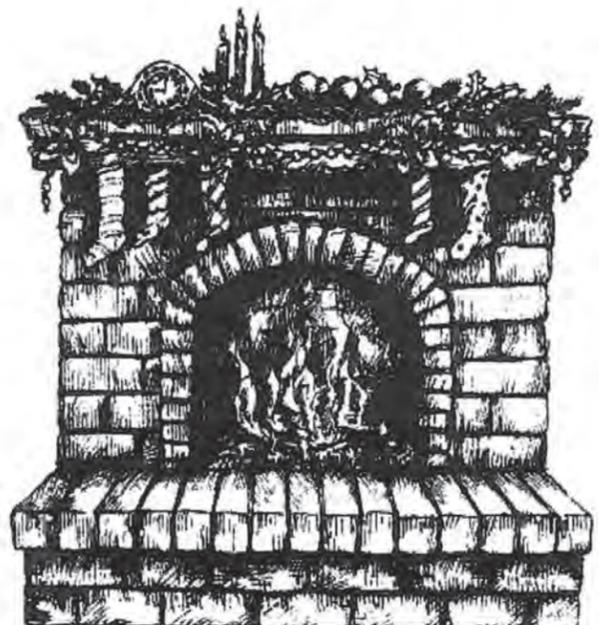


In hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Before Hawkins Park

BY BARBARA DOLENSEK

This is the first in a series of articles about historic properties on City Island.

Next door to what used to be Connie's New Way Market is a handsome, brightly colored red-orange house that has a long and fascinating history of which few Island residents are aware. The land on which it was built, during the 1860s, was once part of the same property that now includes Hawkins Park and Lickety Split Ice Cream but that once also included a school, a police substation and a family cemetery.

In 1861, a Manhattan resident named Adaline Cochran paid David and Frances Scofield \$2,000 for the lot that is now Hawkins Park, and a year later her husband, William Cochran, purchased the half-acre lot on which the house was built from Joshua and Phebe Ann Leviness for the sum of \$200. Four years later, in 1866, the Cochrans bought a third plot, which would become the family cemetery, from William and Maria Scofield for \$25.

William Cochran was a bootmaker who had immigrated from Ireland in 1840; he ran a business on the Bowery and lived for many years in what was then called the Five Points neighborhood in lower Manhattan. He married Adaline Martin, who had been born in the same neighborhood to a family in the bible business, and during the 1860s the couple moved to City Island, where they raised seven children.

About 1863 a young carpenter named Herman L. Arnow built the house for the Cochrans. He is known to have worked at one of the boatyards on City Island, where he saved the life of a colleague, William Heggman, by applying a tourniquet to his hand cut on one of the large saws. According to Arnow's daughter, he also often repaired broken chairs and tables at the house for the Hunter family from the wild parties they held on Hunter Island (now part of Pelham Bay Park).

In 1871 Herman Arnow eloped with Hannah, the eldest daughter of William and Adaline Cochran, and in 1889 the couple purchased the entire property on which the house stood from the Cochrans for the sum of \$1. The house remained in the family for many years, and records indicate that this was the home of Richard N. Arnow in March of 1896, when he was appointed by the governor of New York to serve as justice of the new 12th district court, created when City Island became part of New York City. Judge Arnow was



Photo courtesy of JON ARNOW

Herman and Hannah (Cochran) Arnow in 1871, shortly after he built the house on City Island Avenue.

apparently an avid fisherman, a cousin of Teddy Roosevelt's and an ancestor of the Duryea family that once operated a restaurant where the Lobster Box now stands.

According to Jon Arnow, the great grandson of the builder of the house, the family sold it in 1947 to Gerald W. Ford, who lived in the house until his death in 1986 at the age of 94. Born on Davenport Neck in New Rochelle in 1892, Mr. Ford came to City Island in the 1930s and from his home operated a yacht brokerage agency, which also had branches in New Rochelle and in the Chrysler Building in Manhattan. At the time of his death, Mr. Ford, who never formally retired, was the oldest established yacht broker in the United States. His clients included some of the best-known yachting names in the world, including such families as Astor, Vanderbilt, and Whitney. In 1929 he sold a million-dollar yacht to Howard Hughes, with whom he remained friendly until Hughes died in 1976. After Mr. Ford died, the house was purchased by Islander Ruth Markowe, who painted it the brilliant red-orange color, which shocked many traditionalists but pleased many others.

A number of puzzles remain about the Cochran/Arnow property. Several generations of the family were buried in the cemetery plot, and until the late 1990s the location of the cemetery was clearly visible in a corner of what became Hawkins Park. According to a document on file at the White Plains Court House, "this lot is to be used as a cemetery and for no other purpose," but the cemetery has disappeared from view. Jon Arnow has been unable to find any documentation in which the property was turned over to the town of Pelham, which included City Island until 1895. We know that the property was the location of City Island's second schoolhouse, which



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The handsome once-white, now red, house on City Island Avenue north of Hawkins Park was built in the 1860s by an Irish family named Cochran and was for four decades the home of renowned ship's broker Gerald W. Ford.



was built in 1860 and replaced in 1900 by a police station, after P.S. 102 (later P.S. 17) was built on Fordham Street. In 1933 the Parks Department obtained the property and the police station was removed (part of it is now a home on Centre Street) and turned it into a sitting area dedicated to the memory of Leonard Hawkins, an Islander who was killed in World War I.

In 1950, Orchard Street, which runs parallel to the park, was renamed Hawkins Street, for the Hawkins family, which had lived on City Island since 1784. The park was renovated during the 1970s, when the granite monument was erected to honor him and 104 City Islanders who served in the war, and when the dolphin and seal statues were added. Mr. Arnow recalls

seeing the family cemetery as late as the 1990s, located at the southwest corner of the park with a low chain-link fence around it and six names listed. But that monument is no longer visible and may have been covered or removed over when the park was renovated in 2009.

Mr. Arnow recently discovered that in 1908 all of the 26 bodies buried in the family cemetery were moved to Pelham Cemetery on King Avenue, although only two of the names are officially listed as having been reinterred, Herman Leroy Arnow Jr. and his mother, Hannah Cochran Arnow. He is contemplating the installation of a new monument in Pelham Cemetery, a fitting tribute to the family responsible for one of City Island's handsomest buildings.

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City Island Bus Service Update

BY JOHN DOYLE

After nearly a year on pause, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has announced the revival of the 2019 Bronx Bus Resign Plan, which includes major changes to the Bx29 bus that services City Island, as the current route has been the subject of constant complaints over the years for lateness and unreliability.

The redesign plan would eliminate the Co-op City portion of the route and consist of a dedicated "loop" from City Island to Pelham Bay Station. Commuters still wishing to travel to Co-op City will have plenty of options as they can still travel to Co-op City by getting a free transfer at Pelham Bay Station to the Bx12, Bx23 or Q50 buses. For the route to be successful, it was proposed that eight bus stops be removed on City Island, at Cross, Bowne, Schofield, Pell (eastbound) and Sutherland (westbound) Streets. Similar stop reductions have been proposed for every bus line within the Bronx, as Bronx stops are currently an average of 882 feet apart, while stops in transit systems around the world range from 1,000 to 1,680 feet, according to the MTA. Islanders have, of course, opposed the removal of these stops, and it may be possible for one or two to be saved if the community collectively agrees on these stops and presses the MTA.

Island residents have been fighting for 24-hour, 7-day service for more than six years. Two meetings were held with MTA representatives in 2015 and 2018, and a petition signed by 775 people signed requested an expansion of service along with the shortened route. City Island was well represented at the MTA's Bronx Bus Workshop in October 2018, where they provided input on proposed changes.

A virtual public meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 9, included delivered testimony from outgoing Council Member Mark Gjonaj's office, Cathy Cepek, and myself. Additionally, City Island straphangers Ellen Amy Cohen and Lucille Rivin submitted written testimony about their commutes. State Senator Alessandra Biaggi has also testified at previous MTA public meetings. A common theme among all these testifying was an appreciation for 24/7 service for our community, as well as a desire to see many or all of the bus stops preserved. "We pay our Metrocard fares, and the MTA needs to start treating us like we matter," said Ms. Cohen.

Those who wish to submit comments on the proposed plans can sign onto <https://new.mta.info/bronxbusredesign/routes/bx29>. According to their published report, the MTA plans to vote on the final plan in December 2021 and implement it by the summer of 2022.

BIAGGI

Sending love to my District 34 neighbors for a happy & safe holiday season.
♥ NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi



NYC Councilman
Mark Gjonaj

Season's Greetings

With the new season upon us, wishing you all much health, peace and love. May you have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Happy Kwanzaa and a great year ahead!

We are proud of the work we have done for City Island and we thank you for your partnership!



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“Even More” for the Holidays on City Island

BY MONICA GLICK

This year City Island’s shops, galleries, restaurants, cafes and businesses want to give you even more to help you celebrate the Holiday Season!

Even more . . . sounds and sights of the season. Elliott Glick’s **Starving Artist (The Artist)** (249 City Island Avenue) continues to showcase music, theatre, comedy and poetry, as well as the “couch show” with Glick and wife Monica, featured on Facebook LIVE (<https://bit.ly/ArtistLIVE-Home>) and with an in-person audience every second Saturday of the month. A full schedule of holiday shows is at www.starvingartistonline.com. In 2022, watch for The Artist’s festival of one-act / one-person shows. This location features desserts from **Jenny’s Sweets** (Instagram / Facebook), also available for custom orders.



Artie’s Steak & Seafood

For a magical capture of the sights of the holidays look no further than **Artie’s Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue). And while your eyes are feasting on the décor, your taste buds will celebrate with dishes like zuppa di pesce for two (king crab, whole lobster, clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops and calamari served over linguine with your choice of white wine garlic sauce, marinara or fra diavolo sauce).

Down the avenue a bit, step inside **Clipper Coffee** (274 City Island Avenue) to sip a holiday coffee concoction along with a tasty treat.

Even more . . . travels. Food “travels,” that is. The flavor of Italy is found inside one of the newest eateries, **Anthony’s** (273 City Island Avenue), which offers side

dishes for your at-home and office celebrations, including broccoli rabe, lasagna and antipasto.

More Italy is to be found at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue) or **Scavello’s on the Island** (101 City Island Avenue). And there’s Latin flavors at **Vistamar Restaurant and Lounge** (565 City Island Avenue) and **Caliente** (414 City Island Avenue), which also features dishes like the “444 platter” with lobster and shrimp.

For a mix of locations—Latin with hibachi dishes—visit **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue).



The Snug

Maybe your travel is less location and more time. Well, look no further than **The Snug** (302 City Island Avenue), where, on the coldest of winter days, bartender Hannah will mix you the perfect tropical “I’m thinking summer” drink. Next door, at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue), you can travel back in time to comfort food and meals like the ones your mother used to make.

Even more . . . pampering. To get glamorous this holiday season, stop at **Bay Rose Nail Salon** (329 City Island Avenue) or **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue). Visit **Eden Beauty Bar** (310 City Island Avenue) for a wide-range of beauty services. Or let Rose at **Art of Beauty** (413 City Island Avenue) give your hair a color and cut! And one of City Island’s newest beauty businesses, **Yolimell’s Beauty Salon and Barbershop** and **Frenchy’s House of Glam** (626 City Island Avenue), is waiting to make you beautiful, holiday style.



Bay Rose Nail Salon

And at **Complexions of City Island** (403 City Island Avenue) is there to “refresh and renew your look”; call for your appointment, 718-885-0188.



Dominick’s

Even more . . . relief from the hustle and bustle. Cook after a long day of shopping or work? No need, with pre-made meals from **Dominick’s Market** (385 City Island Avenue). They also have a full catering menu and a first-class deli. If it’s late and you need something, **Fire House Corner Deli Grocery** (240 City Island Avenue) has you covered. After the holidays are a memory, a pop-up located at **Lickety Split** (295 City Island Avenue) will open in early 2022, serving whole roast chicken to order, potatoes and sides, along with other family style dishes—take-out only.

You can also “take a break” this holiday season with the day’s specials from Chef Rafael’s **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), with takeout from **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84–86 City Island Avenue). Or a dish from **Ray’s Café** (205 City Island Avenue) or a selection from **Sea Breeze Deli** (325 City Island Avenue). And don’t forget **Augie’s City Island Deli** (520 City Island Avenue) or **Dunkin’ Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) for something in the morning as you make your way to work or for the day’s shopping outing.

Too tired to do the laundry? Don’t worry, have it washed and folded by **Clam Digger’s Laundromat** (323 City Island Avenue) or the **City Island Laundromat** (310 City Island Avenue).

Even more . . . treasures. Who doesn’t love a unique gift to give for the holidays? City Island’s shops have even more to offer in this area. Stop by **J. W. Foley Rarities & Obscurities** (270 City Island Avenue), **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue) or **Lollipop Antiques Collectibles and More** (474 City Island Avenue). A visit to **Janos and Theresa’s Island Gallery** (278 City Island Avenue) is sure to surface some trinket, large or small, to offer some special someone on your holiday list.

Although closed for the winter to prepare next year’s exhibits and programs,



Focal Point Gallery

the **City Island Historical Society/Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street) invites you to visit the Museum’s store through its website, www.cityislandmuseum.org. You can also gift a membership to someone as a gift for the holidays.

Even more . . . gifts. Ron Turner offers a plethora of gift possibilities at his City Island mainstay, **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue): City Island mugs, shells and coasters with City Island scenes; sweatshirts and hoodies adorned with his image of the old City Island Bridge, and a wide selection of fine art and t-shirts with City Island scenes. Join Ron for an art opening on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Aside from beautiful paintings for sale, at **Mary Colby Studio and Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue), Mary will paint a portrait of your baby, a loved one, your garden or your dog—great gifts at any time of year. A block away, there is the gift of guest artists in the windows of **Cheryl Brinker’s Studio / Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue).



Kaleidoscope Gallery

Step inside a world of gifts at **Kaleidoscope Gallery** (280 City Island Avenue), where the window is most welcoming.

And maybe grab a box of cigars from **Humberto Amadiz Cigars** (470 City Island Avenue) as a gift for someone this holiday season.

Even more . . . from water and for land. If you feel like feasting on the gifts of the sea—seafood, that is—then look no further than a City Island eatery for a great “catch.” At the start of the Island there’s the **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue), **JP’s Restaurant** (703 Minneford Avenue) and **The Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue). Mid-Island you’ll find **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue), and down near the view of the Stepping Stone lighthouse, there’s a net full of options, from **Sammy’s Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) to the **Original Sammy’s Shrimp Box** (64 City Island Avenue), to **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue).

If you like your fish fast, there’s the midtown option of **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue) or the downtown fare from **Tony’s Pier Restaurant** (1 City Island Avenue). And the fried shrimp, clam strips and more from **Johnny’s Reef Restaurant** (2 City Island Avenue) re-opens in the New Year.

Now maybe you like to “catch your own.” Try a gift certificate to **Jack’s Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue) or a visit to **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) for everything you—or they—will need. And there’s **Captain Mike** (530 City Island Avenue) nearby for a “deep dive” into the season.

If your needs are on land, there’s help for the tasks from **Buddy’s Hardware** (268 City Island Avenue) or **JJ Burck** (526 City Island Avenue). And look into the services offered by **Remy’s Cushions** and neighbor **Jai Upholstery** (272 City Island Avenue).

Even more . . . joy. Whimsy and wonder await you at **239 Play** (239 City Island Avenue), where there’s pure joy with every purchase.

Even more . . . ways to be well and fit. Refresh with a selection from the City

Continued on page 22

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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.

City Island Civic Association

The October meeting was called to order at the City Island Community Center at 7 p.m. by Bill Stanton, president.

Captain Isaac Soberal, commanding officer of the 45th Precinct, addressed the meeting. He discussed the increase in crime, especially burglaries and robberies. Individuals have been stealing cars and using them to commit robberies. There are many motorized bicycles around, which are illegal, but only those who are delivering food seem to be getting ticketed. There was a recent assault at the City Island Sunoco station; the perpetrators have been identified but arrests have not yet been made. Capt. Soberal reported that thieves are stealing catalytic converters, 11 in the last week, which are being sold for their precious metals. The shooter of Lizbeth Mass has been charged with second degree murder and other charges.

A petition is circulating to request separate police sectors for City Island and Co-op City.

To access the petition, go to <https://www.change.org/p/al-quattlebaum-in-partnership-with-city-island-civic-association-petition-to-create-a-safer-and-more-secure-co-op-city-and-city-island>

The NYC Human Resources Administration is studying the possibility of installing a crematorium on Hart Island; the Parks Dept will conduct a ferry study. The Civic has made it clear to both departments how most City Island residents feel about the two issues: we are against the crematorium and want to be represented on the task force studying the ferry issue to City Island.

The Municipal Services Committee has asked the MTA Bus Redesign effort not to remove the bus stops on City Island Avenue, as did Farrah Rubin of Councilman Gjonaji's office on our behalf. The Civic has been informed that DOT has a plan for the area off Bartow Circle leading to the Hutchinson River Parkway, which has had a lot of wrong-way driving. We want to thank Bronx Borough DOT commissioner, Nivardo Lopez, for his support of the Civic and for his professionalism and courtesy to our community. We congratulate him on his new position as Deputy Secretary of Transportation for NYS.

The new slate officers were voted in: Bill Stanton, president (one year); Fred Ramftl, first vice president (two years); Bill Clancy, second vice president (one year); Tom Smith, treasurer (two years); Stu Sorel, corresponding secretary (two years); Kim McGaughan, recording secretary (one year).

The Unity and Solutions Committee reports that Trinity Methodist Church food pantry has received donations from very generous CICA members and residents. This has been a coordinated Island-wide effort. We are grateful to all who donated goods or money to this cause. Trinity Church members along with volunteers from Temple Beth-El and City Island Civic Association will be giving out Thanksgiving meals "to go" on Thanksgiving Day. We look forward to your continued support. Please bring pantry items or checks payable to Trinity Church.

If you need assistance, you can e-mail the Civic at city.island.civic@gmail.com. The best way to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken street light or graffiti is to call 311 (and get a reference number!). This is the best way to document your issue in case nothing results from a call to the Department of Transportation (DOT) or any other city agency. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at city.island.civic@gmail.com. Also, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The next meeting will be on Jan. 25, 2022. Traditionally there is no December meeting. Find us on Facebook for information.

We are now accepting dues payments for membership year 2022. If you cannot make the meeting, please take the time to send your dues (\$20 for a year, \$50 for three years) to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464, or pay online at [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com), using the e-mail address city.island.civic@gmail.com.

island.civic@gmail.com. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Jane Protzman

Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity will continue 10 a.m. in-person worship and children's Sunday school. Every effort is being made to thoroughly clean the facility after the service. Trinity understands these are unprecedented times. Many people will not feel comfortable coming to a service, even while wearing a mask and social distancing, so the services will be live streamed, and recorded for YouTube. To request information about the live stream, email Pastor Dave at david.jolly@nyac-ucm.com.

The Budget Shop has reopened, and Trinity is thankful for the many donations of gently used items arriving weekly. Normal hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Trinity Church Fair is Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Feb. 6, 2022, Trinity will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Rev. Francis Asbury preaching the first Methodist worship on City Island. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton will preach on that Sunday.

Trinity has added the safe electronic giving option of "Givebutter." The web address is givebutter.com/trinitydonations. A screen will give you many choices. All former ways of giving remain available and are much appreciated, and this is one more option.

The Food Pantry, now named the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, has expanded its hours: the new times are Sunday and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. Thank you to the many generous people who have stepped up to help those in need.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Oyster Reef

CIOR has had a busy November. Volunteers monitored the oysters' growth and survivability at five Oyster Research Stations (provided by the Billion Oyster Project) around City Island, and the cages were secured for the winter; monitoring will resume in the spring. The Carolina skiff purchased by CIOR assures us of safer access to the ORS cages attached to moorings off City Island.

The City Island Shell Collective, a coalition of City Island restaurants, continued to work with CIOR to recycle oyster and clam shells through November. Thanks to the Billion Oyster Project, we have a permit to cure shells collected from the restaurants at the Pelham Bay landfill, where the final shell bagging for the season took place on Nov. 19. CIOR's friends from Silver Beach helped our dedicated local volunteers fill 165 bags with oyster and clam shells, totaling 17 cubic yards, that had been collected from the restaurants from June through November. These shells are crucial to reef-building efforts. Since 2019, the CIOR and the City Island restaurants have accumulated about 34 cubic yards of shells, weighing 51 tons. The shells collected last year were used to assist two significant environmental projects in the waters of New York.

On Nov. 15, CIOR spoke at the NY/NJ Harbor and Estuary Program's conference on Waterway Stories about the ways in which the City Island and Bronx community is engaged in CIOR volunteer work. On Nov. 18, CIOR volunteers visited Rocking the Boat, our partner on the Bronx River, to learn about monitoring microplastics and their work on the Soundview Oyster Restoration project.

The design for the Living Shoreline and Education Center behind P.S. 175 has made progress. With funding from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund, CIOR hired Filomena Riganti, a landscape architect and project manager, who completed an initial design of the site, now being reviewed by the NYC Parks Department. The design will then be presented to the Department of Environmental Conservation for permitting.



Bronx Rotary Club President Elect Sandy Wolstein (above, left) and Secretary Mary Springman presented Trinity United Methodist Church's Rev. David Jolly with a grant check of \$2,000 to help address issues with the fellowship hall oven.

On Nov. 17, Joshua Perry, Hatchery Manager and Aquaculture Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk Marine Center, presented a webinar about the hatchery and the ways in which they assist oyster restoration projects in Long Island Sound. The next CIOR webinar will be on Jan. 19, 2022, at 8:15 p.m., when Filomena Riganti will discuss the Living Shoreline project behind P.S. 175.

Sally Connolly

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

Thanks to everyone in the Legion family and our community who joined us in honoring our very own Joe Goonan, 2021 Grand Marshal of the Throggs Neck Veterans Day parade on Nov. 14! Also thanks to everyone who stopped by the poppy table in front of Dominick's Market on Veterans Day, especially those who generously donated to the poppy fund for disabled veterans. We wish everyone a safe and beautiful holiday season! Our next Auxiliary meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Post.

Doreen A. Gallagher

AARP Chapter 318

The latest regulations from the National AARP stipulate that no more than six people can attend a meeting, and that proof of vaccination will be required and possibly masks worn by all. So for the foreseeable future there will be no meetings. As soon as the six-person regulation is lifted, we will make an announcement. In the meantime, if you haven't gotten vaccinated, please do so.

Carroll A. Reid

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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

Sunday, Nov. 28, marks the beginning of the holy season of Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Our Savior at Christmas. We wish you all a happy peaceful season!

Our monthly Holy Hour will take place on Friday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are invited to attend this special period of prayer.

Our annual Christmas fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will be held in both the School Gym and the Thrift Shop. Come take a look; you are sure to find great gifts.

Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program thanks everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving Raffle. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

The joyful celebration of the birth of Christ will begin with our 8 p.m. Liturgy on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Masses on Christ-

mas Day, Dec. 25, will be at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. A very Happy Christmas to all!

The New Year begins with the celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (not a holyday of obligation this year). Masses are at 8 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Rosette Dietz

Holiday Services

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

City Island Avenue near the Bridge
Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5, St. Mary's Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. School gym and the Thrift Shop.

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, Mass at 8 p.m. Carols at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses at 9 and 11 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Feast of Mary Mother of God), Masses at 8 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
Saturday, Dec. 11: Crafts Fair, Bake Sale and Raffle, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: The Christ-Mass, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service and Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

113 Bay Street
Saturday, Dec. 11: Christmas Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18: Blue Christmas Service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19: Children's Christmas Pageant, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Temple Beth-El

480 City Island Avenue
Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 and 5, Chanukkah Shabbaton online at 6 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4, Sixth and seventh nights of Chanukkah, live in the shul, 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop

The Christmas Fair will be held at St. Mary's School Gym on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will also be held on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Christmas Shop in our regular location (downstairs, below the rectory) will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and also on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be open at the regular location on Dec. 9, 11, 16, 18 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1 and will reopen on Jan. 6, 2022.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope to see you soon.

Arlene Byrne



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

Greetings and happy holiday season from the board of the City Island Community Center. We have been quite busy working on Center programming and some safe special events for our members and community.

Thank you to those who joined us for our recent Open House and membership drive. Welcome to our new members and to our returning members, thank you. Our membership drive continues! Look out for our 2021-2022 membership form coming to your mailbox soon. You can now pay your membership via Zelle, which makes it super easy and convenient to join or renew.

We have some fun holiday events coming up. On Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., please join us for our **Holiday Movie Night!** This family-friendly night will include complementary hot chocolate, coffee/tea and holiday snacks. Come in your comfy PJ's if you'd like. The cost for this event is \$5 per family.

On Sunday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we will host a Holiday Bake Sale. Come shop for some prepackaged sweet treats and help support your only community center.

Our Center programming continues. Below are our current offerings:

Irish Dance: Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. For further information, reach out to Caitlyn Kelly at 914-262-4517.

Culinary Club: Every other Monday, 7 to 9 p.m. We are always looking for exciting new recipes and new faces. Kenny, 917-533-7873.

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

Art program for children: Tuesday, Nov. 16, through Dec. 7, for 6, 7, and 8 year-olds. \$5 fee per family. To register, call Lorraine Nicoletti at 646-932-6139.

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

Yoga: Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. with Joann. Call 917-853-4719 for more information.

Girl Scouts: Fridays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Girl Scout leader Melissa at 347-739-2076.

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

Many have asked if the Center is renting out space for private parties. Currently, we are NOT offering rentals for private functions. We will be reviewing this policy in the spring of 2022 and make a decision based on updated safety protocols and Center staffing capacity. We appreciate your understanding!

For up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook! Have a happy and safe winter.

Melissa Cebollero

American Legion Post 156

The next meeting will be Sunday, Dec. 5, at 12 noon, both in person and Zoom. Dues are past due—\$55 for the 2022 year. Please drop the dues 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. 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.

Thanks to the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion for all that they do to assist in our success, especially all Legion Family Members and our community partners who helped in making all our events a great success.

All retired flags should be dropped off at the Post for proper disposal. Please put them in the former mailbox by the Post's flagpole.

The following are dates and upcoming events:

Dec. 4: Pearl Harbor Service sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron #156 at 12 noon at the Post. The ceremony will be conducted at the Legion Triangle.

Dec. 4: Legion Family Trim-a-Tree party. Everyone is welcome to bring a patriotic ornament to put on the tree. Snacks to share are always welcome!

Dec. 5: Post 156 regular meeting at noon. Also the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156 and the QOV committee invites all Legion Family members to our Quilts of Valor ceremony. Please join our awardees Chris McGuire and Dave Carman at 1 p.m.

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day. Let us never forget this "date which will live in infamy."

Dec. 18: Auxiliary Christmas Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Post, with baked goods, handcrafts, Pampered Chef and much more.

Dec. 19: Post 156 Children's Christmas Party from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Post. (Please bring a wrapped gift to be presented by Santa and Mrs. Claus.)

Dec. 20: Post 156 executive meeting and Christmas party from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Post.

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas to all.

Dec. 31: New Years Eve Party Open House, pot-luck shared dinner.

Jan. 1: Happy New Year to all.

Thank you 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

PSS Senior Center

PSS City Island Center is partially open at this time. A mask must be worn at all times (except when eating). At this writing only 21 members are allowed in the center at one time.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information.

Below is the current schedule:

Mondays
9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy in person
10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan, remote and in person

1 p.m. Nutrition or Health Classes, a different topic each week; remote or at the center

Tuesdays
9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary in person
10 a.m. Tech Class. Call the center for information for each week.

11 a.m. Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy q, Scrabble, cards, mah jong or Monopoly.

1:15 p.m. Bingo

Wednesdays
10:15 a.m. Arthritis Class with Patty, remote and in person

1:30 p.m. Happy Crafters Club
Social Worker available to help with Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, SCRIE and more. Call for an appointment.

Thursdays
9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy in person
10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois in person

Fridays
9 a.m. Zumba with Maria remote
11:30 a.m. Brain Games

1:30 a.m. Holiday Music Hour
Singing Group with Napat resumes in January

Transportation: Transportation is available daily. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the December trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Only three people are allowed per trip, and masks are to be worn at all times. Temperatures will be taken when boarding and you must sit in the assigned seats. The



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Family and friends from the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion on City Island were on hand to cheer Islander Joseph Goonan, who was Grand Marshal of the Bronx Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 14, 2021.

windows will remain open to circulate air.

If you have any class suggestions, now is the time to speak up! We're still deciding programming for the coming months.

The Center is closing at 1 on Dec. 22 and Dec. 30. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30 on these days. The Center will be closed on Dec. 24 and 31 for the holidays. We wish everyone a happy holiday – Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and a very Happy New Year!

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club held its November general membership meeting at the City Island Yacht Club. Our presenters, Dr. Patrick Gannon and Dr. Nancy Kheck, gave the second presentation in their series on bees and beekeeping, illustrating the different kinds of bees in a hive, and talked about their various roles. We learned that honeybees are quite docile and that Patrick and Nancy do not need to wear protective suits when looking after the hives. With the upcoming winter, they are preparing to provide the bees with food that will hold them over during the cold weather.

Girl Scout Troop 1096 from Throggs Neck assisted the Garden Club by planting early spring bulbs at the City Island Post Office and Belden Point. Troop leader Mirella Vargas and Garden Club members Carla Chomin and Judy Judson oversaw the project. The weather was beautiful, and the garden was surprisingly warm. The girls had a wonderful time, and the Garden Club is thankful for their assistance. Look for the yellow tete-a-tete daffodils and blue scilla in late March and early April and for blue muscari in early May.

Garden Club members have started cleaning out our white containers on City Island Avenue in preparation for putting in winter greenery in December. The Club will once again distribute approximately 45 holiday wreaths in early December to our public spaces such as the Post Office, the library, Hawkins Park, Ambrosini Field, the fire house and the cemetery. In addition, five wreaths will be donated to the Veterans Home in Montrose, NY.

Thanks go to the businesses and residents located near the containers and tree pits who help us with the watering and removing trash. If you see trash in a container, you can help us by removing it. Thanks also to everyone who contributed so generously to the beautification fund this year. We are moving ahead with using those donations for community projects. Future donations can be sent to the Garden Club. PO Box 43, Bronx NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "helping hand" for Club projects, drop a note to gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com or attend one of our meetings. We hold meetings the first Monday of every month (except July and August). Our next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club. This will be an indoor meeting, so proof of vaccination and masks are required. Nancy White from The Flower Bar in Larchmont will give a demonstration of flower arranging for the holidays. Our Hospitality Committee will provide festive refreshments after the presentation. The club

will have a membership meeting on Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our Church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, corner of Pilot Street. You can also watch our service on Youtube via a link that is distributed weekly. To be added to the distribution of this link, please contact us at gracecityisland@gmail.com. The link is also found on the Grace Church website: <https://www.gracecityisland.net/>.

We have been blessed to have Father Wilfredo Benitez presiding as our priest on most Sundays since Oct. 10. Please join us for the following services in December:

Dec. 5: Morning Prayer
Dec. 12: Father Wilfredo Benitez
Dec. 12 and 19: Morning Prayer
Dec. 24: Bishop Mary Glasspole will preside over our Christmas Eve service.

Dec. 26: Father Jean Baptiste K. Rock
The Grace Church Annual Christmas Bake Sale: Delicious home-made cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, breads and more, freshly baked by our parishioners and friends of Grace, will be available for purchase on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We welcome you to come pick up sweets to take home. While there, please play the 50/50 raffle and local store raffles.

Bible Reading over Coffee and Tea: We have started a new gathering of parishioners and friends of Grace on the second Sunday of each month to read a chapter of the Bible together and discuss it over coffee and tea about 11 a.m. right after the church service. Led by Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, we will continue and finish our reading of the book of Ruth.

Sunday School: We have begun planning our 2021 Christmas Pageant to be held on Friday, Christmas Eve, at 7:30 p.m. at the start of the service. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School and the pageant, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at karenrnl@optonline.net.

Music at Grace: The Grace Choir is looking for more singers! For the upcoming months, we will be working on new music for our regular worship cycle and the season of Advent. There are no formal auditions and reading music isn't a requirement. You will learn basics as a member of the group. If you have singing experience, great. If not, that's okay. The choir members also play hand chimes for special occasions. Juggling two or three hymnals is a requirement and will be mastered with practice.

The expected commitment will include regular attendance at Sunday worship service and arrival before the service (usually 9:15 a.m. to review and warm up. Also, rehearsals after coffee hour (from about 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the first and last Sunday of every month. The next rehearsal will be on Dec. 5. After that, dates to be determined, but at least one Thursday or Friday evening rehearsal in mid-December for the Christmas Eve service. If you'd like to give it a try, or have any questions, please contact Caroline at geccimusic@gmail.com or see her after Sunday service.

Continued on page 19



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PARADE MARCHES BY AGAIN!



Photos by RICK DeWITT, RON TERNER and PAUL KLEIN

After the cancellation of the 2020 Halloween parade because of the pandemic, a record crowd was ready for hijinks and fun on Oct. 31, 2021. Officers from the 45th Precinct were on hand to manage the traffic and the large turnout on City Island Avenue, and everything ran safely. The judges, Cheryl Brinker, Maria Caruso, Tony Roccamo and Jerry Landi, waded through the crowd and crowned the most imaginative and original costumes as winners (many of which are shown above, along with other parade highlights). Paul Klein of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the event, shouted out thanks to Islander Mike Proietti for leading the parade and to Marcie Brennan for providing the horse-drawn wagon escort. Here are the results. Best Group: the Riordan Family as Day of the Dead; Most Original: Alexandra Mihaescu as Dead Pirate's Wife; Best Boy: Michael Jones as a Minecraft character; Best Girl: Claire Preljvukic as Police Woman; Scariest: Anthony McAniff as a Pandemic Doctor from Venice; Best Toddler/Infant: Molly, Catherine and Margaret Hennessy as Sheep in a Jeep; Best Pet: Lido as Pig Dog (owner Kerry Lee); Honorable mention: Best Group: Abraham Florimon's Family as Vampire Family; and Best Toddler/Infant: Alden Kunkel as Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel (insets). Special thanks also to the Island businesses that supplied prizes: The Black Whale, Buddy's Hardware, Clipper Coffee, The Diner, Kaleidoscope Gallery and Lickety Split.



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In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo courtesy of RHS - The Garden Magazine
Middle leaf - Rex Begonia "Escargot"

Winter Is Upon Us

Winter is upon us, a season I love, with brisk days, roaring fires and snow, which shows the evergreens to their best effect. The garden slumbering beneath the leaves shows no sign of life, but the snowdrops and hellebores are stirring, waiting for January and February to spring into flower.

Terracotta pans of beautiful bulbs have been sunk into the earth, awaiting a thaw when they can be brought into the home to force into an early bloom. But what can sustain the need for green and growing things during the dreariest months?

Of course, pine, spruce and holly branches can decorate your outdoor pots, and wreaths of evergreens, berries and dried seed heads can grace your door. Yet we need flowers, so now is the time to order amaryllis bulbs, which should be potted up with only a third of the bulb beneath the soil line. Water it and keep it on the dry side near a bright window. I have seen paperwhite bulbs at the New York Botanical Garden store; these are beautiful too and so easy, I like them in shallow pots with a mossy mulch.

I have to report my houseplants that have been marooned in their containers for 20 years. I have a small array, including a fiddle-leaf fig and an aspidistra, which is perfect for me as its nickname is the cast-iron plant. When I tell people that I kill indoor plants, they look at me in disbelief, but truth be told I have always treated them as disposable florist flowers. When they flag, out they go onto the rubbish heap. I'm going to try harder this year, as I love the monstera plant that Matisse made ubiquitous in his painting—you know, the one with holes like Swiss cheese.

Another plant worth growing is the rex (king) begonia, which may have the most dazzling and bewitching patterned leaves in the plant kingdom. Native to a remote monsoon-soaked mountainous region in India, rex begonias were collected in the golden age of plant hunting in the mid-19th century. Crossed with other rhizomatous Asian relatives, they produced hundreds of cultivars that fit any taste and fashion in the world of foliage. Grow them in indirect light and water sparingly. When the pot feels light, it is time to water. They love humidity, so keep them on a tray of water with pebbles. Renowned English gardener Christopher Lloyd was once asked what plant he would take with him if he was stranded on a desert island, and his answer was the rex begonia.

The end of the year means resolutions, and this means decisions as well. I walk around my garden thinking could this border be better? Could it be fresher, more happening in spring or autumn? Well yes, but maybe by removing an old familiar focus. Revisions are best mulled over during the coldest months, when there is plenty of time for that. Plenty of time to germinate ideas.

Happy holidays and enjoy the winter.

You can visit Mary, in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 917- 804-4509.

Mary Colby is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

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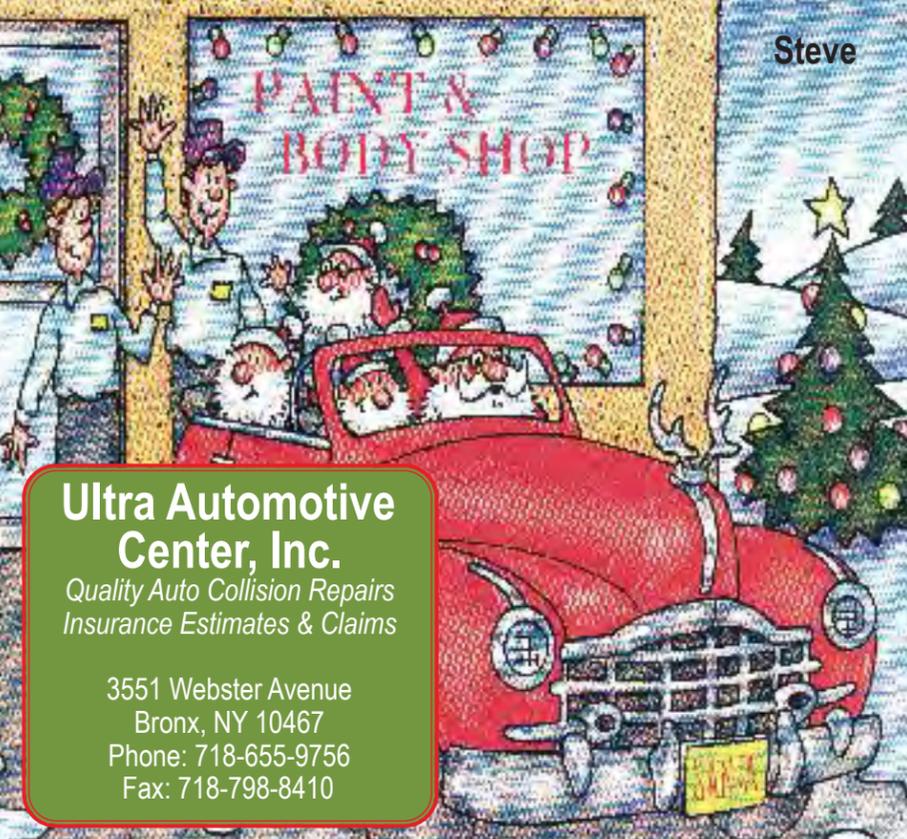


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Nurturing Empathy in Our Children: A Gift for Everyone

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Definition: Empathy is the ability to share and experience the feelings of others from their point of view. It can be an experience of thought, or a shared feeling, or the impetus for an act of compassion.

As we move into a holiday season that includes much gift-giving, there is a great opportunity to help our children develop empathy for others through guided generosity. As we know from our own experiences with service to others—Thanksgiving food drives, donations to charitable organizations, serving food to the needy, providing rides to medical services and the like—the rewards of helping another human being often far outweigh the actual expense of our efforts. Children can learn this, even from an early age, through family commitments to those in need. Having experiences that cross social-economic status boundaries, ethnic divides, religious and racial differences, broadens the world for everyone.

Empathy grows when we have direct encounters with other human beings, encounters that allow us to be good listeners, active helpers and generous givers face-to-face. These are neurological events that al-

low us to experience what another is feeling when we have the time and presence to share the gift of common human interaction: through "mirror neurons" we are already wired for such encounters. Physical encounters are definitely better than just writing a check, although both are needed at times.

These experiences also become valuable vehicles for social justice and a way for us to use our privilege for the greater good. Equity—everyone having meaningful access to what they need—allows everyone to better reach their potential, and service to others develops a more equitable distribution of resources.

Here are some concrete ideas to do with your child: two that serve locally and one that serves globally:

Ask your child to identify ways in which they can be helpful others. Make a commitment for every family member to engage in that same activity: maybe visit a homebound neighbor for a cup of tea and a board game.

Make family service to others part of your weekly routine: shopping for a food pantry, shoveling a neighbor's walk or helping out at a local event.

Take some of the money you might spend on gifts for your child and suggest making a donation to a charity or organization that does service work. This activity will develop a sense of independence in your child and will also give you some insight into what your child may be passionate about.

Empathy is sorely needed in times of uncertainty, like now. In the midst of climate change, pandemic challenges and cultural disputes, we can all benefit from using our "compassion muscles" on a regular basis. What are you waiting for?



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Cold War Espionage

With politics much on people's mind these days and all the behind-the-scenes happenings, I felt inspired to consider a thought-provoking time in history: the Cold War. The Cinema world has a plethora of films about espionage during that era.

The Manchurian Candidate (1962) takes place after the Korean War and follows a platoon of U.S. soldiers that had been captured by communists and brainwashed. Upon returning home, Sergeant Raymond Shaw (Laurence Harvey) is lauded as a hero by the rest of his platoon. However, platoon commander Captain Bennett Marco (Frank Sinatra), finds himself plagued by strange nightmares and, together with fellow soldier Allen Melvin (James Edwards), works to uncover a terrible plot. Angela Lansbury appears as Raymond's ambitious and seductive mother. The excellent remake in 2004 starring Denzel Washington, Liev Schreiber and Meryl Streep takes place during the Gulf War.

The Spy Who Came in From the Cold (British, 1966) is the story of British spy Alec Leamas (Richard Burton) who at the height of the Cold War is nearly ready to retire. Unfortunately Control (Cyril Cusack) wants him to take on one last dangerous assignment. He is sent to East Germany, supposedly to defect, but in fact to plant disinformation to his Soviet handler Fiedler (Oscar Werner) ostensibly in the hopes of confounding Mundt (Peter van Eyck) Fiedler's superior. Claire Bloom is on hand as Leamas' love interest librarian Nancy Perry who is unwittingly drawn into the intrigue. His struggle back from dehumanization becomes the final focus of the story.

Alfred Hitchcock's 50th thriller is **Torn Curtain** (1966). It stars Paul Newman as Dr. Michael Armstrong, an American nuclear scientist who goes behind the iron curtain with the intention of picking the brain of renowned German scientist Gustav Lindt (Ludwig Donath). Julie Andrews plays Sarah Sherman, Armstrong's secretary and love interest in this suspenseful espionage thriller.

Julie Andrews also appears in the **The Tamarind Seed** (1984) as British Civil Servant Judith Farrow who is reeling from the trauma of a failed love affair with married man Richard Patterson (David Baron). She takes a vacation in Barbados where she befriends a charming Russian named Feodor Sverdlov (Omar Sharif). The two fall in love, but Judith must contend with the fact that Sverdlov is revealed to be a Russian agent, and she is instructed by British Intelligence Officer Jack Loder (Anthony Quayle) never to see him again. However, the two are very attached to each other and soon find that both of their lives are in danger.

Defence of the Realm (1986) stars Gabriel Byrne and Denholm Elliott as reporters Nick Mullen and Vernon Bayliss who investigate the case of British member of Parliament Dennis Markham (Ian Bannen) who is forced to resign after his loyalty is questioned when he is found to be linked to a woman who is also involved with an East German dignitary. The reporters soon discover that a cover-up of a nuclear near-accident at an Air Force base is somehow involved. Greta Scacchi appears as Markham's secretary, Nina Beckman, who agrees to help the reporters with the investigation. The title comes from the United Kingdom's Defence of the Realm Act passed in 1914, which gave the government wide-ranging powers during the World War I.

No Way Out (1987) stars Kevin Costner as Navy Lt. Tom Farrell who has a passionate fling with Susan Atwell (Sean Young). Introduced to Secretary of Defense

David Brice (Gene Hackman) by his college friend Scott Pritchard (Will Patton), Farrell goes to work for Brice and soon learns that Brice is also romantically involved with Atwell. When a murder occurs, Farrell is put in charge of the investigation, but becomes a suspect as well. The ending has such a brilliant twist that it makes the viewer want to watch the film again from the beginning.

Sean Connery stars as British publisher Barley Blair in **The Russia House** (1990). While visiting Moscow, he learns of a manuscript written by "Dante" (code name for renowned Soviet physicist Yakov Efraimovich Saveleyev played by Klaus Maria Brandauer) detailing the Soviet Union's nuclear missile capabilities. British intelligence and the CIA are anxious to recruit Blair to investigate its editor, Katya Orlova (Michelle Pfeiffer) with whom he is immediately smitten in order to verify the veracity of the document.

Set in 1983 East Berlin, **The Lives of Others** (German, 2006) is about the monitoring of East Berlin residents by agents of the Stasi, East Germany's secret police. At the request of the Minister of Culture, Bruno Hempf (Thomas Thieme), Stasi officer Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe) is assigned to set up surveillance on playwright (Sebastian Koch) whose loyalty to the Communist Party is in question. In reality, Dreyman has been put under scrutiny because Hempf covets Dreyman's girlfriend, actress Christa-Maria Sieland (Martina Gedeck). Wiesler becomes unexpectedly sympathetic to the couple and faces conflicting loyalties. The film won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

In **Breach** (2007) Ryan Phillippe stars as FBI agent-in-training Eric O'Neill, assigned to spy on his boss Robert Hanssen (Chris Cooper). Initially, O'Neill isn't privy to the real charges against Hanssen, but he soon provides enough evidence to bring down this man who spied for the Soviets for 25 years in this film based on true events.

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) is set in London in the early 1970s and follows the hunt for a Soviet double agent at the top of the British Secret Service. When Control (John Hurt) and Agent George Smiley (Gary Oldman) are forced out because of a botched incident in Hungary involving agent Jim Prideaux (Mark Strong), Percy Alleline (Toby Jones) becomes the new Chief, with Bill Haydon (Colin Firth) as his deputy, and Roy Bland (Ciarán Hinds) and Toby Esterhase (David Dencik) as his lieutenants. However, undersecretary Oliver Lacon (Simon McBurney) calls veteran agent George Smiley back from forced retirement to ferret out the mole and stop the flow of vital British secrets to the Russians. The stellar cast also includes Benedict Cumberbatch as Peter Guillam, Smiley's trusted right-hand-man. This dense drama is based on the novel by John le Carré.

Jack Strong (Polish, 2014) is also based on a true story. It stars Marcin Dorociński as Polish hero Col. Ryszard Kuklinski who passed Soviet military secrets to the CIA at the height of the Cold War and may even have averted World War III. Kuklinski did not ask for payment from the CIA, but was simply a patriot who had become disgusted with the corruption and brutality of Russian rule. The film's title was his CIA codename.

The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (2015) is set during the height of the Cold War, when a mysterious criminal organization plans to use nuclear weapons and technology to upset the fragile balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union. Professional thief-turned-CIA-agent Napoleon Solo (Henry Cavill) and KGB agent Illya Kuryakin (Armie Hammer) are begrudgingly forced to put aside their hostilities and work together to prevent a global catastrophe. They are assigned to find alleged Nazi scientist Dr. Udo Teller (Christian Berkel). Their only lead is Teller's daughter Gaby (Alicia Vikander). Hugh Grant appears as Alexander Waverly, a high-ranking MI6 operative. There is an enjoyable satirical spin to the relationship between Solo and Kuryakin.

Bridge of Spies (2015) is the story of what happened when American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell) was sentenced to 10 years in a Soviet prison as a spy. Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks), recruited by the CIA to negotiate Powers' release. Donovan arrives in Berlin, hoping to win

exchange, wherein the Russians would get Rudolf Abel (Best Supporting Actor Oscar winner Mark Rylance), a convicted spy who Donovan previously defended in a U.S. court.

Based on the graphic novel, *The Coldest City*, **Atomic Blonde** (2017) stars Charlize Theron in the title role as Lorraine Broughton, the most elite spy in MI6. On the eve of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, she is tasked with retrieving The List, a priceless microfilm document concealed in a wristwatch containing the names of every intelligence agent (on both sides) active in Berlin. She is assisted in her quest by eccentric MI6 Berlin Station Chief David Percival (James McAvoy). The plot jumps between the debriefing room and flashbacks to Lorraine's time in Berlin as she is questioned by MI6 executive Eric Gray (Toby Jones) and CIA agent Emmett Kurzfeld (John Goodman).

A true-life spy-thriller set in the 1960's, **The Courier** (2020) [not to be confused with the 2019 film with the same name] is the story of an unassuming British businessman, Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch), who is recruited into one of the most significant international conflicts in history. At the behest of the UK's MI6 and a CIA operative (Rachel Brosnahan), he enters into a covert dangerous partnership with Soviet officer Oleg Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze). Wynne is supposed to obtain crucial intelligence needed to prevent a nuclear confrontation and defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis.

And until next time, stay safe, and happy viewing...

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Organization News

Continued from page 13

The GraceTones will sing Christmas carols at Janos and Theresa's Gallery the weekend before Christmas. Please look for posters on storefronts for the date and time closer to the event. If you play a musical instrument, such as guitar, harmonica, flute or fiddle, and you'd like to join in rehearsals, please contact Sandy Dunn at accentfix@gmail.com or text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

City Island Rising

We did not meet in November as our last meeting would have fallen on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. Thank you to all of our neighbors who have served. Our next meeting will be on Dec. 9; please e-mail CityIslandRising@gmail.com or call 917-765-7968 for additional details.

Every day, as you leave our Island community, we pass two ghost bikes and a roadside memorial in the Rodman's Neck Circle. These monuments are to remember lives lost because of the unsafe conditions that exist in Pelham Bay Park, and they serve as a constant reminder of neglect by city agencies of our community.

Over the past few months, our group has been working closely with Transportation Alternatives and State Senator Alessandra Biaggi to make Pelham Bay Park safer for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and, of course, the deer and wildlife that make their home in this natural setting. A walkthrough of all parties and the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) took place in August. It's important to keep in mind that these problems have been years in the making, and they will not be solved overnight. That being said, we have made progress on several fronts:

- NYC DOT has already pledged commitments, approving additional speed limit signs, wrong-way signs, deer signs, the refurbishment of the pavement markings throughout the entry/exit ways of the park and greenway, and, finally, railings to protect pedestrians and cyclists on the Pelham Bridge. Additionally, the "No U Turn" signs that used to be on the off ramp to the Hutchinson River Parkway have been reinstalled.

- A number of requests are still under consideration including street light repairs, a potential redesign of the Hutchinson River Parkway's on/off ramps, kwick curbs (plastic barriers like those installed at the Rodman's Neck circle) being installed, and actuated signals at several pedestrian/bicycle crossings. Finally, we have persistently pushed for protected bike lanes on the City Island bridge itself and for the previous barriers to be reinstalled.

During our walkthrough, an important point was made by a DOT official: the roadways to our community are in such poor condition because the roads are owned by the Parks Department and not by the City of New York, which would put them under the jurisdiction of DOT. As a result, our roadways are substandard with continuously large potholes, other depressions, poor irrigation and catch basins, as well as an electrical system for lighting that is constant need of repair. This may soon require a transfer of jurisdiction to properly address these issues and is also currently being examined by DOT.

We hope to see you all at our next meeting

and wish each of you a happy holiday season, even if you celebrate no holiday at all. May we all use this time to recharge our energy, reflect on our actions and continue our collective efforts to improve the community we all call home!

John Doyle

Editor's Note: Both the Department of Transportation and the Parks Department are New York City agencies, and DOT maintains the roads in Pelham Bay Park, although the roads are technically parkland.

City Island Republicans

Thanks to all of hardworking poll workers who kept the election going. The entire Republican ticket ran strong on City Island. Sliwa and Marecki won the Island, as of the early voting and Election Day count. The certified results are not out yet. Candidate Alex Mici almost won his race for City Council, the first Republican challenger to get more than 40 percent.

Next year will be a busy year with state and federal races on the ballot. We are hoping to resume meetings in 2022.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. All Temple offerings are online via Zoom. Many tutorials for registering a new free Zoom account are available online. You do not need an account to join our offerings. To participate in any of our offerings, please e-mail yourshulbythesea@gmail.com, and identify which you would like to attend.

For the month of December, Rabbi David Evan Markus will lead Friday night live Shabbat services on Dec. 3 after lighting the Chanukkah candles, and on Dec. 24. On Fifth Friday, the secular New Year, Dec. 31, an assortment of Rabbi David Evan Markus and community will lead services online. Other services will be community led on Zoom on Dec. 10 and 17. Please see our calendar for our community-led Havdalah services. All services are held in a joyful celebratory manner.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer to the community online meditation, yoga, qi gong/tai chi and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested freewill offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to seeing you.

This month we bring light into the darkness by celebrating Chanukkah together online most nights from Nov. 28 to Dec. 5 (Nov. 29 and 30, Dec. 1, 2 and 5) at 6 p.m. The sixth night, Dec. 3, we will be live in the shul as part of our Shabbat services at 7:30 p.m. The seventh night, Dec. 4, will also be at 7:30 p.m. For all live services, everyone must



On Aug. 2, 2021, State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, members of City Island Rising, Transportation Alternatives and the NYC Department of Transportation met to discuss safety improvements that are needed for Pelham Bay Park (l. to r.): Senator Biaggi, John Doyle and Kevin Daloia of Transportation Alternatives standing over a downed motor bike found in the park.



Quilt of Valor November Sew Saturday (l to r): Alison Winters, Ethel Lott, Maryann Occhicone, Mary Carman, Vivi McGuire, Sue O'Keefe-Vaughan, Pam Turner, Sandra Panzarella, Nancy Scottford, Harlan Sexton and Judy McCormick.

provide proof of vaccination and be masked.

On Dec. 5, TBE joins with our "cousins" at Congregation Beth Israel of North Adams, MA, for a monthly book club to discuss "Traveling Heavy" by Ruth Behar. We meet one Sunday night a month at 7 p.m., led by Rabbi Pamela Jay Gottfreid. We welcome you to join us from December 2021 to May 2022. Fee for the series for members is \$72, for non-members \$120.

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

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

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

The entire TBE community offers gratitude to the community, prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times as we enter the holiday season. With gratitude, joy and laughter,

Lillian Winard

Sons of the American Legion

Thanks to those who support all of the events at the Post throughout the year. The orchestra is doing well, and registration is still ongoing. Anyone whose kids are interested

can stop by the Post for more information.

The SAL also helped assist with the food donations to the food pantry at Trinity Church. You can bring food items to the box on the porch at the church parsonage at 113 Bay Street.

December will be a busy month for us. The 80th annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, at noon at the Legion Triangle. This will be the 31st year the Sons are held the event.

The next SAL meeting is Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Dues are now due: \$30, or \$11 for minors/dual members.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m., we will host the annual Army-Navy Game party. Sign up is at the Post. \$30 per person.

The Christmas fair will be on Saturday, Dec. 18. There will be 12 tables of gifts to choose from. The event will be run by the Auxiliary.

Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. will be the annual children's Christmas party. Santa Claus will make an appearance!

Tommy Vivolo

Quilts of Valor

QOV met on Nov. 6 for a Quilt of Valor Sew Saturday. We had a great turn-out, with guests and two new members joining. The Quilt of Valor we made will be awarded to a local Vietnam veteran in early 2022. On Dec. 5, we will hold a joint award ceremony for Dave Carman and Chris McGuire at Post 156 in association with the American Legion and Auxiliary.

Harlan Sexton

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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

Individual Taxpayers: 2021 Year-end Tax-Planning Strategies

With the end of the year fast approaching, now is the time to take a closer look at tax planning strategies that could reduce your tax bill for 2021.

General tax planning strategies for individuals include accelerating or deferring income and deductions, as well as careful consideration of timing-related tax planning strategies with regard to investments, charitable gifts and retirement planning. For example, taxpayers might consider using one or more of the following strategies:

Investments. Selling any investments on which you have a gain (or loss) this year. For more on this, see Investment Gains and Losses, below.

Year-end bonus. If you anticipate an increase in taxable income in 2021 and are expecting a bonus at year-end, try to get it before Dec. 31.

Charitable deductions. Bunching charitable deductions every other year is also a good strategy if it enables the taxpayer to get over the higher standard deduction threshold under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA). Another option is to put money into a donor-advised fund that enables donors to make a charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction. A public charity manages the fund on behalf of the donor, who then recommends how to distribute the money over time. Scroll down to read more about charitable deductions.

Medical expenses. Medical expenses are deductible only to the extent they exceed a certain percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI); therefore, you might pay medical bills in whichever year they would do you the most tax good. In 2021, deductible medical and dental expenses must exceed 7.5 percent of AGI. By bunching medical expenses into one year rather than spreading them out over two years, you have a better chance of exceeding the thresholds, thereby maximizing the deduction.

Deductible expenses such as medical expenses and charitable contributions can be prepaid this year using a credit card or check. You can only deduct medical and dental expenses you paid this year, not payments for medical or dental care you will receive in a future year. For example, suppose you charge a medical expense in December but pay the bill in January. Assuming it's an eligible medical expense, you can take the deduction on your 2021 tax return.

Stock options. If your company grants stock options, then you may want to exercise the option or sell stock acquired by exercising an option this year. Use this strategy if you think your tax bracket will be higher in 2022. Generally, exercising this option is a taxable event; the sale of the stock is almost always a taxable event.

Invoices. If you're self-employed, send invoices or bills to clients or customers this year to be paid in full by the end of December; however, make sure you keep an eye on estimated tax requirements. Conversely, if you anticipate a lower income next year, consider deferring sending invoices to next year.

Withholding. If you know you have a set amount of income coming in this year that is not covered by withholding taxes, there is still time to increase your withholding before year-end and avoid or reduce any estimated tax penalty that might otherwise be due. Avoid the penalty by covering the extra tax in your final estimated tax payment and computing the penalty using the annualized income method.

Accelerating or Deferring Income and Deductions

Strategies commonly used to help taxpayers minimize their tax liability include accelerating or deferring income and deductions. Which strategy you use depends on your current tax situation. Most taxpayers anticipate increased earnings from year to year, whether it's from a job or investments, so this strategy works well. On the flip side, however, if you are retiring and anticipate a lower income next year or you know you will have significant medical bills, you might want to consider deferring income and expenses to the following year.

Additional Medicare Tax

Taxpayers whose income exceeds certain threshold amounts (\$200,000 single filers and \$250,000 married filing jointly) are liable for an additional Medicare tax of 0.9 percent on their tax returns. They may, however, request that their employers withhold additional income tax from their pay to be applied against their tax liability when filing their 2021 tax return next April. As such, high net worth individuals should consider contributing to Roth IRAs and 401(k) because distributions are not subject to the Medicare Tax. Also, if you're a taxpayer who is close to the threshold for the Medicare Tax, it might make sense to switch Roth retirement contributions to a traditional IRA plan, thereby avoiding the 3.8 percent Net Investment Income Tax (NIIT) as well (more about the NIIT below).

Alternative Minimum Tax

The alternative minimum tax (AMT) applies to high-income taxpayers who take advantage of deductions and credits to reduce their taxable income. The AMT ensures that those taxpayers pay at least a minimum amount of tax and was made permanent under the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA) of 2012. Furthermore, the exemption amounts increased significantly under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA). As such, not as many taxpayers are affected as were in previous years. In 2021, the phaseout threshold increased to \$523,600 (\$1,047,200 for married filing jointly). Both the exemption and threshold amounts are indexed for inflation.

AMT exemption amounts for 2021 are as follows: \$73,600 for single and head of household filers; \$114,600 for married people filing jointly and for qualifying widows or widowers; \$57,300 for married people filing separately.

Charitable Contributions

Property, as well as money, can be donated to a charity. You can generally take a deduction for the fair market value of the property; however, for certain property, the deduction is limited to your cost basis. While you can also donate your services to charity, you may not deduct the value of these services. You may also be able to deduct charity-related travel expenses and some out-of-pocket expenses, however. Contributions of appreciated property (i.e., stock) provide an additional benefit because you avoid paying capital gains on any profit.

In 2021, eligible individuals may take an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 (\$600 for married taxpayers filing joint tax returns) in cash for charitable contributions made to qualified charitable organizations. Cash contributions include cash, check, electronic fund transfer or payroll deduction. Taxpayers can claim the deduction even if they do not itemize on their 2021 taxes.

Taxpayers who are age 70 1/2 and older can reduce income tax owed on required minimum distributions (RMDs)—a maximum of \$100,000, or \$200,000 for married couples—from IRA accounts by donating them to a charitable organization(s) instead. Starting in 2020, taxpayers required to take required minimum distributions from IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, SEP IRAs, or other retirement plan accounts can wait until age 72. In prior years, the age was 70 1/2.

Year-End Giving to Reduce Your Potential Estate Tax

The federal gift and estate tax exemption is currently set at \$11.70 million in 2021. The maximum estate tax rate is set at 40 percent.

Gift Tax. Sound estate planning often

begins with lifetime gifts to family members. In other words, gifts that reduce the donor's assets are subject to future estate tax. Such gifts are often made at year-end, during the holiday season, in ways that qualify for exemption from federal gift tax. Gifts to a donee are exempt from the gift tax for amounts up to \$15,000 a year per donee in 2021 and remain the same for 2022. An unused annual exemption doesn't carry over to later years. To make use of the exemption for 2021, you must make your gift by Dec. 31.

Other Year-End Moves

Maximize Retirement Plan Contributions. If you are an employee and your employer has a 401(k), contribute the maximum amount (\$19,500 for 2021), plus an additional catch-up contribution of \$6,500

if age 50 or over, assuming the plan allows this, and income restrictions don't apply. If you are employed or self-employed with no retirement plan, you can make a deductible contribution of up to \$6,000 a year to a traditional IRA (deduction is sometimes allowed even if you have a plan). Further, there is also an additional catch-up contribution of \$1,000 if age 50 or over.

Health Savings Accounts. Consider setting up a health savings account (HSA). You can deduct contributions to the account, investment earnings are tax-deferred until withdrawn, and any amounts you withdraw are tax-free when used to pay medical bills.

Don't Miss Out. Implementing these strategies before the end of the year could save you money.

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American people empower to direct
them have the wisdom and forbearance
to never abuse that which would
lead them into harm's way.

J G LaValle

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)
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

DECEMBER 2021										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET		
01	Wed	0149	0.06	0758	8.19	1450	-0.40	2033	7.32	Wed 01
02	Thu	0246	-0.24	0851	8.53	1549	-0.88	2130	7.48	Thu 02
03	Fri	0341	-0.47	0943	8.77	1644	-1.21	2225	7.58	Fri 03
04	Sat	0435	-0.59	1035	8.87	1738	-1.36	2319	7.59	Sat 04
05	Sun	0530	-0.56	1127	8.79	1833	-1.31			Sun 05
06	Mon	0014	7.52	0626	-0.38	1221	8.54	1930	-1.09	Mon 06
07	Tue	0113	7.39	0728	-0.11	1320	8.15	2029	-0.75	Tue 07
08	Wed	0218	7.22	0837	0.20	1427	7.69	2131	-0.37	Wed 08
09	Thu	0329	7.10	0951	0.45	1548	7.28	2234	-0.04	Thu 09
10	Fri	0438	7.08	1101	0.55	1704	7.02	2336	0.21	Fri 10
11	Sat	0542	7.15	1207	0.51	1811	6.90			Sat 11
12	Sun	0035	0.35	0641	7.28	1309	0.36	1911	6.86	Sun 12
13	Mon	0130	0.41	0736	7.43	1405	0.15	2005	6.87	Mon 13
14	Tue	0221	0.43	0826	7.56	1456	-0.04	2055	6.90	Tue 14
15	Wed	0309	0.44	0913	7.64	1543	-0.18	2142	6.91	Wed 15
16	Thu	0352	0.47	0956	7.66	1627	-0.24	2225	6.90	Thu 16
17	Fri	0431	0.54	1036	7.62	1707	-0.22	2306	6.87	Fri 17
18	Sat	0504	0.64	1110	7.55	1743	-0.13	2343	6.81	Sat 18
19	Sun	0528	0.73	1134	7.46	1813	-0.01			Sun 19
20	Mon	0013	6.76	0542	0.77	1146	7.44	1833	0.10	Mon 20
21	Tue	0030	6.75	0608	0.76	1210	7.47	1849	0.15	Tue 21
22	Wed	0048	6.83	0644	0.74	1244	7.49	1919	0.16	Wed 22
23	Thu	0120	6.95	0725	0.72	1325	7.47	1956	0.18	Thu 23
24	Fri	0200	7.07	0811	0.71	1410	7.37	2039	0.20	Fri 24
25	Sat	0245	7.18	0901	0.68	1459	7.20	2126	0.23	Sat 25
26	Sun	0334	7.29	0955	0.63	1554	7.00	2217	0.25	Sun 26
27	Mon	0428	7.40	1055	0.52	1653	6.82	2312	0.24	Mon 27
28	Tue	0525	7.54	1201	0.33	1756	6.70			Tue 28
29	Wed	0011	0.19	0626	7.73	1319	0.02	1904	6.69	Wed 29
30	Thu	0115	0.07	0728	7.96	1436	-0.40	2013	6.80	Thu 30
31	Fri	0222	-0.10	0830	8.19	1541	-0.82	2122	6.81	Fri 31
JANUARY 2022										
01	Sat	0331	-0.08	0931	8.21	1643	-1.03	2225	7.04	Sat 01
02	Sun	0436	-0.27	1031	8.34	1738	-1.24	2323	7.25	Sun 02
03	Mon	0537	-0.40	1130	8.34	1831	-1.30			Mon 03
04	Tue	0019	7.40	0635	-0.43	1227	8.21	1923	-1.18	Tue 04
05	Wed	0114	7.46	0733	-0.37	1326	7.96	2014	-0.94	Wed 05
06	Thu	0210	7.44	0831	-0.22	1426	7.62	2107	-0.60	Thu 06
07	Fri	0307	7.37	0930	-0.02	1528	7.23	2201	-0.22	Fri 07
08	Sat	0405	7.26	1031	0.17	1631	6.88	2255	0.14	Sat 08
09	Sun	0504	7.18	1132	0.30	1733	6.60	2351	0.44	Sun 09
10	Mon	0601	7.13	1232	0.36	1832	6.44			Mon 10
11	Tue	0046	0.64	0657	7.13	1329	0.34	1928	6.38	Tue 11
12	Wed	0139	0.76	0750	7.18	1422	0.27	2021	6.41	Wed 12
13	Thu	0229	0.81	0839	7.26	1511	0.17	2110	6.49	Thu 13
14	Fri	0315	0.81	0925	7.33	1556	0.08	2156	6.60	Fri 14
15	Sat	0356	0.79	1007	7.39	1637	0.02	2238	6.70	Sat 15
16	Sun	0432	0.75	1043	7.43	1713	-0.01	2314	6.77	Sun 16
17	Mon	0459	0.69	1108	7.45	1744	-0.02	2343	6.84	Mon 17
18	Tue	0521	0.58	1123	7.51	1805	-0.04	2358	6.95	Tue 18
19	Wed	0549	0.43	1148	7.59	1824	-0.11			Wed 19
20	Thu	0018	7.13	0624	0.28	1221	7.65	1852	-0.19	Thu 20
21	Fri	0050	7.32	0703	0.15	1301	7.62	1928	-0.23	Fri 21
22	Sat	0129	7.48	0747	0.09	1344	7.49	2008	-0.20	Sat 22
23	Sun	0212	7.57	0834	0.10	1432	7.24	2053	-0.09	Sun 23
24	Mon	0300	7.58	0925	0.18	1524	6.91	2141	0.08	Mon 24
25	Tue	0352	7.53	1023	0.29	1622	6.55	2236	0.30	Tue 25
26	Wed	0450	7.44	1133	0.38	1728	6.27	2337	0.49	Wed 26
27	Thu	0554	7.39	1311	0.29	1845	6.16			Thu 27
28	Fri	0051	0.58	0707	7.44	1437	-0.06	2014	6.31	Fri 28
29	Sat	0225	0.45	0827	7.63	1541	-0.49	2128	6.67	Sat 29
30	Sun	0342	0.11	0939	7.90	1637	-0.88	2227	7.07	Sun 30
31	Mon	0443	-0.25	1040	8.12	1728	-1.14	2320	7.42	Mon 31
FEBRUARY 2022										
01	Tue	0538	-0.55	1134	8.21	1817	-1.23			Tue 01
02	Wed	0009	7.65	0630	-0.70	1225	8.15	1904	-1.15	Wed 02
03	Thu	0057	7.75	0720	-0.70	1315	7.94	1949	-0.91	Thu 03
04	Fri	0144	7.71	0809	-0.54	1404	7.60	2033	-0.54	Fri 04
05	Sat	0231	7.56	0859	-0.27	1454	7.18	2118	-0.11	Sat 05



BENJAMIN BIRDS AND ED NORTON

The story of Benjamin's Franklin's feelings about the eagle as a representative of our country are well known. In a letter he wrote to his daughter in 1784, he expressed his thought that the eagle was a "bird of bad moral character" because of its laziness and its tendency to steal food. He also wrote that he would have preferred the wild turkey for the nation's symbol, as it was a bird he considered to be "much more respectable" and courageous.

City Islanders don't have to take Franklin's word for it, though. We can judge for ourselves. Both species call the environs of City Island home this time of year. Of the two, the wild turkey is probably the easier to find. There's more of them, for one, and they tend to stay closer to the ground. In fact, after the young (called poults) are hatched, the hens stay on the ground 24/7 for about a month. After that time, the poults will join their mothers on a low tree branch for a rest and/or protection from predators. Father turkeys, or toms, on the other hand, stick around only for the mating. It's good to be king, isn't it?

As far as we can tell, the eagle population in our area is about two. The good news is they may be a mating pair. Like the osprey, the American bald eagle has made a comeback from the endangered species list. A recent report from the Fish and Wildlife Service says that the nationwide population has quadrupled in the last 10 years or so, from roughly 80,000 to 320,000 individuals. One of the best spots to check for bald eagles in our area is the abandoned osprey nest atop the transformer for the Metro

North railroad. Look up on your way to and from the Hutch. Maybe you will get lucky.

Otherwise, you can never be sure when you are going to see an eagle next. We saw two riding the thermals over Turtle Cove last month. The interesting part about that experience was the four vultures that were in the air around them. We say interesting because the way an eagle soars is often compared to a vulture's erratic flying style. So here was an opportunity to see both birds at the same time in the same place, a genuine teachable moment. From a distance both birds were big and black. The difference, as we expected, was the herky-jerky way the vultures flew around and around compared to the eagle's steady-as-she-goes approach.

Some of the other birds we have been seeing and hearing recently are the woodpeckers. So far we have encountered downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, red bellied woodpeckers, northern flickers and our hands-down favorites—the yellow-bellied sapsuckers. We can't write those words—yellow-bellied sapsuckers—let alone say them, without hearing Art Carney's Ed Norton character from "The Honeymooners" saying them first: "As I live and breathe," he said, "a yellow-bellied sapsucker!"

The yellow-bellied sapsucker is not as uncommon as you might think for our area. What is uncommon is the red headed woodpecker and the pileated woodpecker. We hope to get another glimpse of these two before winter is out. All of these birds—the woodpeckers, sapsuckers, eagles and turkeys—were seen by us recently on Hunter Island. Why not give it a go yourselves this month?

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Holiday Island

Continued from page 11



Jill's Cottage

Island Juice Bar (327 City Island Avenue), the best way to recover from holiday shopping. Maybe go for a brand-new you for the New Year with the personal train-

ers at **Club Fit** (466 City Island Avenue). Explore the offerings at **Dragon's Path Tae Kwon Do Academy** (229 City Island Avenue), and inquire about what's possible at the **City Island Physical Therapy and Wellness Center** (464 City Island Avenue) for the best you for 2022.

What you may need to help be well and fit is likely found at the **Island Pharmacy & Discount** (290 City Island Avenue).

Even more . . . festive times. Looking for festive food? Visit City Island mainstay **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) featuring delicious daily specials. At the start of the Island, stop by **Archie's Tap and Table** (536 City Island Avenue).

If you want your home to be decked out in holiday finery, **Jill's Cottage** (152 City Island Avenue) can help with that, including lovingly made wreaths and garlands.

And just a block away at **City Island Discount** (250 City Island Avenue), Anthony is there to help with decorations, gifts and more to make this season—and others to come—fun and festive.

The spirits of the season are to be found at **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue). And “cheers” in person at **Fella's** (522 City Island Avenue) or **Man Overboard** (247 City Island Avenue).

This year especially, City Island's shops, galleries, restaurants, cafés and businesses hope to offer you “even more” as you celebrate the holidays!

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BOATS: Burck's Boat Store 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York, 718-885-1559.



Photo by THOMAS PREUSS

Mike Rau, who finished his 42nd consecutive New York City Marathon on Nov. 7 in six hours, 38 minutes, 45 seconds, is shown here near the 18-mile mark with family and friends (l. to r.): Cloe Rodriguez, Judy Rau, Beth Rota and Susie Rau. They saw him again at the 23-mile mark, where Beth jumped in and ran with him for several blocks along Fifth Avenue. Congratulations also to James Breen, who finished his third consecutive marathon in 4:24:07. Not pictured: Thomas Preuss and Andy Giaccon, who rode their bikes from City Island to the Soundview ferry to get to cheer Mike at First Avenue in Manhattan.



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We wish you all Happy Holidays and a warm, safe, healthy winter! Thank you again for patronage and friendship throughout the years.

**(Watch for new winter menu in the mail)*



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.

Lauren and Uncle Sam Chernin; cousin Hilary Chernin, and Brian, Irene and Barbara Callahan. Rabbi David of City Island's Temple Beth-El performed the ceremony. The couple honeymooned in Aruba.

A belated Nov. 2 happy birthday shout-out to Brenda Prohaska, who celebrated with her crew at the Halloween parade. We love you!



Merissa Ferrar and Bradley Nelms were wed on Oct. 10, 2021 in Lake Lure, NC.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Merissa Ferrar, daughter of Islander Leslie Kyle, and Bradley Nelms who were married on Oct. 10 in Lake Lure, NC. Merissa and Brad met in San Francisco; he is a graduate of Harvard and Stanford Universities and is now teaching science at the University of Georgia, in Athens, GA. Merissa graduated this year from the University of San Francisco Dental School and is continuing her education in Augusta, GA. In attendance at the wedding were several clamdiggers and former Islanders: her brother, Kyle Ferrer; Aunt



Welcome to Christopher Nani, born on Nov. 3, 2021.

Welcome to the newest little clamdigger, Christopher Arthur Nogueira Nani, born on Nov. 3 to Horton Street residents Mark and Lorena Nani. Proud grandparents are Karen and Paul Nani and Lydia Dos Santos. His middle name is in honor of his great-grandfather Arthur "Ducky" Rauhauser, a long-time City Island resident.

Happy birthday to my grandson Jake Penny, who turns 12 on Dec. 26. Lots of love, Grandma Penny.

Congratulations to Legionnaire Joe Goonan for being selected Grand Marshal of the Bronx Veteran's Day parade on Nov. 14.

Bay Street's Swieciki family headed west last month to attend the Nov. 18 wedding of Bobby Swieciki and Krystal Garcia.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Islander Joseph Goonan, Grand Marshal of the Bronx Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 14, marched the parade route with (l. to r.) his daughter, Ann-Marie, and son, James.



Ethel Lott celebrated her 94th birthday with family and friends at the Harlem Yacht Club.



Brenda Prohaska celebrated her Nov. 2 birthday at the Halloween parade with friends.



Congratulations to Bobby Swieciki and Krystal Garcia on their Nov. 18, 2021, wedding.



Joshua Antelmi celebrated his 13th birthday on Oct. 19, 2021.

to celebrate Ethel Lott's 94th birthday during a surprise party hosted by her children at the Harlem Yacht Club on Nov. 13, 2021. Ethel is the family matriarch of five children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and another one on the way! Mom, your entire family wishes you a very happy birthday and wonderful year ahead. We love you very much!

Wishing all of our readers, neighbors and friends a very happy and healthy holiday and all the best in the New Year!

Maria Swieciki

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cia. The happy couple met three years ago when Bobby was stationed with the U.S. Coast Guard in Oxnard, CA, where they now live. Proud parents are Bay Street's Bob and Maria Swieciki and Amando and Irene Fuentes. Thrilled 10-year-old daughter of the bride is Liliana Roisin Garcia Todd.

Long-distance birthday wishes to former Islander Anjulee Sebastian, R.N., who will celebrate her big day on Dec. 22.

New Year's Eve birthday celebrations go out to Bobby Cavinee, with love from his family and friends.

Happy birthday greetings on Dec. 24 to Teresa Doyle with love and good wishes from your family.

December happy birthday wishes to former Islanders Ena Ellwanger and Donna Buhl.

Congratulations to Mike Rauh on finishing his 42nd consecutive New York City Marathon on Nov. 7 in six hours, 38 minutes, 45 seconds.

Members of the Lott family gathered

